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TO MEMBERS AND OFFICERS, PAST AND PRESENT, OF THE
LINCOLNSHIRE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

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BY
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C.B.E., LL.M., LITT.D., F.S.A.



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CONTENTS

<i>Illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> vi
<i>Preface</i>	vii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	x
I The early Victorian scene	1
II Politics 1832–68	14
III Reform in local government	38
IV County influence	63
V High farming	81
VI Transport and industry	99
VII Economic and social change: I	126
VIII Problems of public health	156
IX Church and chapel: I	172
X Politics 1868–1914	189
XI Industry and agriculture 1870–1914	201
XII Reluctant progress	220
XIII Church and chapel: II	241
XIV The minster	256
XV The schools after 1870	273
XVI Economic and social change: II	290
APPENDICES	
I Population	306
II Housing	307
III Parish church accommodation c. 1831	308
IV Church attendance	
(i) 30 March 1851	309
(ii) 26 January 1873	312
(iii) 14 March 1903	313
V The election: a legend	317
<i>Index</i>	323

ILLUSTRATIONS

PLATES

Between pages 150 and 151

- 1 The Brayford Pool and Lincoln Cathedral (1858) by James Wilson Carmichael. Usher Gallery, Lincoln. Reproduced by permission of the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of Lincoln
- 2 City of Lincoln, south view from Canwick, c. 1870
- 3 January 1850. Protectionist meeting in the Corn Exchange. *Illustrated London News*
- 4 February 1850. Great Protectionist meeting in the Castle Yard. *Illustrated London News*
- 5 August 1869. Agricultural meeting at Lincoln: Messrs Clayton and Shuttleworth's works and the show yard. *Illustrated London News*
- 6 May 1870. Lincoln Horse Fair. *Illustrated London News*
- 7 January 1871. Floods at Lincoln. *Illustrated London News*
 - (a) Lincoln, from Bracebridge
 - (b) A street in Lincoln
- 8 Catching a poacher! Cobden and Sibthorp by H.B. (1845)

MAPS

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1 Lincoln parishes | 55 |
| 2 Lincolnshire, showing places mentioned in the text | 89 |
| 3 Lincolnshire railways | 111 |
| 4 Lincoln's nineteenth-century development | 228 |

PREFACE

WITH the completion of this, my fourth book on the history of Lincoln, I have gone as far as seems possible in the leisure moments of a busy life to achieve a youthful ambition to write a history of my native city. I send it forth with mixed feelings. First, after living with the work for more than forty-five years I shall miss it sadly: it has so long provided an escape from the concerns of the day. Secondly, it is pleasant to reflect that I have been more fortunate than my predecessors as historians of Lincoln – Thomas Sympson in the eighteenth century and Edward James Willson and John Ross in the nineteenth – in getting my writing into print: but they had not the advantages that we have in these latter days of ready access to records and relative ease of publication. Thirdly, I am increasingly aware of weakness, error and omission, leading to the reflection that I could do it all so much better if I could begin again.

I can at least say that if I were to begin again my books would be of the same kind. I have merely sought to know what happened in Lincoln, and how it came to be what it is, and put the results into narrative form. I hope I have given interest and pleasure to my fellow-citizens and others; and if my books are of value to scholars concerned with the same or wider themes so much the better.

Many of the sources used in *Georgian Lincoln* have continued to be of use. New sources in the Lincolnshire Archives Office include the Bishops' Correspondence, Visitation Returns, Larken mss, Hebb mss, Monson mss (and especially the papers of the sixth Lord Monson), and parish records. Methodist records are being assembled there by the devotion of Mr William Leary, and other Free Church records have for the most part been gathered there.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Weston Cracroft-Amcotts of Hackthorn Hall, Lincoln, kindly lent me the diary of his grandfather Colonel Weston Cracroft (afterwards Amcotts), and though some parts of the diary are missing, it has been of great value, giving a charming impression of a public-spirited country gentleman of the mid-nineteenth century. Mr Anthony Jarvis of Doddington Hall, Lincoln, kindly lent me the diary of his great great uncle G. K. Jarvis, with family correspondence and a letter book. The Bishop of Lincoln lent the diary of Edward Lee Hicks, Bishop of Lincoln 1910–1919. Volumes of letters to Sir Charles Anderson of Lea near Lincoln, together with his diary, were deposited in the

Lincolnshire Archives Office for my use by the Earl of Feversham, and I am grateful to him. Mrs Smeeton kindly sent me a brief diary of her aunt Elizabeth Wordsworth. Lieutenant Colonel Sir Benjamin Bromhead's collection of the mss of Sir Edward Bromhead at Thurlby Hall, Lincoln, were still of value for the earlier part of the period.

