

## SEVENTY YEARS AGO IN SPALDING BY Mrs. A. TOINTON

I have been asked several times to say how I have known Spalding. I do not know how to start; there will be very few dates as I am one of the worst to remember.

I came to Spalding about 1875 to the bottom house left side of Henrietta Street, so will start down there. The Catholic Church had a new front before '78. There was one house where Mr. Jane now lives and two (two or three) more a little way up. We used to walk from Green Lane over the line to the back of Hawthorn Bank Church, and called it "over the fields." There was no Grammar School, Church or Hospital. To get to the river we went to Vise Walk which was silty land with huge trees each side. Argus House was finished building about '75 as Southwell left the house we came to live in and went there.

I will take Winsover Road next, from Station Gates to Monks' House. Of course there was Bates the baker, Bee (one-armed man) fishmonger, Carreuthers pork butchers, Fawn fancy articles, Dalton furnishers, Tointon farmer, Between the two latter were six old houses joined to the road, with stone steps to get into the house. Bugler Hunt lived in One, Joyce the butcher; also Joyce who used to open the railway gates by hand and two small hand-gates for walking people to go through. When you got to Parkinson's meat shop, now is, it was open country with fields and deep dykes. The old Westlode, what is left of it, runs behind the houses erected on the opposite site to Monks' House. There were a few old houses, three or four now standing.

On Hawthorn Bank, on the opposite side to the Church, there have been several houses built. Garner, in the one halfway down, used to shoe horses and mend agricultural implements, and opposite used to live Mr. Giles Ham who was at the "Free Press." His sister was a schoolmistress. The house was very low covered with Virginia creeper and there was another old house which was pulled down and rebuilt by Mr. Cotton. Mrs. Felts was another well-known resident.

From Hawthorn Bank you came by, I think, two houses and others to the public house, one old white house in a small field and further back four more old houses. My grandfather told me they stood on the old Westlode Bank. Watson, the builder, Mr. and Mrs. Hurst. The rest, till you get to the saddlers, is very little altered but that shop, garage, &c., now stand, there were four more old houses which stood high up and were white-washed. When you come to St. John's Road there were no houses there at all. Then you came to Joyce, butcher; Rayner, baker; Birch, grocery shop; Clayton, joiner, &c.; Sheppard at the public house; Bates, baker. Then there were no shops till you got to Storr's for poultry, King,

tobacconist (where Hyldas is) The pork shop was wood-turner Spikins, Willesby School, and then the prison, extending from the school to Sheep Market and Sessions House, when sold Longstaff bought it. I

will go back to Station Gates. There was Mr. Hancock, coal merchant, three public houses there are two now. At the top of Chapel Lane was Mr. Jane, draper, Mrs. Neal, two very low houses (one fruit and the other sweets) all under one roof; then two more low houses, one to sell boots and the other where they were mended, Mr. Gosling, Mrs. Chapman, baker, etc.; three houses, then R. Buffham, jeweler; Mr. and Mrs. Osgerby's shop; Swift, chemist; and Andrews, saddler. Next, old stables, where the horses used to rest on market day. In front were pens where sheep or pigs were put. Then came "The Pied Calf," Vickers' house and grocery shop, Pickworth, Tyler, tobacconist, Dallycoats, mender and grinder, house and shop, Jones the shoemaker, Parrish the clothier.

Now back to Sessions House. The late Liberal Club was like an iron in build but some of it was taken down. At the archway of J. T. White's was a house with steps outside to get to the house. Mr. J. Love used to live there. Then you come to White's shop, the end was a private house, also the other two. Then King and White, coachbuilders. Where Gyde's shop is was a butcher's, Ireland was his name. He was murdered as you go to Mill Green. There was another shop where small articles were sold like a doll, about three inches long and with china head and legs, and id. packet of cards, etc. Next Mr. Haw, who used to shoe horses, and I have seen six or eight waiting to be shod. In Malting House Square there was a house over the archway, but Mr. F. Penning-ton did away with it, turned the houses the other way and made a garden at the back of his premises. Then we come to the Prior's Oven : why it is so called I cannot make out, for my grandfather told me it was where they used to hang people and then throw them into the Westlode, which ran close by.

