

LINCOLN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 1996

LIFFEY COTTAGE 125 YEARS CELEBRATION

The last few years have seen a number of older buildings in Lincoln disappear and their sites used for new housing. The most recent of these has been the railways development in South Belt, the demolition of the old Baptist manse in Gerald St and the late Mrs Robinson's cottage in Maurice St. Although we cannot halt progress in the village it is good to recall that some buildings from the past are preserved; the Liffey Cottage is one of these. The cottage represents most of Lincoln's history for it was built just over 125 years ago. To celebrate this building, others still remaining, and those which have made way for the new we are holding an **OPEN DAY AT LIFFEY COTTAGE ON SUNDAY MARCH 24 AT 1.30PM.** We hope to host a representative gathering at this function and urge members to come and share in the spirit of the occasion.

RURAL SECTION 2241

Despite the disappearance of our older buildings there is one which has survived almost unnoticed for more than 130 years on RS 2241. Now the property of Neil and Jan Owens this section was formerly owned by Heinrich Schaffer whose descendants farmed it for many years. Jan Owens writes:

In 1863 Thomas Helms, a farmer of Weedons, received a Crown grant of 60 acres sited on Tancreds and

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Ellesmere Roads and there built a two roomed brick cottage. Years later the Lincoln creamery was built on the corner of the property and a plaque is soon to be erected to mark the site. A photograph of the original creamery is in the Owens' possession.

On May 25, 1867 Thomas Helms conveyed the farm to Heinrich Schaffer, a German settler, for £360, and which was mortgaged to Robert Laurie Barker of Scotland, at 12.5% per annum. Interest was to be paid half yearly on 24 June and 24 December. On 20 July 1875 the title was reconveyed to Schaffer by Barker's lawyer, Robert Wilkin, who had written authority to act.

Three generations of the Schaffer family farmed the property, growing potatoes and milking cows. It remained in the family for 107 years until it was sold to Neil and Jan Owens in 1974. The brick cottage is behind the homestead on Tancreds Road and as it has been faithfully maintained is in its original condition. A heritage order has been placed on the cottage as it is the only one in the district.

PROJECT 2000

Plans to develop a photographic record, with appropriate data base, were discussed briefly at the AGM last July. We have since received financial support for the project, which we expect to complete in four years, from Trust Bank Canterbury Community Trust, Crop and Food Research Ltd, Landcare Research Ltd, Lincoln

Rotary, and Lincoln Ventures at Lincoln University for the project. We are grateful to these organisations for their help.

Money from Trust Bank Canterbury Trust is to go towards the purchase of suitable storage for the photographs and records involved. The preparation of photographs will be met by the grants from the local research groups.

We would appreciate the loan of any photographs relevant to the history of development in Lincoln and district. We would like to copy these and would promise to treat all material with great care. Please contact any committee member if you can help.

UPDATE

1. The Watson plough is still in the hands of the restorers. We hope to place it on the open space by the Coronation library but wait for final approval from the Selwyn District Council.
2. The Liffey Cottage requires a new coat of paint. Lincoln Rotary has supported us in the past, but we have asked the council for help this year and wait upon their decision late in February.
3. The chaise longue is finally restored and is now in Liffey Cottage. This was a painstaking process and we thank Bruce Switalla and Thomas Brown for their skill in providing us with a fine addition to Liffey Cottage furniture. It can be seen at the Liffey Cottage on any open day. Part of the cost of restoration was met by a grant from the former Ellesmere County Council.
4. Two histories of interest to the district have been published recently. The first is an enlarged edition of the 1970 centenary history of the Ellesmere A&P Association. The new edition was prepared by W.M. Patterson and is available at \$6.00 from the secretary.

The second celebrates 100 years of worship in St Mary's Anglican Church at Irwell. This booklet was compiled by Peter Fleming of Irwell and is available for \$5.00.

Another soon to be published is a history of the Lincoln Golf Club which holds its jubilee this year at Easter.

SAMUEL DENING GLYDE

Last October a new council and mayor were elected to administer the affairs of the Selwyn District. It is appropriate to look back and remember some of the personalities of the past who helped to shape the district in which we live.

Samuel Dening Glyde was the first clerk and surveyor to the Springs and Lincoln Road Boards. Born in Somerset on 18 August 1842 he migrated to Victoria, Australia, at 18, but soon moved on to New Zealand. Where he lived and worked when he first arrived is not known, but he was appointed to the Road Boards on 1 January 1864 and later that year, on 1 September he married Ann Gillingham in St Peter's at Riccarton.

He brought to the job energy and enthusiasm which spilled over into his private life. He worked unceasingly to improve the lot of the small farmer, to further the education of their children, and he even found time to entertain at the concerts which were such a feature of social life at the time.

He was involved in organising the first of the ploughing matches in the district. These not only helped to raise the standard of ploughing, but also provided an opportunity for local smiths, Watson of Lincoln and Blythe of Prebbleton, to demonstrate and to test their ploughs before a critical audience.

He was treasurer of the first Lincoln Fair, held near the Wheat Sheaf hotel in 1868 and a year later he was

appointed director of the Lincoln Township Fair Company which built its yards adjacent to the Lincoln school on the corner of James St and Boundary Road. The intention of the fairs was to allow farmers to buy and sell their own stock and produce for a modest fee and without the services of auctioneers. Not long afterwards he was elected an honorary member of the Lincoln Farmers' club in recognition of his work for the local agricultural interest.

He did his best to encourage education at a time when country children were often required to work on the farm. He was chairman of the Prebbleton and Broadfields school committees, was a member of the Canterbury Institute of Education and on one occasion was one of a panel of three who conducted the annual examinations at the Lincoln school.

In 1865 he was Supernumerary Ensign of a troop of volunteers attached to No 6 Company in Christchurch; the troop drilled at the George and Dragon in Templeton. Five years later he chaired a meeting at Helm's Hotel in Prebbleton at which it was decided to form a troop of Yeomanry Cavalry in the district.

In 1871 Glyde resigned his positions in order to join his brother who was in business in South Australia as a wheat broker. At one of the many farewell dinners held in his honour residents of the Springs district presented him with a silver cup and a testimonial to one who was foremost in promoting the welfare of the district.

He entered into his new life in Australia with characteristic energy and soon became active in local body and state politics where he was known as a "clear, incisive speaker, with a good deal of fire and fervour."

About 1896 he moved to Western Australia, perhaps lured by news of

gold strikes, but what he did there is not clear. He died in Perth of typhoid fever on 27 January 1898 at which time 54 typhoid patients had been admitted to the Perth hospital. He returned to Canterbury for a brief visit in March 1874 when he was a guest at a complimentary dinner for W.B. Toswill and G. Steadman.

Today the only local link with this pioneer in our district is the grave of his 15 month old daughter Blanche whose headstone is in the Anglican church at Prebbleton.

Beth Brittle, provided details of Glyde's life in Australia; other sources, Macdonald Dictionary of Biographies, The Press, Lyttelton Times. N. Moar.

PIONEER DESCENDANT EMMA CARTER 1901-1995

Last year a funeral service was held in the Lincoln Union Church to remember the life of Emma Carter, née Tod. She was the last surviving grand child of the pioneer settlers William and Mary Tod, who had been associated with the Presbyterian (Union) church in Lincoln from its earliest days.

Emma was born in Doyleston 93 years ago, the youngest child of David and Catherine Tod. She attended Leeston School and was Dux in Standard six at which she left school to help on the family farm.

Her father David Tod was born at Riccarton on 3 August 1845 and was the third child of William and Mary who hailed from Kinross and Perth in Scotland and were married in 1839. They sailed from Gravesend, London, on 5 February 1841 arriving in Port Nicholson, Wellington, on 11 June on the "Catherine Stuart Forbes". After living for a time in Wellington and Foxton they came to Canterbury and worked for the Deans brothers at Riccarton and eventually bought the

farm known as "Springside Farm" on the east side of Lincoln. William and Mary's home in East Belt, Lincoln, is listed in the District Council's proposed plan as a Heritage site.

David Tod's first wife Agnes Blair died in 1853. He later married Catherine Cahil and farmed at Doyleston.

In 1931 Emma Tod married Frank Carter and they made their home at Greenpark where they lived and farmed for 48 years until Frank's death in 1979. They raised a family of three sons and two daughters. Roger was tragically killed in a road accident aged 20, Gordon farms at Rakaia, and Peter is farming at Lincoln, while both daughters Catherine and Norma live in Halswell.

With courage, strength and support of each other they led a busy life. Emma's husband Frank was keenly interested in local bodies and led a prominent role in the local area. Among these interests Frank will long be remembered for his involvement with the Lincoln Ploughing Association. Emma in her quiet unassuming way made it possible for her husband to fulfill his interests, always clean shoes and clothes spread on the bed, plus the agenda for the particular meeting on the table with a packet of cigarettes and the car parked at the door for him.

Emma led a very busy life at harvest time. At least four or five men to be fed at dinner time and whatever hour they finished in the field at night there was always tea for all. Cows had to be milked and the garden had to be tended. All this with a family to raise made Emma's life a very busy one indeed. Up until 1987 when she moved to "Avonlea Court" she always continued to cook for the harvesters.

She will always be remembered with much love and be sadly missed by

her children, sons and daughters-in-law, and her grandchildren, friends and relatives.

*Contributed by Margaret Baylis
November 1995.*

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

The society needs your subscription to meet its running costs which are kept to a minimum. The annual subscription is \$10.00 and is now due. Payment to our treasurer, **Gavin East, 13 Robert St, Lincoln**, would be appreciated if you have not already done so.

RECENT GIFTS

We thank Mr Alex Ward-Smith for several photographs of early Lincoln including views along Gerald St, James St, and of the school.

Our thanks too for the gift of a commode from Community Care of a vintage suitable for placing in Liffey Cottage.

THE OPEN DAY

Don't forget the **Open Day** at Liffey Cottage on **Sunday March 24 at 1.30pm.**

We hope to make this an interesting occasion and will have photographs of some of the village buildings, not all extant, on display in the **Old Presbyterian Manse**, where we will be able to relax over the photographs and a cup of tea.

Besides the Liffey Cottage and the Old Manse (now the Sunday School) Claire McWatt is the owner of the old Tod House just down the road at 116 East Belt. She would be happy to have us wander down to view the house and to let us inspect the interior if she is at home. Do come on **MARCH 24.**

Lincoln Historical Society: Editor John Holmes (3252211); Chairman Neville Moar (3252798); Secretary June Switalla (3252078); Treasurer Gavin East (3252391).