

but sky is mostly turbulent, with light showers towards the end of the stop. Photographer from the local paper becomes ~~visibly~~ progressively more frustrated as he attempts to photograph morris dancing as he imagines it should look. Phoenix are a friendly, easy-going bunch who dance Whently, Slungton, Brackley & bits of other traditions. They have been going about 5 years and now have roughly 20 dancers. They made the switch from dresses to trousers about 8 months ago (due to dissatisfaction with the way certain movements look when done ⁱⁿ ~~worn~~ dresses) and dancers I spoke with felt it had changed their dancing. Musicians for Phoenix played melodian, accordion, ~~a~~ fiddle, ^{and banjo} ~~some~~ were female. We danced some mixed dances with them, occasionally with mixed sides, which was funny even to by-standers as we have quite disparate interpretations of our common dances. Second stop was in a pub in a modern shopping mall. Morris dancing won a temporary victory over local rock musicians, who had the advantage of amplification. Steak & kidney pies & other delicacies were downed by adventuresome ^{and hungry} ROB's. After a fair bit of dancing we moved on to the Chestnut Tree Pub where ROB began to pull out its unofficial repertoire of Bampton, Clibington, Addisburg, Fieldtown, etc. We note that Phoenix' style tapping is much more subdued



Anthony Freyplace, 1510
Swindbrook, Oxfordshire
HAND PRINTED BRASS RUBBING

tonight. Apparently their stick-smashing routine is a joke, as we spotted a separate pile of extra thin sticks which were pulled out only for their stick-breaking dance late in the evening. Also repeated was their Black Joke beer-drinking dance. Speaking of beer-drinking, I seem to detect an overall increase of in per capita beer consumption on R.O.B., and it is not all Nancy M + Jessie. Has the tyranny of orange-juice come to an end? R.O.B. ~~has~~ ^{starts} its first long stick doing R.O.B. - we are now down to 16. Late end to the evening & off to sleep, perchance to dream with various phoenix's ...