In Hall Place, Wingad, the boot and shoe shop, with bow windows and panes of glass, about nine to 12 inches. Upholsterer, Moore; hairdresser, Handley; wool, etc., Sep. Palmer; wool, needles, &c., Mrs. Pratt. Then the stalls from the market; Pennington's two shops (all these windows were like Wingad's); Pennington's house with bay windows; Bellairs (jewelry); Byfords (boot shop); next shop often empty; piano dealer (B. Lever) "Free Press" (Watkinson); butcher (Barwis); saddler (Hiley); tailor (Asa Hall); ironmongery (Mrs. Harmstone); bank (Leeds) drapers (Hobson); book shop (Appleby); next shop often empty (Walker); grocery (Pear's); chemist (Donington) ; clothier; shoes (Cooke); saddler (Enderby); hairdresser (Wilmott); draper (Stubbs); draper (Marshal); toys, etc. (Saul); jeweler (Briggs); chemist (Laming) ; ironmongery (Hardy) ; paper (Ashwell) ; L. and P. Bank; next often empty (Woodrow, tailor) ; ironmongers (Donington) ; groceries (Skinner) ; clothier (Cooley) ;

fishmonger (Hayes, Peacock) ; Maples' office, fancy shop (Cheales and Waldergrave) ; chemist (Asling) ; ironmongers ( Jennings) ; grocery (Cherrington) . On the London Road, Price the organist, Brogden, Laming, School, Mills, Dr. Stiles, Dr. Stiles, junr., Longstaff, Topham, Walker, Kingston, Pickworth, Simpson, Simpson, Barlow, Hobson, Savage, Maples, Harvey, Misses Goose, Mrs. Walters, Brewery and House, Mr. Bennett, and at Duck Hall, now Town End Manor, Mr. Caulton. No bridge here now.

The other side of river, Mr. Grundy, who got killed on the railway crossing, Wright's house, Pickworth house, and several more, just lately (Crust the drover) . An old-fashioned inn, demolished, another up in its place, Royal Oak, and builder (Eley), Burg the Brewer, and there is an old archway, my grandfather told me it was the door of an old inn that stood their. Brewery, Trelyan; Watson the grocers; Crust . . . ; the garden wall of Ayscoughfee Hall, now the Hall; Bonner the solicitor (the gardens used to be thrown open on August Bank Holiday) ; Howard, Holyrood House; Little Bull; Bland the milkman; Stableforth and Dandy, groceries; Dr. Morris; Selby, clerk to the commissioners; Mrs. Capps; Mr. Theo Johnson, Holland House; Maples; Mawby; Clerk; Dandy, granarys now houses; Mrs. Upton's School. Now back to High Bridge, Mr. Wright, ironmonger; over bridge, Pick and Dinsdale, drapers; Williamson, baker; Mrs. Siddons, china ware; Mr. Ridlington, corn merchants; Brown, hairdresser; Myers, butcher; Post office and jewelry shop, Preston, two shops; pork shop, Schmitz; boot-shop, ; book-shop, Porter and Pulford; Corn Exchange.

In Crackpool Lane, Hockney, pastry cooks; public, Greyhound; china ware, Elderkins; boot-shop, Hopper; and another boot-shop; Hurry, pawn-shop; Harrison, pastry cook, etc. The store-rooms of Robinson and Jennings, round corner of the Market Place their grocery shop and house; Shadfords, chemist with big bottles in window; Godsman and Morton, drapers; White Hart, Harper, and a bus used to run from here for the passengers of the trains (Conservatives) ; Moore, grocery; china shop; Red Lion, Wadlow, another bus from here for the Liberals; the bank; Cooper's Bank; Barrell, wine and spirit merchants; Parrish, clothier; Inkley the butcher was first to alter shop front, he stood with stall outside, caught cold from which he died; Barnes, soda water makers; Cross Keys, Barratt; tea dealers Everingham; Tupholme, Cross Guns; Greenhall, grocery; Mr. Kingston's office; one shop, green-grocery, Sheppard; the tailor, Castledene; Black Bull; shoeing place for horses, Cobb. Where the bird place is, was the Mechanic Institute. The fish shop opposite was a baker's shop (Mowbray); pub; Mrs. Maughan, grocer; Hargrave, butcher. At the corner Misses Cunsworth, cap makers, then two old white-washed houses where the chapel now is, then Dawson the builders, house and buildings, then the Club. Mr. Allen lived at the big house; Miss Sleight School; high wall and Mr. Harper, kitchen garden; Manor House; Miss

