



Part of Mr. H. Preston's collection of EARLY BRITISH POTTERY.



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Pre-historic Man in Lincolnshire.

By the Rev. Alfred Hunt, M.A.

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Pre-Historic Man in Lincolnshire.

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"LINCOLNSHIRE at the OPENING of 20th CENTURY." "Ramsbush (Now Burnham) A.D. 527." "The Fyney Flint Age in Lincolnshire." "The Viking Raft or Peatcut Bridge road in North Lincolnshire." "Roman Lincolnshire."

PRE-HISTORIC MAN IN LINCOLNSHIRE.

BEING THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS FOR 1908.

THE SUBJECT of Pre-Historic man in Lincolnshire, takes us back to a period of time long before the Roman occupation of what we now know as Lincolnshire—when our local history began.

The County of Lincolnshire as we know it to-day is divided into parishes and districts. If we ask when these divisions took place, history answers us at once; that division into parishes has been going on for over a thousand years, and it is still going on. If we ask when Lincolnshire was divided from the adjoining counties of England, we are sent back to the Saxon Period of our National Life.

To-day I propose to address you concerning a period of time long before these divisions took place, but for the purpose of

clearness in understanding our subject I shall use these modern divisions as it gives definition to points and places where traces of mankind have been found.

Thousands of years ago, Lincolnshire and the whole of Northern England part of the South of England and North Britain were covered with vast sheets of Ice, known as Glaciers stretching across the North Sea or German Ocean as far as Norway, and these glaciers gradually moved southwards carrying on their surface and interior huge blocks of rock and stone, broken from the parent rocks in all directions by the action of frost and other disintegrating forces of nature. Specimens of these Glacial boulders are to be seen at Louth, Anwick, Welton, by Lincoln and many other places.

The melting point of these glaciers was at a line roughly drawn across England from the Wash in the East to the River Severn in the West.

EOLITHIC.

It seems that at this period a Race of men existed in the South of England who from the implements they have left behind have been called Eolithic Men, and later on another race called Paleolithic Men—separated they may have been from one another by many thousands of years.

It is from the south of England that men seem to have travelled northwards and settled in the Caves at Cresswell Crags, Derbyshire, and Kirkdale Caves in the North Riding of Yorkshire, but of these Early Races of Men we have no trace in Lincolnshire.

It is not until we come to the period of Neolithic Man or the New Stone Age, when men were using Smooth Stone implements that we find traces of men in Lincolnshire.

Before passing to the consideration of the Neolithic People in Lincolnshire—I would like to make reference to the divisions of the Paleolithic Race.

PALEOLITHIC.

We do not in our County possess any relics of the Pre-Historic Man of that period—South and South-East of our County there were men living in various localities who have left behind them stone implements, of a rough nature, but yet shewing signs of man's handiwork and design. These are called Eolithic Stones, and are the earliest stones found in England shewing any design in their shape, but concerning these Eoliths I am not aware that any have been found in Lincolnshire—so we leave the Eolithic period and come to a still later period called the Paleolithic Period, and of this period none have been found in Lincolnshire. It is in the Neolithic Period or New Stone Age, in which we first find traces of mankind in our County of Lincolnshire.

"The transition between the Paleolithic and Neolithic Age is still very obscure. We suddenly find," so says Mr. Read of the British Museum, "a different culture and different kind of implements which indicate a different way of life, but we cannot say exactly how or where the old order gave place to the new."

CAVE MEN.

There are many who place Cave Men or the Cave Dwellers between these two periods of Paleolithic and Neolithic Periods and call it the Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age, but in Lincolnshire we have no traces of Cave Man.

NEOLITHIC MEN.

Neolithic Man has left behind him in our County, his burial places, his weapons of war, his tools for domestic use and his arms for the chase, his boats for river use, his pottery for domestic and ceremonial life.

