

Bourne in 1798

THE BOURNE ENTRY FROM THE UNIVERSAL
BRITISH DIRECTORY 1793-1798

BOURN is distant from Deeping, 7 miles; Folkingham, 9 miles; Stamford, 10 miles; Spalding, 12 miles; Peterborough, 16 miles; Sleaford, 18 miles; and from London, 97 miles; on the high road to Lincoln and Hull. It is famous for being birth place of that great statesman, Sir William Cecil, lord treasurer, who was born here in 1521; created Baron Burleigh in 1571; and died in 1598.

The manor came to him in right of his mother, Jane daughter and heiress of William Heckington, of Bourn Esq. The streets are watered by a spring remarkable for the purity of its water, which turns three mills within a very small distance of its head; and no doubt was the cause of the town being called Bourn, which signifies a stream of water. Here was formerly an abbey and a castle; of the abbey there are some small remains, which speak much for the antiquity of the place, if we may credit a date upon one of the stones, in the upper part of the wall, which is as early as the year 161.

Very few vestiges of the castle are left; some footsteps are now the only remains; and these are formed out of some of the old stones laid across a dry part of the moat; which is yet very fresh, as are the entrenchments round it. We do not find, in the annals of Britain, that this castle was ever made serviceable in any of the internal wars of the kingdom; though Bourn was doubtless, anciently, the residence of men of prowess and valour; for a valuable, old, and fierce, historian, writes to this purport: "When the Danes made an inroad into Lincolnshire, one Alger, of Spalding, was sent for to oppose their progress; and, being joined by Marcot lord of Bourn, and his numerous family and attendants, trained in arms, with about 250 men from Croyland Abbey, they marched northward, and met the Danish army at Laundon, where a desperate battle ensued, which was terminated in favour of Alger and Marcot, after slaying three of the enemies' kings; from which circumstance the town received the name of Threekingham, which by a corruption of pronounciation is now called Freckingham."

Some say Edmund Ironsides was crowned at Bourn in 1016: but if we consider that this king swayed the sceptre but about nine months, and was engaged in wars the whole of this time in the southern parts of the kingdom, this will carry with it but a small degree of probability.

But to wave these matters, and to speak of Bourn in its present state, we must say it is but a

dirty mean-built town, of about a mile and a quarter in length from east to west, and about half a mile in breadth from north to south. It has one parish church, and one chapel for dissenters.

The market is on a Saturday; fairs, March 7, May 6, and Oct 29: this last, though, a small fair, is a great feast or wake. Here are two almshouses, one for six poor old men, and the other as many poor old women; each endowed with £30 per annum; and also a free school, with a yearly salary of £35 for the master. Besides these, there are many other gifts, donations, and benefices, belonging to the poor of Bourn.

The tanning business is much carried on here; and its common is noted for horse races. The mail arrives at ten o'clock, and goes out at one daily. The Lincoln coach passes through here to and from London every day in the week, Sundays excepted; inns at the Golden Cross one day, and the Spread Eagle another. The Lincoln waggon to London up and down through this town once a week, and inns at the White Bear, Basinghall Street. Tilley's waggon carries goods to and from Stamford and Bourn every Tuesday and Friday; and Halford's boats do the same to Spalding every Tuesday.

The following is the list of principal inhabitants:

GENTRY

Digby, James, Gent (F)
Pochin, George Esq (F), Colonel of Leicestershire Militia

CLERGYMAN

Hyde, the Rev Humphrey

PHYSIC

Steward, Richard, surgeon and apothecary
Vickery, Robert, surgeon and apothecary

LAW

Hart, Major, attorney

TRADERS etc

Adams, William, excise officer
Andrew, John, carpenter, joiner and cabinet maker
Bacon, Thomas, ironmonger and raft merchant
Bailey, John, tanner
Barnes, William, farmer