Bonner's and Mr. Calthrope; Mr. Officers, another old low house. There were some very old trees in office yard. Where Mr. Chester's shop is was a bakers, and the Golden Ball, Elsom's shop; where chapel is a very old house; where Longs shop and the next place was Curtis' stone-yard, and then two more old houses; then the brick wall of the Manor House, reaching nearly to Quakers' Almshouses (since demolished), but in between was Dawson's wood-yard. Mr. Cunningham, gent., Mr. Hall, auctioneer, lived down Westload Street. At the Green was White the milkman, brother of White the coach builder, one house at the bottom and two at top, the mother of the Whites lived in one and Miss East (school) in the other. Mr. Reeks lived for several years as well. Mother Shipton lived in the first of the row and it was said when she buried her husband she put bread, cheese and a bottle of beer for him to have while going to heaven. There was a barrel maker at the end of the row, next to Curtis' house, and a shop where he used to do the grave stones, Mrs. Border and daughters at the corner shop where Nicholson now is, Sharpe, the chemist, where Mr. Floyd is; Yates, the Congregational Chapel parson; Adcock, in a very old-fashioned shop, clothes and shoes; two private houses; Mr. Johnson, tailor, father of Miss Johnson who taught at Board School; D. Stanger, coachbuilder; next cabinet maker, Greenall; pastry cook and bread maker, Mr. Cook; private house; private house in front but Driffill, plumber's shop at back; Mrs. Beck, noted her her pies and custards; another shop; Black Swan; Armstrong, tobacconist shop; china, Siddon; shop; hairdresser, Lawrence; small shop; Wilson, shop and house.

Beales' photography; two houses, you used to go up two or three steps to the door; White Swan public; Amos, tailor; Mrs. Reedman, market gardener. Down Chapel Lane, Hunt, noted for brandy snaps and gingerbread; opposite they used to shoe horses; most back ways; two old white-washed houses, pulled down; then two more pulled down. Naylor, the town crier lived in one of the new houses. My, he had a voice, nearly at end was Chapman's stone-yard and then two more old houses.

On August Bank Holiday we had sports on the Black Swan Field, chiefly bicycle racing, we had one year a balloon filled the field and let go from it. Also the first motors were shown but not very satisfactory, so they used to say, if you want to ride in a motor you must get out and push. In the evening Ayscoughfee Gardens were thrown open. There were greenhouses with grapes etc. in, two very big oak trees. The Tower was said that it was built by a father who did not agree with his daughter's young man, so he put her in there, but she escaped and married him. Some beautiful yew trees said to be hundreds of years old. There was in the field a beautiful tree called umbrella tree, as you could stand under it and never get wet, it was rounded in shape and stood over Stepping Stone Lane (now King's Road) as it did in the field. Then in July was School Feast. They used to gather at their schoolroom and

farmers, etc., used to lend their wagons, and they were decorated, and the smaller children used to ride and the others walk with their banners, sometimes the dinner was in a field down Love Lane and sometimes in Black Swan Field. The Church schoolchildren used to go to Skegness, the eldest Miss Bonner was their leader. In 1872 came the first Agricultural Show held in Cley Hall Park, and after that ever so many years between, they used to have another. There was Fidler and York, chimney sweeps. " York does live here, he sweeps your chimneys none too dear, if they get on fire, he put them out at your desire. Dealer in Black Flour." Then there was Percival the Solicitor, who lived down Double Street; Brannam, chicken buyer; basket makers, Aistrup and Wright; Mr. Maples; Mr. Shadford; at the back of Corn Exchange was the fire engines. The Butter Market on Tuesday used to be full of people wanting to sell you anything from a chicken to apples. Mrs. G. Waltham, of Pinchbeck Road, at Christmas time had beautiful dressed ducks and chickens, also Mrs. W. Banks, Deeping Fen, and several others.

My! To see the butcher's shops at Christmas time, it was a sight, Barwis, Barkers, Myers, Inkley. We used to have oranges about December, 14 for a shilling and about March they would be 2d. each, and see no more till December. Walnuts 24 a id., Chestnuts 2d. a lb., and we used to make all our sweets, for table you could not go into the shops and buy jellies, blancmanges, etc. My grandfather at Christmas used to give all his men at Holbeach Marsh, Moulton Marsh, Spalding Fen, and those working for him, pieces of beef according to his family, and my grandmother dough cakes in like manner. We at home, for days used to be stoning raisins for the cakes. There used to be 14 to 20 set down to dinner, tea and supper on Christmas Day, roast beef, boiled leg of mutton, plum pudding, bread and butter pudding, mince pies, lemon curd tarts and jam tarts, so we had something to do to cater for them. The next day we grandchildren had a party, often we gave charades in the evening and the next day was my aunt's birthday, so we used to have dancing. A lame man who lived at Pidgeon End used to play a violin to dance to. There was Kingstons and Laming I think the only auctioneers, Foster, Cooke and Bontoft, Reeks veterinary surgeons, Dr. Morris, Dr. Perry and Dr. Styles doctors.

I wish you could have seen the cattle at the fair times stretching from the Fountain to the Board School and top of Pinchbeck Street some grand cattle. Gandy used to be a big buyer and the sheep and pigs in the Sheep Market. Bond of London was a big buyer. The worst thing to me was, I used to go to the station ever Monday to meet my grandfather from off the Holbeach train, and I used to see sometimes two, but often four or six men chained with handcuffs, coming to our prison to await for Tuesday at Sessions House, and then about 2 o'clock they would be taken back to Lincoln. When I was young there were only two platforms and no bridges, we used to walk over at the end

of platform. I once saw King Edward as he was going to Sandringham, they had to shunt him from the down line to the Holbeach. He often used to come to Blankley, but we were not supposed to be on platform, but as I was so often down, twice a week, they did not keep me off. Another friend down there, Harris, he used to hand me, to look over, Tit Bits, Pearsons, etc., while I was waiting for the train. The bookstall was taken down evening and put up morning, sometimes it was in the booking office. Joyce was Goods manager. I forget the stationmaster's name. Miss Hickinbottom was manager of the girls at the Union, as it was then called, and she used to march them to church and they sat just inside the north door. Miss Tomlin had the Blue Coat girls to look after. I do not remember the name of the boys' master. They used to have a new rig-out every year, I think the girls used to make most of them. We used to have glorious times skating on Cowbit Wash. They used to bury under the Congregational Church, I think it was a man put there last, I saw it been lowered, about ten-year-old. There was what was called an iron church in Pinchbeck Street, built by Mr. Dandy, where Cornwall house was a market garden land. Mr. Symes, painter built it, he lived opposite. The Masonic Hall was a school for boys and girls, also the house before was a school, where Mrs. Arden lives was Farnham the dentist, top house, Mrs. Cowley, the new piece was put on by Mr. Bonner for a nursery for his children. Cammack lived where Myers do, where Mr. Bell lives was a door in middle up two steps. All down King's Road, no houses, grass fields, extending to Rowthorne. Morton built them. Mr. Caulton; Mr. Barrell who had three wives, two girls, one boy, first; two boys, one girl, second; one boy, third. Lower house used to have a round tower at the end, but has been very much altered. No houses between it and the union. No houses between Mr. Laming at the Rope Walk, as Elsom's place used to be, where the present Miss Elsom lives were four cottages, her father used to keep string, etc., in them. Where Mr. Crust's house now stands used to be a mill toll. Just over Vernatts bridge was another, much smaller, and built of wood, it was said it was taken away just as it was, and taken to Surfleet.

I think I am correct in saying there has only been three floods in my time, I remember going to Duck Hall one Sunday morning and they were putting bags of earth on the river side to stop lit going down Little London, the next was higher and it is marked to date and height on High Bridge. The last was the worst ever.

It was a pleasure to go and see the ships come up the Welland loaded with wood, as far as Plowman's granarys, it used to be stacked on the river side and they used to unload locust, a very sweet bean, shaped, dark brown, and very nice to eat. We could buy it in 1d. Worth, and Birch Mill, it was not his then, used to have big ships up and used to open Chain Bridge to let them up. Another sight was to see the barges being pulled by horses up to Market

Deeping, and to see the dredger working. I remember the chapel top of Crescent been built, Fulney Church also. Vicars: Canon Moore; Aug. Moore, Hawthorn Bank; Ash, Fulney; Price, organist; Mackman, verger.

The most colourful people then in Spalding were Mrs. Roughton, Mrs. Tuddenham, Mrs Pretty and Mrs. Jephson. I think they were sisters, they used to dress in the old-fashioned style with bonnets, capes and full dress in quite bright colours. A Mr. Farrow was drowned one Saturday night, they made up a song of him, " Little Brown Jug " they used to do in those days, another was made up about Bell who poisoned his wife. Mr. Longstaff was drowned, the one who lived at Victoria Bridge, a woman was found about the same time, and there were several more about that time. You think now about queues, but should have seen them when the police news came out on Saturday afternoon or Friday, not sure which, at Ashwell's shop window, the police stopped them putting it in. The Misses White kept a school in the Crescent, where Mr. Prentice now lives, and the school was where Mr. Measures has his bottles for sale, then they moved to London Road, that was the first school I went too. I must not forget Parson Jones and Yates, for they had a good innings. For a long time on Saturday there was given to the old people a meat tea and concert after, for beef, pork pie, bread and butter, the town people used to go and cut it in the afternoon and wait on them. Then the tables were cleared and chairs put for evening concert, 2d. each, and good they used to be. Mrs. Tonge and Mrs. Proctor and their band, Mr. Small of Boston, Mr. Cooper of the bank, Mrs. Walters governess, Mr. Elderkin was in the band, and many more ladies and gentlemen. Then there was the Spalding Dramatic 'Society, Mr. S. Kingston and Mr. J. Laming took prominent parts, they used to have sometimes London actors to help them. The tradesmen's dances on Thursday evening at the Drill Hall, now the cinema, very enjoyable. We used to look on pennies with glee and if we got sixpence in the money box it had to go, we used to get blackjack, a sort of butterscotch in length, 4 sticks a penny, and in some shops we could get a farthings worth of sweets, bull's eyes 1½d. for 4 ozs.

Down Swan Street, where Beales baby shop is were four houses, where Wellband motor works two more and two down the yard. There was about, in my young days, 1,000 inhabitants in Spalding. Hopkins, the wood-yard on High Street, had a very big blaze, also Massey on Westlode Side. The old Abbey buildings were thatched and gardens in front, now shops. There were two cottages, if you could call them so, in the yard of Parish Church just inside the gate, and a stone coffin on end near the door where you go into the vestry, and the Grammar School on the other side of the Church, the boys used to go up steps to get to school. The Alms, Dr. Perry, Blue Coat School, Hilliam and Church Schools, Mrs. Townsend, Vicarage, going down by Noah Bates on opposite side used to be a dyke where leeches bred, and they used