In one instance the body and dress of one of these Neolithic people was found preserved in the bog or peat of the N.W. District of Lincolnshire known as the Isle of Axholme. The figure of a warrior carved in oak with an arrow in his hand was also found in the same part of the County.

From these remains we may learn something of the life he lived in this period in our County. These weapons or remains

consist of stone axes, spear heads, lance heads, arrow-heads, hammerstones, pot boilers, scrapers, gouges, chisels, flint knives, bovers, graving tools, anvil stones, whetstones, polishers, sink stones.

So far as I have been able to trace them, taken alphabetically the places or parishes where these stone implements have been found are:—

*Alkborough	Irby (Flint knife)
Barlings	*Isle of Axholme
*Billinghay	Kelstern
Branston	Kirton-in-Lindsey
Brigg	*Legbourne
Broughton	*Lincoln
*Burwell	*Lynwode
*Bully Hills	*Mablethorpe
Caythorpe	Maidenwell
Claxby near Alford	Manton
(Flint Flakes)	Messingham
Cold Harbour	Newport
*Cold Hanworth	Ponton (Great)
Crowle	Potterhanworth
Coningsby Warren	Reepham
Coxey Hills near Louth	*Ruckland
Doddington	*Salmonby
Donnington-on-Bain	*Saxilby
Elkington, South	Scawby
Fiskerton	*Scunthorpe
Fotherby	Sleaford
Friskney	Spalding (spearhead)
Ferriby, South	Stewton
Gonerby	*Stow
Little Goulceby	Tathwell
*Haxey	Welton by Lincoln
Healing (arrow-head)	Wragby
Horncastle	*Witham River
Hubbard's Hills	Woodhall

*Those marked with an asterisk are to be seen in the County Museum

Most of these implements are excellent specimens of the art of Neolithic workers in Stone. For the purpose for which they were made they seem to have served splendidly. Some of these stone implements have been made to fit in wood handles or wood handles have been made to fit them, but in the course of ages the wood has perished although the stone implement remains a lasting witness to the worker's art.

BOAT CRAFT.

Speaking of wood leads us very naturally to the idea of the Boats used by these Neolithic People. Several of these boats have been found in the County, one of them with a very fine flint implement by its side. This was found at Castlethorpe near Brigg, and is the finest specimen of a Neolithic Boat yet found and preserved to us in England. It is still to be seen in our County in a special shed built to preserve it near Brigg Station. I am not able to bring the boat here for your inspection, but I am able to bring you a print of it from a photograph. The boat is made out of one large oak tree, about 45 feet long and 5½ feet wide inside. It has apparently been charred and scraped and chopped out by a stone hatchet and was found on the banks of the River Ancholme between Castlethorpe and Glanford Brigg. Another boat not quite so large was found near by, but it was again covered up in situ.

Other boats of this character have been found at Lincoln, and at Scotter, North Lincolnshire, the latter was some 50 feet long and four feet wide inside, but what has become of these specimens I cannot tell as there is no record.

POTTERY.

Of the Pottery found in this County, the finest collection now kept together is undoubtedly that in the possession of one of our ex-presidents of the Naturalists' Union—Mr. H. Preston, of Grantham. Owing to his kindness, I am able to show you a print of part of this collection from a photograph.

The pottery consisted of what are known as:—Incense Cups, ranging in size from 1 to 4 inches in diameter and from 1 to 3½

inches in height and invariably found with burnt bones. It was probably used to carry sacred fire, Drinking Cups, Food Vessels, Cinerary Urns (3 to 8 inches high) or Urns used to hold the ashes of the body after cremation which was one of the methods of disposing of the dead in Neolithic times specially in the Bronze Period.

This kind of pottery has been found at:—

*Billinghay	Kirton-in-Lindsey
Caythorpe	Lincoln
Denton	Manton
Donington	Normanton
*Dunston	*Potterhanworth
Ferriby South	Scotter
Heighington	Willingham North
Horncastle	Woolsthorpe
*Ingoldmells	

The pottery found with their interments is chiefly what may be called:—

CEREMONIAL POTTERY.