Bedford, William, wholesale tailor
Beedzler, David, brazier and tinman
Boyal, Penelope, miller
Braybrook, John (F), farmer and grazier
Brittain, John, butcher
Brittain, William, farmer
Caswell, Thomas, victualler (Anchor)
Chamberlain, Thomas (F), merchant
Christopher, Charles, gardener
Clark, William, butcher
Cook, John, flax and hemp dresser
Crafts, John, slater and plasterer
Cunningham, Daniel, victualler (Windmill)
Dewey, Joseph, wheelwright
Dove, John (F), farmer and chief constable
Dove, Hardwick (F), farmer, grazier and maltster
Ednots, Elizabeth and Mary, milliners
Freeman, Magdalene, grocer and china dealer
Frisby, John, cooper
Gatliffe, John, peruke maker and hairdresser
Gibson, John (F), grocer, chandler etc
Goodhand, John, victualler (Horse and Jockey)
Gough, Edmund, stay and mantua maker
Green, Francis, tailor
Halford, William (F), hair and sackcloth maker
Hardwick, William, butcher
Hardy, Thomas, shoemaker
Holland, John (F), farmer and grazier
Johnson, Edward, Angel Inn
Keeve, William, draper and post-maker
King, William, shoemaker
Layton, Edward (F), Bull Inn
Lenton, John, butcher
Lightfoot, James, gardener and carrier
Moore, Samuel, master of the Free School
Munton, William, miller and baker
Nichold, Robert (F), glazier
Osborn, Robert (F), farmer and blacksmith
Osborn, John, ironmonger
Osborn, William, farmer
Pare, Joseph (F), liquor merchant
Pares, Catharine and Precious, mercers, drapers, grocers etc
Padley, Robert, coal merchant and maltster
Penny, Thomas, carpenter, joiner and auctioneer
Phillips, Thomas (F), wool stapler and fellmonger
Phillips, Thomas, painter
Phillips, Thomas, baker
Phillips, William, upholsterer and tailor
Phillips, Joseph, grazier
Phillips, Humphrey, baker

Presgrave, John (F), farmer and grazier
Rainey, Edward, plumber and glazier
Rawnsley, Thomas, wool stapler and fellmonger
Redshaw, John, sadler, collar and harness maker
Roberts, Jacob, grocer and chandler
Shippey, William, carpenter and joiner
Shippey, Mary, milliner
Shippey, Thomas, sadler, collar and harness maker
Smith, William, farmer and maltster
Smih, William, shoemaker
Smith, Thomas, farmer, miller and baker
Smith, Elizabeth, victualler (Six Bells)
Stevenson, Bryan, tanner and currier
Stokes, William, bricklayer
Sutton, John (F), shoemaker
Swift, William, breeches maker
Swingler, Richard, butcher
Taber, Thomas, basket maker
Thisleton, W (F), farmer and grazier
Thorpe, William (F), mercer, draper and grocer etc
Tilley, Jonathan, victualler (White Hart)
Timson, Robert, victualler (Fox and Hounds)
Tingle, Richard, clock and watchmaker
Tye, Joseph, blacksmith
Ward, John, Master of the Workhouse
Watmuff, John, victualler (Red Lion)
White, Mary, ladies' boarding school
Wilcox, Richard, shoemaker
Willoughby, John, victualler (Marquis of Granby)
Wilton, John, clock and watchmaker
Would, James, currier and parish clerk
Would, Richard, currier and leather dresser
Young, James, wheelwright
Young, Gilbert, schoolmaster

The following are the principal villages and seats in the vicinity of Bourn. Morton, between Folkingham and Bourn, 3 miles. Thurlby, 2 miles. Grimsthorpe, the seat of his grace the Duke of Ancaster, 4 miles. Edenham, near Grimsthorpe, and 3 miles from Bourn, has a charity school. Irnham is a pleasant village with good water and in a wholesome air, 8 miles distant. Here is the seat of Everard Arundel Esq. Gretford is 6 miles distant and has a charity school. Here Dr Willis has a seat. Witham-on-Hill, by the Red Deer Park, 3 miles south west of Bourn, has a charity school. Here is the seat of --- Johnson Esq.