The late Canon W. W. Leeke wrote some of his memories for me shortly before he died, and the late Dr Godfrey Lowe gave me a copy of some notes of his. Memories recorded by the late E. F. R. Woolley at the prompting of Canon Hubert Larken are in the cathedral library. The notes of Colonel J. G. Williams (as to whom see *Medieval Lincoln*, pp. xiv–xv), some of them annotated by G. R. Sharpley, a nephew of Joseph Ruston, are in my possession, as is a manuscript by Edward Peacock. Mrs Olive Riggall gave me letters in verse from Dean Fry to her father Dr G. J. Bennett, the cathedral organist.

I did not become aware of the existence of a file of the *Lincoln Gazette* at the *Lincolnshire Echo* office until a very late stage, and I have decided that rather than postpone publication for a further period I must do without it. I have used extensively the files of the *Lincoln Rutland and Stamford Mercury* and the *Lincolnshire Chronicle*, both in the Lincoln Public Library, and I am grateful to the proprietors of both papers for allowing me to borrow them to study. It is only fair to say that I read the *Mercury* file many years ago, and the *Chronicle* file more recently, when I knew better what might matter; hence the more numerous citations from the latter source.

There is such a mass of printed material available for this period that I have abandoned the idea of giving references for statements that are easily verifiable; my pages are still laden with footnotes.

It is pleasant to acknowledge the help of friends. Mr Michael Lloyd and his colleagues at the Lincolnshire Archives Office have never failed; and Mr F. T. Baker and Miss E. Jahn at the Lincoln Public Library have helped in all manner of ways, and Mr Lawrence Elvin has allowed me constantly to use his great knowledge of the local collection there. Mrs Craven abstracted for me from newspaper files biographical notes of many leading citizens, constituting a local gazetteer.

I am especially grateful to Mrs Joan Varley, not only for the help and advice she gave when she was County Archivist, but for reading my typescript and making valuable suggestions, and searching out and supplying precise references to papers which I read before they were calendared, a task the thought of which made me quail. Similarly Dr Richard Hunt of the Bodleian Library has provided references to the Wilberforce mss there. Dr Richard Olney not only lent me his own

PREFACE

ix

unpublished thesis, but he read my typescript and made useful comments.

Miss Winifred Hunt, my secretary for forty-five years, has helped throughout my work. Mrs Jean Huggins and Mrs Cooke have produced new drafts at short notice. Mr Alan Lyons checked some statistics. Mr Charles Martin has drawn the maps. To all of them I am grateful.

To the Syndics and officers of the University Press I am indebted for their generosity and patience.

J. W. F. HILL

Lincoln
Midsummer 1972

ABBREVIATIONS

A.A.S.R.	<i>Reports and Papers of the Associated Architectural Societies</i>
Anderson Diary	Diary of and volumes of letters addressed to Sir
Anderson Letters	Charles Anderson deposited in L.A.O. by the Earl of Feversham
B.M.	British Museum
Bromhead mss	Correspondence of Sir Edward Bromhead, Bart., in the possession of Lieutenant Colonel Sir Benjamin Bromhead, Bart., Thurlby Hall, Lincoln
C.M.	Minutes of Lincoln City Council
Cracroft	Diary of Colonel Weston Cracroft (Amcotts) in the possession of Lieutenant Colonel Sir Weston Cracroft-Amcotts, Hackthorn Hall, Lincoln
D.N.B.	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i>
G.L.	<i>Georgian Lincoln</i> , by J. W. F. Hill (1966)
E. L. Hicks Diary	Diary of Bishop Edward Lee Hicks in the possession of the Bishop of Lincoln
G. K. Jarvis Diary	mss in the possession of Mr Anthony Jarvis, Dod-
Jarvis Corr.	dington Hall, Lincoln
Jarvis Letter Book	
L.A.O.	Lincolnshire Archives Office
L.C.	<i>Lincolnshire Chronicle</i>
L.C.S.	<i>Lincoln Cathedral Statutes</i> , ed. Bradshaw and Wordsworth
L.D.M.	<i>Lincoln Diocesan Magazine</i>
L.L.	<i>Lincoln Leader</i>
Lincs. N. & Q.	<i>Lincolnshire Notes and Queries</i>
L.P.L.	Lincoln Public Library
L.R.S.	Publications of the Lincoln Record Society
M.L.	<i>Medieval Lincoln</i> , by J. W. F. Hill (1948)
P.D.	<i>Parliamentary Debates</i>
Ross Letter	Correspondence of John Ross in the possession of
Books	J. W. F. Hill
S.M.	<i>Lincoln Rutland and Stamford Mercury</i>
T. & S. L.	<i>Tudor and Stuart Lincoln</i> , by J. W. F. Hill (1956)
Wilberforce mss	Papers of Bishop Samuel Wilberforce in Bodleian Library
Willson	E. J. Willson Collection in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries