

Bert Rawlin's Lockup

Last month's Parish Magazine included two photographs of Main Street Claypole from about a hundred years ago. Corinne Holmes kindly got in touch to add some detail to the history of the village.

The small building in the grounds of the village hall, was a lock up shop run by Kate Clewes (nee Catley), who was the Grandmother of Corinne's husband Des. You may recall that Kate was pictured in a previous magazine photo of the Railway Tavern which she and her husband ran. The lockup was sold by Kate to Bert Rawlins and it was then known to everyone as Bert Rawlins Lockup.

When the chance arose, Bert relocated to the shop that is now the hairdressers. The lock up was knocked down when the village hall was built.

Des's Mum bought the "new" shop back from Mr Rawlins together with the flat above and the house at the rear. There was a garage at the back where they stored paraffin in a tank. Paraffin was used in small individual heaters and a key source of heat at that time for many people. They sold loose paraffin and sacks of potatoes. Des worked there with his Mum from 1958 until 1962. She then sold it to Leonard Sims who opened Claypole Discount Stores. He then closed it some years later and it re-opened as hairdressers called Manchelle.

Another view of Main Street Claypole

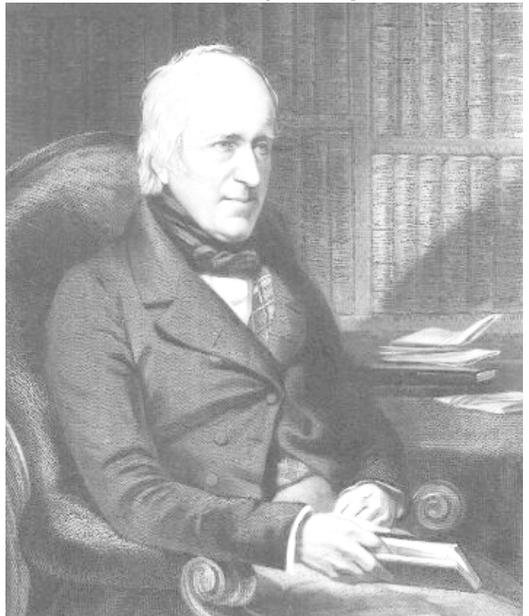


Sir Robert Heron & Stubton Hall

John Lawrence of Westborough kindly gave me a copy of the Lincolnshire Local History Society quarterly magazine from Spring 1948. In it was an article about Bill Scrimshaw the champion wrestler who lived at Fen Farm in the mid to late eighteenth century. This prompted me to visit the LLHS bookshop in Jews Court Lincoln. Whilst there I was able to start some research into the history of Stubton Hall for a later article. One occupant of Stubton Hall was Sir Robert Heron (1765-1854) who was an MP for 35 years. At Stubton Hall he had one of the largest private menageries in the country. For example, over a 6 year period he bred 1100 goldfish starting with just 12 fish when goldfish were a novelty in this country. He also had four pairs of kangaroos, golden pheasants, black swans, falcons, eagles, Angora rabbits, toads, guinea pigs, black currasow (a bird about 1 metre high), Balearic cranes, Scottish choughs, armadillos, coypus, emus and many other species. Walking over the lawns he counted 52 hedgehogs over several months.

As an MP Sir Robert proposed that MPs should be elected by voting with a wider range of electors, but that motion wasn't supported and his credibility suffered. He lost one election in Lincoln because his bribes weren't as large as his opponents. Sir Robert was keenly aware of the plight of poor people and was the driving force in establishing workhouses and the one at Claypole which he helped to found was seen to be an example of good practice.

Stubton Church was originally in the grounds of Stubton Hall and the owner didn't like villagers walking over his grounds to go to services. The church was demolished and a new church built in its current location starting in 1799. The two bells in the Church are dated 1616 and 1618 and there is a memorial stone in the vestry dated 1530. These were most probably in the church when it was in Stubton Hall grounds. Stubton Hall has a fascinating history for a later article.



Robert Prabucki