Friday, June 22

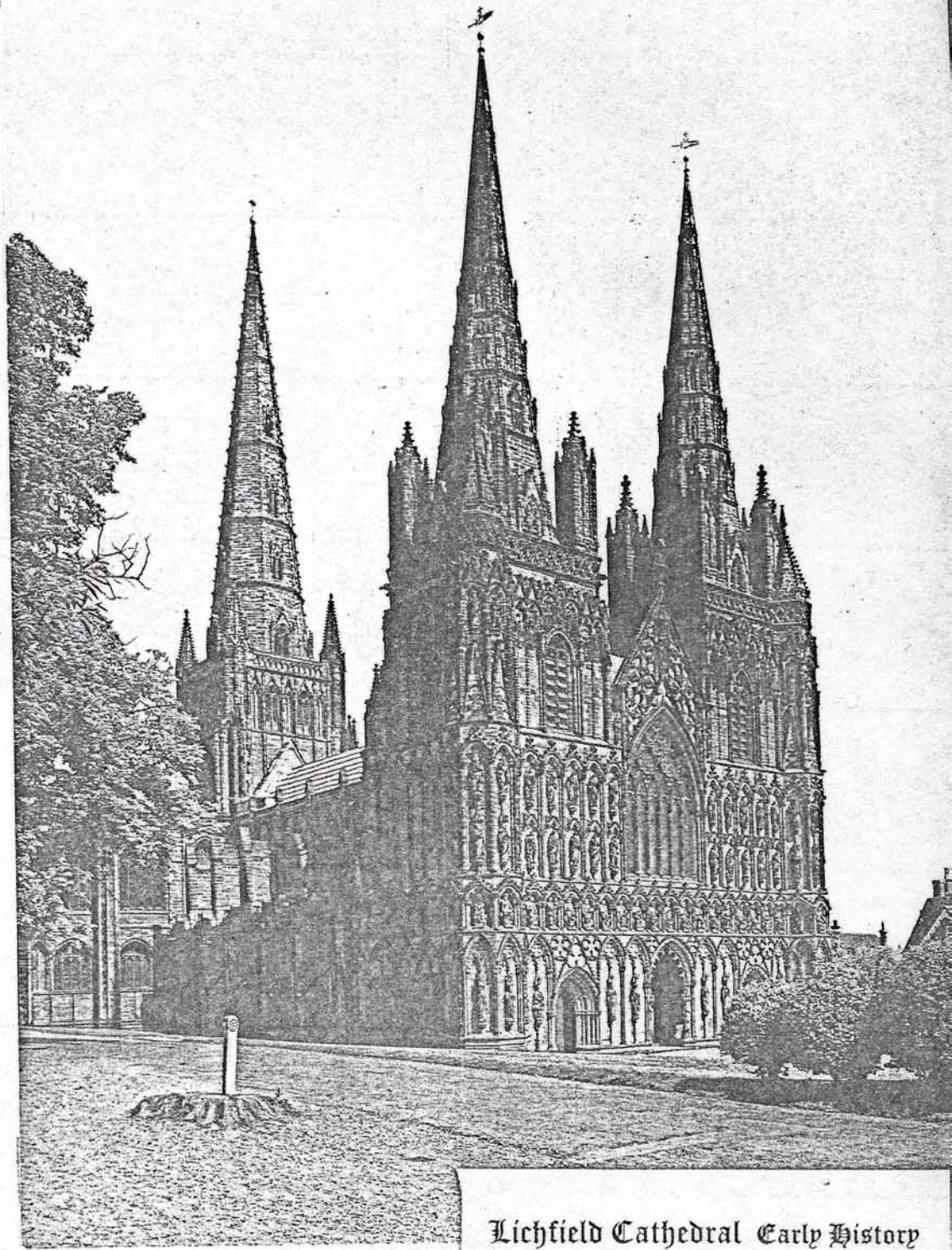
Van packing 9AM. Our van now has "Ring-o-Bells Morris ^{USA}" emblazoned on both sides thanks to Glendie who spent her morning in Coventry in the car park with 2 rolls of red and blue tape. Now we really look like something out of an Annetto Fumicello movie - great! R.O.B.s proudly wearing red and green Coventry pins which were presented to us by Phoenix. Apparently these pins are procurable only through the mayor's office. In return we are giving out our "I ♥ n.y." pins.

Off to Derby via Lichfield & Abbot's Bromley. We are all overwhelmed by the sight of Lichfield cathedral, so we stop here for sight-seeing and relic-collecting. Encounter a group of children being taught about Morris dancing in the cathedral (which was the proverbial

bee-hive of activity - all sorts of school groups, ^{using the premises} & R.O.B. dined Shepherd's Hey for the group. Then outside to dance Ring O' Bells with Lichfield Cathedral as picturesque backdrop for photographs.

Lichfield Cathedral pins procured for all R.O.B. proud team patrons, munch outdoors under brilliant blue skies, then back to our

home on wheels for a drive through the gorgeous Staffordshire countryside to Abbot Bromley. Walked through the churchyard; unfortunately the church was closed but nimble & resourceful lasses that we are, we merely scaled the wall and looked through the window at the ancient reindeer antlers hanging on the walls.



Lichfield Cathedral Early History

St. Chad, the first Bishop of Mercia, fixed his see at Stowe, half a mile from the present Cathedral, in the 7th century. Following his death in 672 he became Patron Saint of the diocese. The first church to be built where the Cathedral now stands was built by Bishop Hedda and consecrated 31st December 700. In 787 the see of Lichfield was raised to an archbishopric, but this status was lost in 803. After many changes the title Bishop of Lichfield was finally adopted in 1840.

Bishop Roger de Clinton built a new Norman style church between 1135 and 1140, but by 1195, as the oppression of the Normans eased, rebuilding commenced in the Early English Style. Work began at the east end with the renewal of the Presbytery, Choir and Choir Aisles. The three westernmost bays of the latter remain. By 1241 the Chapel of St. Chad's Head and the Transepts had been built, and the Chapter House was completed in 1249. It was not until 1285 that a new Nave was built in the Geometrical style, to replace the Norman Nave. With the completion of the West Front about 1327, Bishop Clinton's Norman church had completely disappeared.

The Cathedral as it now stands is 371 ft. in length, and the central spire reaches a height of 258 ft.

First damage to van scored by Nancy M as she wrenches off a bit of the front bumper in an attempt to make a sharp right through a farm gate (a manoeuvre necessitated by the fact that we were travelling in the wrong direction.) Well done, old chap, carry on! Reached Derby around 5 pm & parked in the sunlight for a bit out back in someone's garden before being parcelled out to various hosts. Learned from Meg of Derby Crown that they have been dancing

5-6 years now and

dance Stmington,
Northwest morris

and garland

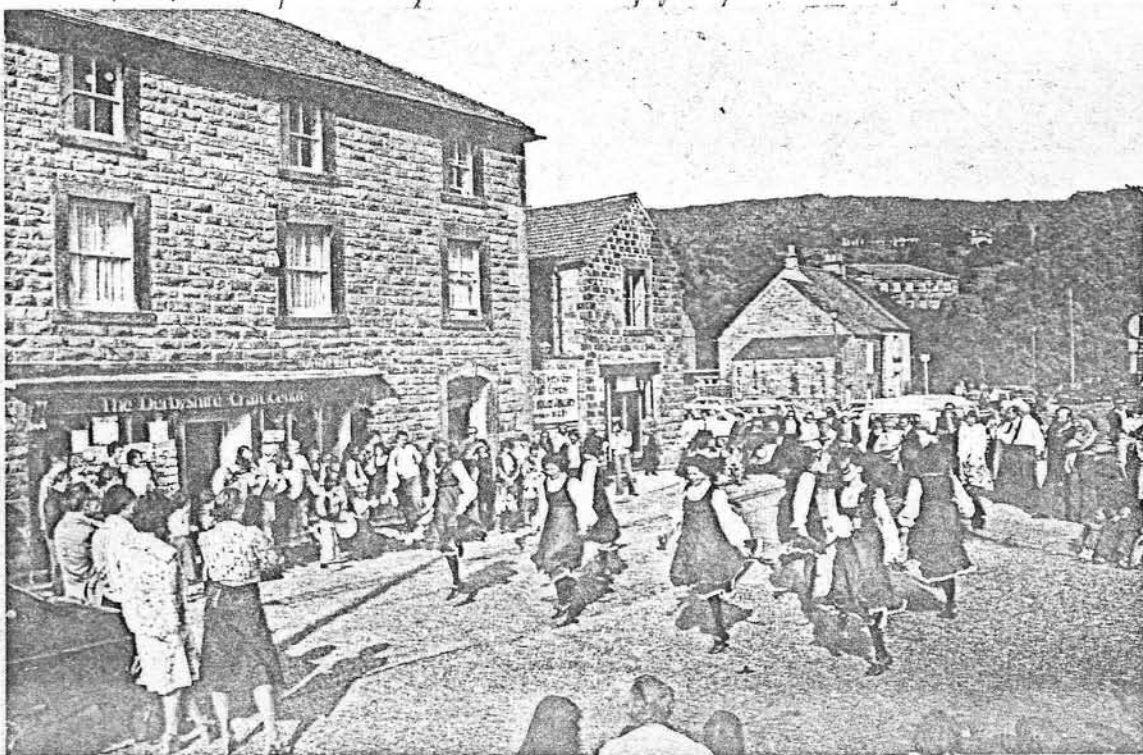
dances from
Yorkshire. She
states that they



Abbott's Bromley
Holly

originally encountered a lot of hostility from men's sides, but that this has since abated, due to the fact that Derby Crown limits themselves to traditions looked upon as being appropriate for women and dance in dresses. Had an enormous "tea", struggled into kit and met at first stop in Shadlow, a suburb of Derby. In addition to the traditions listed above, the D.C. dancers also did a

faggot dance (a dance ~~which~~ traditionally performed
 on the first of May in the Great Wishford, Leicestershire
 cathedral as an assertion of the right of the townspeople
 to gather firewood from the forest) and Winster and
 Bedford traditions. It is amazing to see them
 perform so many traditions well, a lot different from
 just learning the choruses to dances and letting your
 knowledge of the tradition take over from there. Their
 style of dancing is more similar to the other ~~some~~ English
 women's styles we have seen than to our own - vigorous,
 rather high-stepping, figures done differently (notably in
 Huntington) than in the U.S. Derby Crown practice once
 a week (this seems to be standard) with occasional
 extra week-end practices to prepare for special gigs. They
 had 18-20 dancers and three musicians (all male). It
 was nice to see 3 or four older women among the
 group. The median age seemed to be about 26-28.
 Ring 'o' Bells dancing is starting to pull back into
 shape and - can it be? - starting to acquire a
 bit of height in appropriate places. Nom d'un chien!!



THE DERBYSHIRE CRAFT CENTRE WITH CLOG DANCERS

reverse says:

Wishing you
 all the best on
 the rest of your
 tour

from
 Derby Crown
 Ladies Trad. Dances
 22 June 79

P.S. we are
 not clog
 dancers!!

20.
DERBY CROWN

WOMENS MORRIS DANCERS
AND

FROM THE U.S.A.

RING O'BELLS

WILL DANCE HERE
ON

FRIDAY

22nd June

AT

8.30 p.m.

Second stop ~~at~~ also at a pub in the suburbs, Derby Crown demonstrate some dances they have written for themselves. Especially striking is a type of Morris-off for 18 dancers which feature whirlwind casting & weaving figures. Third stop turns out to be a party at a pub in Derby proper. We are astounded, thunderstruck and otherwise daunted by the immoderate graciousness of our hosts - first round was on Derby Crown and platter upon platter of beautifully prepared pastries & ~~the~~ ^{sandwiches} ~~snatches~~ greeted our gaped little N.Y. eyes. Additionally, a cake iced with American + British flap plus a greeting to Ring O' Bells adorned the table. Need I ~~say~~ ^{add} that all this was home-made? To make matters more devastating, Derby Crown kept thanking us for coming to dance with them! It was simply beyond belief!! More trading of dances between D.C. & R.O.B. then a dance by some of the Derby Morris men ^(in plain clothes). They danced Bledington Trunkles superbly!! Derby Crown then proceeded to teach a ~~Bluff~~ dance "Bluff King Hall" to a set of Ring O Bells (laced with a few D.C. ringers) which was great fun. My, but these English pubs get hot and smokey... Solo jig, some magnificent Westmoreland clogging and some folk songs followed, bringing us up to closing time. I think I would have been happy to stay all night even though the van is scheduled to leave at 8:30 tomorrow. Thank-you, Derby!

P.S. Derby Crown kit consists of dark blue empire waisted jumpers falling to mid calf, white long-sleeved blouse edged in eyelid, Red velvet ribbon sash below the bust and near the bottom edge of the skirt, dark blue stockings & red shoes (buckle bells are worn (and a red garter). Machine-embroidered badges depicting a Derby Crown dancer

are worn on the right shoulder. The mistress (squire) wears a red sash across her chest with the names of past squires embroidered in it.

~~June~~ Saturday, June 23

Today is Saturday, so this must be Hull... Into the big white sandstone car at 8:20 and off to meet the Middleton Garland and Sword dancers! A stop off in Beverley to see the Beverley minutes and do a bit of shopping, we learn that our fool's name means "meadow of the free and happy beaver." Was that log-worthy?


We arrive in Hull almost exactly on time and are greeted with an enormous lunch of chicken, salad, cheese, stuffing, bread, pie.....

Scarf it down with much R.O.B. aplomb and set off in the van for our first stop which is a church fête in a suburb of Hull (Hull proper is off limits due to ~~mass~~ marauding bands of King dancers.) At this stop we swap dances with the ^{men's} sword team, which dances North Skelton, Hamborough, Grenside and some Northumbrian rapper. The men wear white shirts, blue pants with a green stripe running down the side seam and a green tabard with the white rose of York appliqued on front and back. The team has been going about 3 years now and apparently has a shifting membership, so some of the dances were on the inexperienced side. One of the long sword dances featured a triangular lock which was new to us. Dancing at this stop is a bit difficult for both teams due to uneven turf. On to Barton Constant to dance at the stately home

of Anstole Chichester. Countryside is flat with a few low rolling hills over which the "roke" (local term for a cold mist off the sea) floats. At this stop we are joined by the women's garland team which dances garland dances from Lancashire plus some N.W. morris. The women, who wear navy blue A-line shifts with green piping and white long-sleeved shirts, have been dancing about two years, and like the men have a problem with a shifting membership. Stepping & figures appear more hesitant than we have seen before, perhaps because of this. After dancing for 30-45 minutes at the stately home we set off, with some trepidation for the massed

FOLK union one

at the Blue Bell



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RING O' BELLS VISIT TO ENGLAND

The 3rd June will see the midsummer dance-out of the Middleton teams at Burton Constable Hall. This will be a special occasion for us, as we have the Ring o' Bells Women's Morris Team from New York, U.S.A., as our guests. They will be in England for eighteen days at the end of June, and will be dancing with men's and women's teams on thirteen tours as far afield as the Cotswolds, the Midlands, Norfolk and London, as well as their visit to us.

The Ring o' Bells were formed in 1974, when only four or five men's teams existed in the United States. Since then, there has been a remarkable surge of interest in Morris dancing, and there are now about fifty teams - men's, women's and mixed-sex. The Ring o' Bells dance three Cotswold traditions and wear knee-breeches rather than the skirts which are more usually worn by women's teams over here.

You will be able to enjoy the Midsummer Festivities from 4.0pm at Burton Constable Hall (in the Riding School if wet) and earlier in the afternoon at St. Alban's Church Garden Party in Hull.

S.STOREY

Some other dance-out dates are :

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2nd June - Visit of Middleton Garland Team to Yorkshire Chandelier, Rotherham. | 23rd June - Burton Constable Hall. |
| 3rd June - N.Frodingham Rally of Boats | 15th July - Folk Show, Queen's Gardens. |
| 17th June - Bridlington Promenade, National Folk Day. | 28th July - Cherry Burton Village Fete. |

Saturday, June 23

dancing of the English Morris Ring. The meet was attended by about 18 sides and was similar in format to Marlboro's Old demonstrations (combination of demonstrations and massed dances) Ring o Bells take off bells and ribbons but walk with pride. Special treats for us were seeing the Handsworth Longsword team in their striking black hussar jackets and tall black boots, watching the Coventry M.M. dance excellent cotswold & exciting N.W. clog moves, and watching the Green Mans moves from Birmingham dance an astonishingly airborne heckfield Castling. Most of the teams demonstrating did not seem any better practiced or energetic than the average run of teams in the state. During the dancing, individuals from various teams drifted ~~up~~ over to find out who we were, what we were up to, etc. Basically they seemed friendly & wished us well, once they satisfied themselves that we had no intention of disrupting the ring meeting in any way. After the last strains of Bonny Green Garters had died away and most of the Morris men departed for their feast, members of the Houghton Rapper team came over and asked us to do a dance for them! They even went to the trouble of lending us their bells and handkerchiefs, ~~not to mention~~ ^{not to mention} their musician. We danced an energetic "Jockie" for them and Jessie reports overhearing approving comments to the effect of "they're all on the same foot, stepping is together" and "they keep their lines well." I think we all felt good about the dancing and we certainly all appreciated ~~this~~ the supportiveness of the Houghton Men.

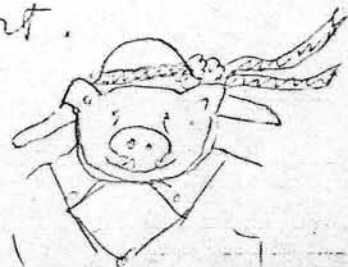
Saturday, June 23

Back to our hosts the Storeys for an evening "tea" of assorted sandwiches and pretzels then off to a dance at Conniston City Hall (which sounds urban but was really very rustic what with sheep & horses in the meadows around the hall). The dance was attended by about 40-50 townspeople who countrydance regularly and a wide variety of dances were done. We were made to feel very welcome and the three demonstration dances we did were warmly received. At about 10 o'clock long tables suddenly appeared in the center of the hall and 1,001 different trifles, cakes, pies, and sandwiches appeared accompanied by tea, wine and soft drinks. Will it never end? More eating followed by more dancing. Music was provided by a live band featuring accordion, drums, piano and fiddle. We all enjoyed ourselves thoroughly despite

MIDDLETON LONGSWORD TEAM

bone-aching fatigue. Pass by a signpost to "Swine" on our way "home" after the dance and contemplate getting out for

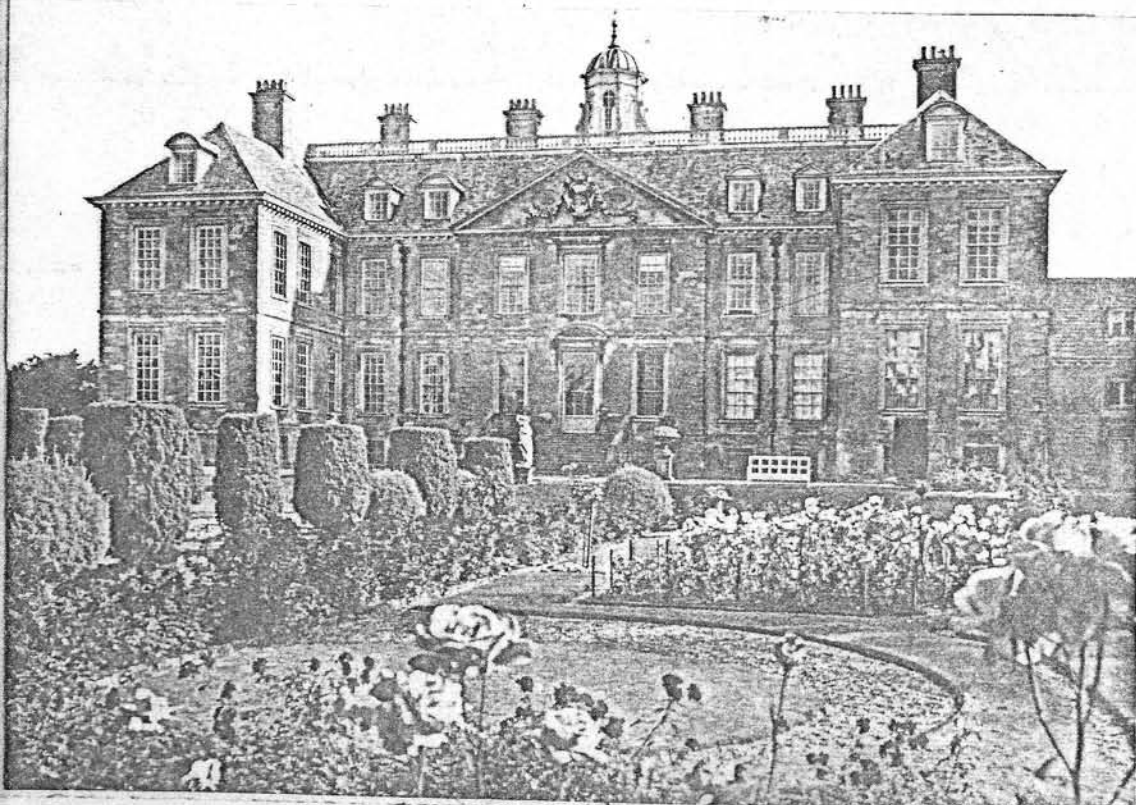
a group picture [to commemorate the herculean eating the team has been doing] but pass this up as being too close to reality for comfort.



Sunday, June 24

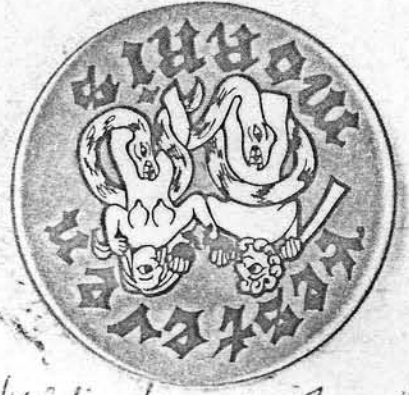
Set off for Grantham under ominous skies took route through Hexale in order to get a look at the bridge over the Humber river, which will be the longest single-span suspension bridge in the world, unless the Japanese prove their first. Picnic lunch in the van catered by Murray and Morris. Extra spins around the roundabouts & wheels while trying to decide best route to Grantham, we make the wrong choice but are headed off at the pass by a cove of Kesteven dancers who escort us to Belton House. Unfortunately it is raining by this time so we are forced to dance indoors in a room laden with what appear to be costly and breakable objects, not to mention groups of innocent bystanders, Kesteven Morris apparently grew out of Kesteven minims and have now been downing 2-3 yrs. The women

dress in orange-red below the knee dresses with long sleeves, covered by a cream-colored smock, a green and yellow floral pattern.



BELTON HOUSE

decorate the dress. a red, green
 and yellow sash with Kesteven
 button in the center is pinned
 to the smock. Red shoes with
 3-4" heels and ankle bells are
 worn. The men wear black
 knee breeches, white shirts, green & red waistcoats with the
 North Kesteven crest on the front and a sheaf of wheat
 on the back badge. The women dance North west
 morris, Elmington and Brockley (though initially one of
 the men told me that they would not be dancing any
 Brockley today because they had heard that we were so
 good at it!!! Apparently we are gaining some notoriety
 among morris teams and teams are calling ahead to
 other teams with news about us). The men dance
 Bledington, ~~at~~ Bucknells ^{and Kitchingfield}. The Kesteven women dance
 Elmington ~~is~~ much like the other women's teams
 here, their N.W. morris looks practiced. The men
 have very vigorous stick-tapping ^{but} stepping and lines
 tend to be a bit ragged and they deliberately turn
 many of their dances into a joke, which begins
 to be annoying. Reaction to our dancing seems
 defensive (men making rude noises as we came out, etc)
 and a bit nervous — I wonder if this could have
 to do with the fact that this is the first
 mens and women's side we have danced with, and
 our dancing our way might now somehow seem
 threatening to the relationships and understandings they
 have reached amongst themselves. ~~Anyway,~~
 I am sure the Kesteven women would be given a hard
 time if they should start getting any ideas about
 dancing (otswald morris "hire men"). After dancing at



Sunday, June 24



Belton House we moved on to the home of one of the dancers for a feast of sausage roll, quiche, salad, collards, cheese and many desserts.

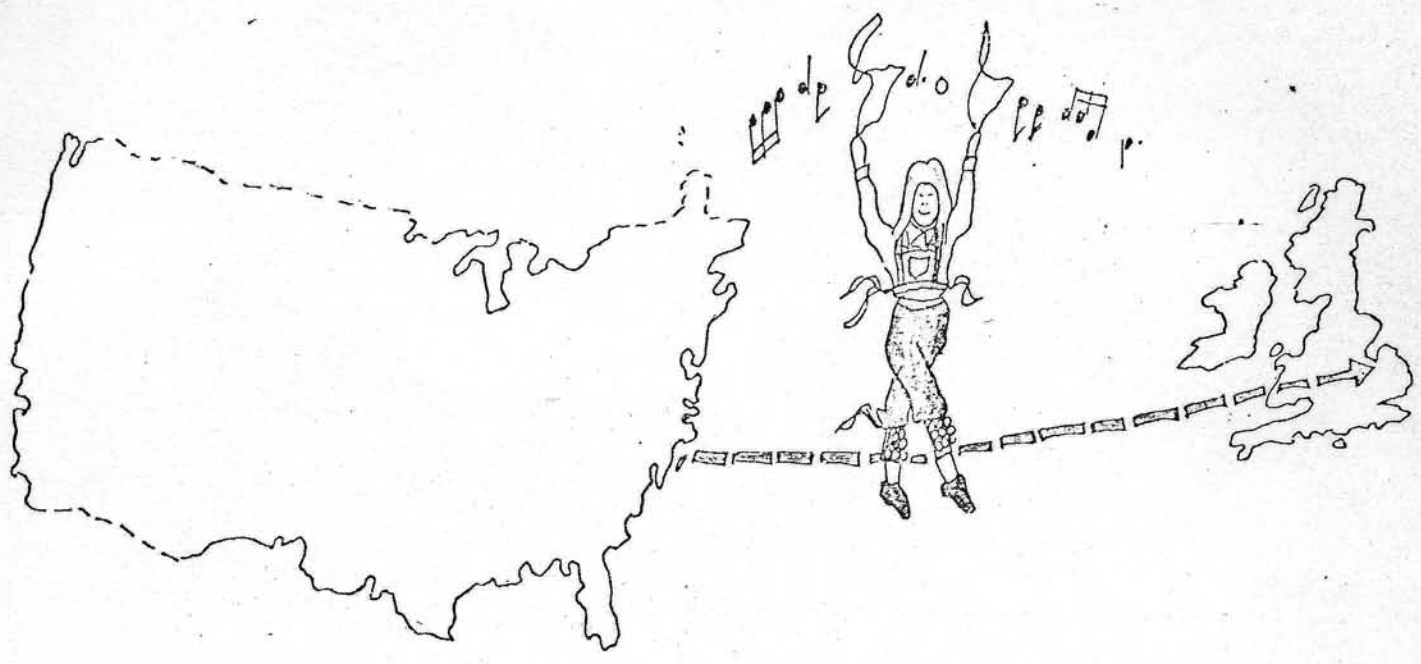
Out to "Braculen's Castle" pub for a ceilidh, where we danced a bit more and saw Kesteven women dance Brackley for the first time. Got some interesting ideas for livening up Mack of the Mill. Kesteven men performed a funny, ~~stiff~~ though traditional, mummer's play & one of the Kesteven women demonstrated some ~~xy~~ genuine waltz-clogging. The evening broke up about 11:00 pm at which point we retired to our various abodes.

Monday, June 25

Happy birthday, Nancy Morris! Gashed at Sue's house in Boston to pack van for day excursion to Lincoln. Running behind schedule so we only have about 1 1/2 hrs in Lincoln. Some people spend their time cashed-aling, some eating and Jessie doing rounds of R.O.B. unmentionables at a laundrette on the wrong side of the tracks, Thanks, old bean. Jody Evans wins prize for most attractive undergarment. see Mini birthday party for Nancy in van en route to King's hymn. She may be older, but she still sits in nettles.

Roll into King's hymn around 6-7 and are met by King's Lynn & King O Belles dancers in kit. Instant picnic among our people on seeing people dressed for dancing. We progress from the

A Kings Morris Production



KING O' BELLES
 King's Lynn

meet

KING O' BELLS
 New York

AT
 castle rising castle
 Tuesday 26th June
 dancing commences at 7.00 p.m.
 public welcome to this
 unique event.
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