to be caught and put in bottles at the chemists for to bleed people, there was some beautiful trees there then, Bailey, the ketchup manufacturer, built the white house by the side of the line, over the line two old houses then, a postman built the one where Killingworth lives and then there was Peck's who used to keep greyhounds, then Mrs. Gooch, fellmonger, Bates was turnkey at the prison. A Ditty. Dr. Dann was a funny old man, washes his face in the frying pan, combed his hair with engine wheel and died with toothache in his heel. There were three rope makers, Mr. Elsom, Pinchbeck Road, Flames against the Gas works, and another where Kingston's Cottages are built. At the Crescent Chapel used to be on the 1st May a service about 7 o'clock and breakfast after with bunches of wild flowers and baskets of other flowers, and a prize was given to the best section. At the harvest festival, at the Parish Church used to be beautifully decorated; on the cross at the altar or rood, was bunches of grapes, and along, sheaves of corn. I think the grapes used to go to the hospital, there were so many people that they fetched chairs and forms from schools opposite. You wonder why the Parish Church is not filled to-day, where are the Johnstones, Johnsons, Mawbys, Harvey, Howards, Pickworth, Selbys, Perrys, Jennings, Bonners, Mrs. Walters' boarders, Blue Coat and National Schools, the children from the Union, they used to fill several seats. We could all join in the singing, and Mr. Price at the organ, he used to play every Sunday night after the service.

In Theo. Johnson's garden there stood the Mausoleum, which is now in the cemetery. They used to throw the garden open on a Thursday evening and it was some garden, reaching to Low Roads as it was then called (Halmer Gardens, now) . They used to ride in carriage with coachman and footman through the big doors, and Mrs. Simpson Barlow used to drive out in a low carriage with two Welsh ponies, there was no road through then. When they were in Spalding their nephew married one of the Miss Bonners, and was not the church just full on that occasion. There were no motors or cycles, and when the fire bell rang from the Corn Exchange the horses were taken from the buses to take them to the fire. The hearse for the better class as they were called, had Prince of Wales feathers on the four corners and draped with black pall and the other quite plain, one was kept on the London Road and the other at the White Hart. Sergt. Bulmer won the Queen's Prize at Bisley, and did not Spalding cheer him when he came home, and the bunting was out. On May 14th was leaving day for maids and farmhands, they used to come into Spalding about 8 o'clock. Then men that were staying on used to put horse ribbons in the button-hole to show they were stopping. The girls used to go to the Corn Exchange and the mistress who wanted a maid used to go there to get one (no register office 'in those days) they used to have a week's holiday. That day I did not go to school, except my grandfather took me through the town for it used to be packed till about 6 o'clock at night. Next day

they would go to Boston. If they got per year and keep, it was considered very good money and they used to save on that. Print dresses for morning and black for afternoon, we used to keep ours six and more years. Nursemaids 1/- per week. Then there were the Fairs and Marts with booths on the New Road. Mesmerism was often done, and it was outside and a lot more of it inside. Swings, roundabouts done with a handle and a lot more things. In the winter there was a theatre show in the Pied Calf yard, used to be there weeks, Little Jim, the Crime in the Barn, etc., it was a tent and front seats 3d., back 1d. in the afternoons.

Mr. White the baker used to make buns two or three times a week, about nine inches square and full of fruit for 8d. The shops did not close till nine and often later. Mr. Hockney used to make a very good Madeira cake and slab gingerbread cake 2/-, gingerbread in squares 1d. each. My grandfather used to buy on Tuesday three codfish 1/- each, sometimes half a skate same price. His potatoes used to go to London to Proctor's, and if he got £5 home for a truck he was well satisfied. There used to be Mrs. Yorke going to the station each day to see if her son had come, she never spoke to anyone. General Mayfield was a very tall man, but do not know much about him. My aunt, Miss M. Pickworth (Mrs. Farrow) was the first lady on the School Board and afterwards Board of Guardians, I often used to go places with her (church), at the school (Mr. and Mrs. Bimrose), at the Union. I have seen only once the River Welland frozen over, and very thick, you could skate from Wykeham to the Wash if you minded the blocks.

When you became 40 or married it was time for you to put on bonnets and capes for outdoor wear and caps and small aprons for indoor wear, and you did not do much housework, that was for daughters and maids. Another fashion, if you were a widow you had crepe on your dresses nearly to your waist and your dresses were long then, and the older ones used to have crepe caps on their shoulders. It was the fashion once to have your hair short, about 1882, but it did not last long. I think the only person that did not let it grow was Miss E. Cartwright, of the Terrace. I have taken Pinchbeck Street, now will take others, Spring Gardens and Street have altered very little, four new houses, one top of Fishers, Jarvis and two on opposite side. Henrietta Street no change, bottom of Green Lane lot of houses and street leading to Water Lane. St. Thomas's Road, Ford works, Limmer's yard before, and then Mr. Jepson built on his mother's garden, then further down, Miss Stableforths, Mr. Wiseman and the greenhouse of Mr. Wilkinson, there is a house built and up to the corner was no houses. On the opposite side of road, Hardy built a house, also Gibson, who was found of greyhounds. Spring Street no new houses. London Road, cinema and where Mr. George and Mr. Whites was the garden with high wall of Mrs. Walter's garden, on the lawn was a large mulberry tree, next was Tralyen, I think was the name, and the brewery now

demolished, then Bennett the builder where the road is. No much change in the Crescent or round that way till you get to Vine Street, six houses demolished, also two on opposite joining the backway of Lincoln Arms. Cowbit Road over railway bridge, four houses, one house and further on one house. Many more have been added in the last years, this side of bridge. The public and the houses near it had been altered, and the house where Mr. White lives Mr. Dalton had demolished the old one and the brewery and built the one now standing. Down Love Lane, after Waldens and I think two or three houses, there was the chapel and an old house. Down Church Street the demolished two houses in the churchyard and the Rookery, nothing changed. Down Double Street some demolished, very few new ones built. Albion Street, some demolished no new ones built till you get by the Gasworks, then a lot of houses and road built. They used to build boats just beyond and mend them. No houses beyond or bridge or beet factory, etc., all grass land. Park Road, no houses, but the railway cottages and two more houses, no bridge. I must not forget Smith and Limmer, the builders of wagons and carts for farm work, they used to employ several men. Mr. Hayes, the fishmonger, lived down Bond Street, and he used to cure the herrings, when you went by his house you could see them hanging up, not much left of the street now, nearly all the cottages gone. The Christian Army was here before the Salvation Army and used to meet against the fountain on Saturday nights, and one of their hymns was

The devil and me we cannot agree, I  
hate him and he hates me,  
He had me once he let me go,  
He wants me again I do not mean to go,  
The publicans are crying out,  
Because the Army is going about,  
But still we mean to go and rout  
The Devil and his foes.

and another : Roll the old chariot along. As I had to go to bed at 8 o'clock and they used to be singing outside, I learnt most of their hymns because you could not sleep as I lived where Mr. Atton now lives. In the Market place was a pump noted for its medicinal properties, it was said to be good for the eyes, now gone.

The shops closed from 9 to 10 p.m., no half holiday and the Gentlemen's Club was only closed on Sunday and Good Friday. The streets were lighted with gas and Mr. Beales and Mr. Farrow, of London Road, were the first to use electric lights. The clock on the Sessions House used to be on the jail. The streets were paved with cobble stones and they used to sweep them by a big brush, drawn by a horse and then men came and swept it up and they used to be very clean, and in the summertime a water cart used to spray the streets to

keep dust down. All the shops were lived in then, Mrs. Pennington used to have some of her work-people live in and Miss Clara Pennington used to do the catering, and Miss Lily was in the shop, and also Hobsons. You could buy Cashmere and Serge at 2s. 6d. per yard and have your dresses made by a dressmaker for 7s. 6d., and a good lot of handiwork used to go in them for they were boned and you could not machine them in, and there were very few button-hole machines then.

Smith and Limmer on Winsover Road used to make the heavy horse carts and wagons and was noted for workmanship for miles round. Vine was a bricklayer and his son was made a Sir by the Prince of Wales later King Edward. Miss Dennison used to drive into Spalding on Friday with the Stamford Mercury. Woodward was manager of the Gasworks, and when he retired, built the white house down Barre11's Lane now Queen's Road.

There was a line across Winsover Road where trucks of coal, etc., used to go to the Iron Foundry (Stanton), at used to be drawn by one of the railway horses. It was nothing then to have a truck of coal in, if you had the room for it. The kindling used to come from the Workhouse, 100 bundles for 5/-.

Women wore boots in those days, chiefly button and made of calf, some of them had elastic sides and high heels, and some of the men likewise. Their dresses were down to the floor, seven or more yards in them. Some of the dresses were silk ( very soft in blue, black, green and mauve usually, and for best wear) satin, velvet, cash-mere, serge, the hats often had large feathers draping them and falling on hair at the back.

The bedsteads were mainly of iron and four-posted with curtains at the corners; the top and back covered it, or at the end a moon-shaped cover, and at back with curtains at the side. There were some wooden ones, chiefly mahogany, and very beautiful they were; and feather beds to sleep on often made of goose down. They used to take the down off them about August, but not allowed now. On Sunday morning, Mr. F. Pennington, Mr. Farrard, Mr. Peacock and Mr. Cunningham would be seen together. After Church the London Road was chief road, but Pinchbeck Street in the afternoon, especially if there was a funeral as they used to bury them on Sunday as well as any other day of the week.

The Volunteer Ball used to be at the Corn Exchange. The ladies used to have silk dresses with trains on which they had a loop to put over their arm when dancing and also beautiful bouquets and they were held in silver cases, and when they had supper which used to be in the Butter Market these bouquets were placed on the table and it looked beautiful. The Volunteers were in their red jackets which helped to give more colour. There was a little ball at the bottom on elastic which pulled and three feet were released so they could stand and then fixed again after. They wore long white kid gloves with opening at wrist, fastened with two or three buttons, so they could pull the

glove off the hand but leave it on their arms while having supper; also beautiful bracelets, gold, 1½ inches wide, chased and some with stones; round their neck chains of gold with locket, either chased or with stones. Mr. Brown the hairdresser used to come and fix their hair. Saturday afternoons cricket. Dalton, Brogden, Hatt of Moulton, Dr. Barrett and others used to play. In the summertime the Germans used to come playing musical instruments. " Now it is going to rain we used to say." There also was a man and woman who used to play the harp and violin.

The trains were not padded as they now are, but the second and first were, the third were wood seats but very comfortable, 1d. per mile, return ticket fare half, acceptable for a month, children under 12 half-price.

On Good Friday about 7 o'clock in the morning you would hear " Hot Cross Buns," they used bring them round, either on wooden trays on their heads or in baskets; 7 for 6d.; Hockneys and Harrisons were chief bakers of them. We used to have them hot at breakfast-time, cut in half and toasted and buttered for tea. Milk 1½d. per pint new, 1d. a quart old. Bland, Cowbit Road, Parker, Cowbit, and Healey, Deeping Fen. There used to be a couple of elderly people come round with milk been carried with yoke and buckets, and in the spring would bring bunches of daffodils for sale. The first people to do it in Spalding Seebys.

The carrier's carts used to come in on Tuesdays and Saturdays, bringing people from places such as Moulton Chapel, Pinchbeck West, Cowbit, etc., they seated about 14 to 20 people; arrived in the morning any time after 9 o'clock and returned about 3 o'clock for there were no buses, motor or bicycles then. When the ladies wanted to go to the balls they made up a party at the houses and then the buses would fetch them. We used to have more Valentines and Christmas cards, some were beautiful and some very long ones not so good. We used wax candles for upstairs work and sometimes tallow, they were also used for colds on the chest; they were melted and rubbed on brown paper and fixed on the chest and back.

Coinage : Sovereigns and half-sovereigns, 4/- pieces, also 2/6, 2/-, 1/-, 6d., and 3d., all silver, one penny, half-penny and farthings, copper.