It seems to have been made for the purpose of interment with the dead and is not what may be called Domestic Pottery.

This ceremonial Pottery has been burnt in each case, it is all hand made, not shewing any sign of the wheel. Its chief decoration is by a line drawn by means of a cord across the pottery in different directions; sometimes it is in the shape of herring-bone pattern and sometimes it is nearly straight lines. These decorations are called chevron, saltire, zigzag, reticulated. Its colour varies, ashen grey, yellowish, brown, dark brown and pale red brick. The Incense Cup was probably used to carry the sacred fire to kindle the funeral pile.

Fragments of Domestic Pottery are rarely found in the mounds, tumuli or barrows where the people of importance were buried.

BURIAL PLACES.

Our preceding remark leads us very naturally to the subject of the burial places of these Neolithic People. They were buried in what are called tumuli or barrows—great mounds of earth, in which are mixed up broken pieces of domestic Pottery. Fragments from 20 vessels were found in one barrow, flints, and pebbles together with broken bones, their presence is not accidental. In stony districts there are some instances where the barrows are made of stones thrown together in heaps. This custom of raising a mound over the dead is ancient, widespread and continuous to the present day, examples are to be seen in Egypt, India, America, and Britian. In its simple form it is seen in the Village Churchyard while in its greatest development it is seen in the magnificent Pyramids of Egypt.

These barrows in Lincolnshire may be divided into two classes:—

THE LONG BARROW AND THE ROUND BARROW, and they generally indicate two classes of people. The Long Barrow is the oldest form of interment we have, and points to the earliest known inhabitants of our County, a race of people who are known to specialists as the Dolicho-Cephalic or long-headed people. "The Long Barrows are like the Gang-graben of Scandinavia in which the dead are buried and not burnt," so says Sir. J. Lubbock.

One of these Long Barrows exists at Swinhope near Grimsby and there are others in different parts of the County, Wold Newton and elsewhere. With these interments no Bronze or metal implements have been found except when these Long Barrows have been used for what are called secondary interments in the Bronze age or later. The date of these Long Barrows is by Canon Greenwell put down to 3000 B.C., but he expresses the probability that they are much earlier, and that they are before the Bronze Age or the introduction of Bronze into this country. Other writers place the date of these Long Barrows much earlier fixing the introduction of Metal as early as 1800, or 2000 years, B.C., therefore the Long Barrows of Lincolnshire may be 5,000 years old.

The Round Barrows belong to the second race of people who existed in our County and are called the Brachy-cephalic or Round Headed people and with this class of people occasionally bronze implements have been found as well as the stone implements.

A plate picture of these different kinds of skulls appears on page 20 of the British Museum Handbook to the Antiquities of the Bronze Age—and it is considered very probable that the Brachy-cephalic were the Conquerors of the Dolichocephalic people in the early Bronze Age.

Incompleteness of the circle in the Barrow, points to design. Yet neither care nor trouble seem to have been spared in their funeral rites. The Barrow was considered to be the habitation of the Spirits of the dead.

An alphabetical list of the places where the Round Barrows have been located in Lincolnshire shows how widely these people spread over the County.

Barrow in the extreme North, several	Horncastle, on the road side to Caistor
Bardney	Ingoldsby
Brigg	Kelstern
Burgh in the Marsh in the extreme East	Langton by Spilsby, (3)
Burgh-on-Bain	Revesby
Bully Hills, (6)	Riseholme
Burnham	Spellow Hills or Hills of the Slain
Claxby by Alford	Temple Bruer, (2)
Cockerington	Wainfleet, (2)
Cleatham	Walcot
Donington-on-Bain	Well near Alford, (3)
Falkingham in the South	Welton in the Marsh
Gainsborough in the West	Wold Newton, (20 Urns)
Halton-West	
Haugham	

It is also to this same class of Brachy-cephalic or Round-headed people that we must attribute the lines of entrenchment in various parts of the County—Honington, Ingoldby, Kingebrook and other places are examples.

The Brachy-cephalic people seem in the Early Iron Age to have been absorbed in the Dolicho-cephalic People the earlier and more numerous race surviving after being conquered by the aggressive race of the Round Headed people. The modern Danish Head exhibits the same peculiarities as the Round Headed people.

In these Barrows were buried the Chief of the Clan or his family; by the side of those interred were placed in some cases drinking vessels, food vessels and the so-called Incense Cup, but Canon Greenwell thinks they were for carrying the sacred fire to burn the body.

There were several modes of burial:—

I. One was by *Inhumation*, that is simply placing the body on the ground and covering it up with soil; occasionally the "Trunk of a tree" was used; three instances of Tree Trunk burials five feet below the surface occurred in Grimsby Churchyard, which may be compared with Gristhorpe, East Yorkshire. At other times a hole was sunk in the ground below the ground level. Sometimes a Cist or stone box or coffin was placed round the body and on the top of the uprights a long stone to cover the body. Such an interment was found at Rothwell near Caistor.

II. By *Cremation*, or burning, sometimes the ashes were collected and placed in an Urn called a cinerary urn. Burning the body wholly or in part seems to have been one of the sacred rites of burial.

In nearly every case where inhumation has taken place the body is placed facing the Sun and is not laid full length but on its side in a contracted position, that is the head bent forward and the knees drawn up to the chest. Some specialists think this attitude indicates the sleeping attitude, while others think it points to the fact that as the child entered life in a contracted position so the dead body was similarly placed for departure from life and with a possibility of entering into a new life after death.

In nearly every case where the body has been burnt whether wholly or in part, holes seem to have been bored or drilled into the ground underneath the body.

Frequently by the side of the dead warrior are placed weapons that he used when living, axe heads, arrow heads, and other weapons, and in the case of the oak figure found in the Isle of Axholme, the warrior was represented with bow and arrow in his hand.

CLOTHING. In the one case where clothing has been found with these people buried in our County, the body was that of a woman dressed in skins with sandals on her feet. It was found at Haxey in the Isle of Axholme preserved in the peat and seems to corroborate Cæsar's statement in Book V. par. 147, where he describes the Britons or Celts as wearing skins on their bodies for clothing and the parts of the body not covered with skins being painted in order to render themselves more terrible in battle.

Other instances outside our County show fragments of cloth or linen and in certain instances woollen garments.

LIFE OF THE NEOLITHIC PEOPLE.

Naturally we may ask how did these people live, and the answer undoubtedly is by hunting, fishing and fowling, with every probability they had large flocks of sheep, goats, swine and cattle.

The Aryans or Neolithic People (according to Canon Taylor) were nomad herdsmen who had domesticated the dog and possessed Ox-wagons and dug-out canoes, but had no metals except possibly Copper. During the summer they lived in huts and during the winter in pits. Their dress consisted of skins sewn together and they knew how to kindle fire and to count up to ten.

It is doubtful whether they tilled the ground but they probably pounded wild cereals such as spelt and barley in stone mortars. Marriage was a recognised institution, but they were polygamists and practised human sacrifices. While believing in a future life as is shown by their care of the dead, they had idols but probably revered the powers of nature. In the vegetable food they had hazel nuts, water chestnuts and acorns, but it is remarkable that they did not eat fish.

Their dwelling-places in this County seem to have been hut circles but little can be said of them as practically no remains are traceable in the present time but it is assumed that they would be like others in different parts of England. That Woman occupied a position of respect and equality is to be inferred from the fact of the great respect shown to her by the burial mounds. In some instances she is the sole occupant of the barrow, which is inconsistent with the idea of her position being that of a merely servile character.

The Child also seems to have been treated with love and care and respect, as in certain instances the sole occupant of a barrow is that of a child.

That the semi-savage state had been passed is a very natural inference from the decoration of their pottery and flakings of their flint weapons.

In Art they were far below men of the Cave Period. They came across Europe from Central Asia, the birthplace of such races, and spread out east and west in Europe.

What was their RELIGION? Was it the worship of Ancestors as in the case of the Chinese, was it the worship of Great Men or a fear of them, that led to these offerings to the dead? That they believed in a future state seems almost a certainty by their food being placed with the dead as well as their weapons.

Of one thing we may be quite sure, they were not idolaters, not in a single instance in all the barrows opened (over 370 in England) has a single relic or trace of what may be called an image or idol been found.

Frequently broken bones from which the marrow has been eaten are found in the Barrows which seem to be reminders of the Funeral Feast taking place when the body was interred.

A PYGMY RACE IN LINCOLNSHIRE.

So far we have not referred to what is one of the most recent discoveries in our County regarding Pre-Historic Man. Eight years ago I called the attention of Mr. E. E. Brown at that time

Manager of a branch of Smith-Ellisons Bank at Scunthorpe, to the subject of what are now known as Pygmy Flints and asked if he had ever found any on Scunthorpe Common. Promptly he said: No, never. I promised to send him an article on the subject by my friend the Rev. Reginald A. Gatty, of Hooton Roberts, Doncaster. As I said Scunthorpe Common looked to me a most likely spot for finding them and suggested that Mr. Brown should look carefully for them on his next visit, which he did, and found many. This was the first recorded discovery of Pygmy Flints in Lincolnshire and is due to Mr. Brown.

This placed Mr. Brown in correspondence with Mr. Gatty who has since made long periods of search on the Common where they have been found in hundreds. I bring a few specimens from my own collection, and one or two slide photographs of some in Mr. Gatty's collection and also a photograph of some from the Vindhya Mountains, India. Mr. Gatty's collection which numbers thousands has been exhibited in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, Manchester, London and I believe, in Berlin. Mr. Brown's collection has now been given to the Lincoln County Museum.

These Pygmy Flints are of various forms and sizes chiefy minute; similar forms and shapes of flint with the same minute working have been found in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Bedfordshire, on the Continent, in Belgium, France, Germany; in Africa, in Egypt and in Central Africa; in Asia, India has produced a great number.

The little people from the Ituri Forest seem to be the nearest living specimen of humanity to these pygmy races who formerly lived in our County. A settlement the Pygmies certainly had at Scunthorpe and probably at Manton Common also, only a few miles further away. These settlements are almost always found close to, or upon a peat district. For further details regarding the Pygmy Implements I must refer to the Presidential Address of 1907.

THE BRONZE AGE IN LINCOLNSHIRE.

From the references already made to metal implements being found in the Barrows with interments you will doubtless

have noticed that there was a time when metal was not in use by Pre-historic man in Lincolnshire and further that the period seems to go a long way back—as the introduction of metal into Pre-Historic Man's life goes back (so Mr. Read of the British Museum says) five or six thousand years. To what date must we place the Long Barrow, at least it must be anterior to that of metal which probably places us 3000, B.C., or 5000 years back in our History.

Many people have thought it probable that the manufacture of Bronze originated in Britain: Tin and Copper the component parts of Bronze abound in England and specially in Cornwall and Anglesea. The earliest name we have for the British Isles is the Tin Islands or Cassiterides and they are so described by Herodotus Book III, c. 115. Homer frequently mentions Cassiteros as used in the Trojan War probably B.C. 1100. All this tends to show that Tin, if not Bronze, was in use longer than we generally give to its introduction, but Sir J. Evans thinks that the introduction of Bronze was from the Continent.

Hesiod who flourished B.C. 900 lived in the period of transition from Bronze to Iron, for he mentions the Ancients as having used bronze and not iron. Lucretius states that "Iron was discovered later than Copper." Aeschylus alludes to Iron in his tragedy of "The Seven against Thebes."

In the Brachy-cephalic or Round-headed period we rarely find Bronze implements with their interments. Out of 301 unburnt bodies only 13 had implements of bronze, which seem to have been the property of these people when living—54 had implements of stone. "It is to this Bronze Age we must attribute the introduction of cremation as a custom at burials" (Boyd Dawkins), and therefore it is in their time that we must place the introduction of metal weapons, implements and vessels for domestic use, but the use of Bronze extended well into what may be called the late Celtic or Early Iron Age about 400 years B.C., but as regards Lincolnshire not quite so early a period may be necessary.

Various Bronze implements have been found all over Lincolnshire and so far as I have been able to trace them they consist of—arrow heads, celts, socketed, and unsocketed, spear-heads, swords, circular shields, palstaves, adzes, knives, daggers, hammers, brooches, chisels, armlets, bracelets, bridle bits, box, trumpet, horse trappings, (probably a Peytrel at Caenby). These implements show in their latest developments a very advanced art in casting and design—the former plain surfaces being enriched by designs in relief and engraving.

A cave at Heathery Burn in the Durham Limestone (Greenwell's Barrows, p. 107), had been the habitation of a family in the Bronze Age; the inhabitants seem to have been overwhelmed by a flood. With them were found weapons, implements, ornaments, pots, pans, for all kinds of domestic use.

The places where bronze articles have been found in our County alphabetically arranged are:—

Anwick	Fleet	Newport
Barton-on-Humber	Flixborough	Owersby North B.M.
Billinghay	Fiskerton	*Reepham
Boston, B.M.	Gainsborough	Roxby, B.M.
*Branston, B.M.	Halton West, B.M.	Scothorne
Brigg	*Haxey, B.M.	Scunthorpe, B.M.
Broughton (arrow head)	Horncastle, B.M.	Sleaford
Burringham	Kelsey, South	Toynnton, B.M.
Caenby	Kyme, South	Washingboro'
Caythorpe	Langton	Winghale, B.M.
Crosby	Leasingham	Winterton
Crowle	*Lincoln	Winteringham
Crowland	Nettleham	Wrawby
Elsham	and the *River Witham.	

It is to the Bronze Age Professor Boyd Dawkins would attribute the erection of the great Stone Circles such as Stonehenge, Avebury and other places, but of these stone circles no remnants exist in Lincolnshire that I am aware of.

Doubtless there are many finds in Lincolnshire in private possession that are not described in any book or catalogue extant. It is only by personal knowledge and by contributing that knowledge to a common centre that anything like a correct record can be made for the benefit of students and futurity of the Pre-Historic Period in Lincolnshire.

Pardon me for a few minutes if I deal with a personal matter as regards my views. It may be said of me as a clergyman, What is my personal belief in scripture regarding Early Man on Earth? Is it possible to reconcile the teachings of Scientific results with the Scriptural narratives? I say (as far as I understand them) unhesitatingly, Yes!

There is a Stone Age in the Bible, there is a Bronze Age in the Bible, and the more closely you search, the more does the Bible and Science agree. The Bible states The Creation took place

In the Beginning—No date given. There are,
 Stone Memorials Jacob,
 Stone Seats Eli
 Stone Knives Moses' Wife; and Joshua,
 Stone Weapons David, and Stone Slingers,
 Stone Vessels.

Bronze translated Brass in the Pentateuch (Exodus 7, 19 and 45), is mentioned 45 times. Iron is only mentioned four times.

Take both together the Bible revelation, and science, and then established fact, only confirms the faith of those who look to the Divine Author of Creation and Revelation as One Being interested in the welfare of all mankind.

B.M. Refers to those objects in the British Museum.

*The asteristic refers to those objects in the County Museum at Lincoln.



Photo by

The **PRE-HISTORIC VESSEL** unearthed at Brigg in 1888.

A. Atkinson.