

The original sale of land
for a Pauper Asylum (St John's Hospital)
at Bracebridge (Heath)



St John's Hospital entrance 2016 facing northwards towards Canwick Road (Asylum Lane)

Transcripts from
St John's Hospital Minute Book
June 1847 – April 1848

Introduction

In 1845 it became compulsory for authorities to build asylums for in their words 'pauper lunatics.' (The Country Asylum Act and the Lunatics Act of 1845.)

Kesteven, Lindsey, Holland, Lincoln and Grantham joined together and formed a committee to provide one asylum, which they wanted built near Lincoln. The following pages show the transcript from their 'Lincolnshire County Lunatic Asylum Minute Book from 1844 – 1848' which is kept at the Lincolnshire Archives. Most of the work seems to have been co-ordinated by Kesteven Clerk to the Peace Mr Maurice P Moore, who seems to have been in charge of the minute book.

Their advertisement for land on which to build an asylum only had one applicant, a Mr Allsop (Appendix 1) who had recently bought the Red Hall Farm Estate on the death of the previous owner widow Ann Gibbeson in 1845. He offered two fields and a road to the Committee. (Appendix 2) The account that follows shows how the committee came to acquire the land for £4000 in April 1848

The transcript is transcribed as accurately as possible from the minute book, with the abbreviations that they used at that time.

Sue Manders

Chairman of Planning, Lighting and Roads, Bracebridge Heath Parish Council

October 2016

Acknowledgements

Picture of the Hospital entrance – Darren Parr.

Lincolnshire Archives for their help.

Main people mentioned in the transcripts

Maurice P Moore Clerk to the Peace Kesteven Council

John H Holloway Clerk of the Peace Lindsey Council

John R^d Carter Clerk of the Peace Holland Council

Surr and Gribble solicitors for the owner of Red Hall Estate, Mr Allsopp

Mr Allsop a London Stockbroker and owner of Red Hall Farm

Rob^t C Moore Land Surveyor who surveyed the Red Hall Farm fields that were being sold to the committee

Earl Brownlow of Belton Hall. Chairman of the committee.

Richard Lambert acting for the Clerk of the Peace Mr M P Moore

J P King Esq Clerk of Justices Grantham

Edward Gibbeson was a relation to the original owner of Red Hall Farm, Mrs Gibbeson. It is likely that it was Edward Gibbeson who sold Red Hall Farm to Mr Allsop on the death of Mrs Gibbeson. However this has yet to be conclusively proved.

Transcript of the Minute Book – (Advertising for available land)

Lincolnshire
Pauper Lunatic Asylum

The committee of magistrates for the Divisions of Lindsey, Kesteven and Holland, appointed to carry into effect the provisions of the recent Statutes in Lunacy, are desirous of receiving tenders for a site for the County Asylum intended to be erected in the immediate vicinity of Lincoln.

For this purpose they will require from 25 to 30 acres of land, in a ring fence, within the distance of one mile, or a mile and a half, of the County Hall, - moderately elevated, and cheerful in position with regard to the surrounding Country, - with stony or gravelly subsoil,- of convenient access, - and possessing facilities for complete drainage, and the means of affording a daily supply of 10, 000 Gallons of water.

Landowners desirous of negotiating with the County are requested to send their proposals to Mr Moore, Clerk of the peace, Sleaford, on or before the 14th May of July next, descriptive of the particulars before mentioned and the price, and accompanied by a sketch of the ground and a tracing from the ordnance map; and the same will be laid before the adjoined meeting of the Committee to be held in the ----- Jury Room, Lincoln Castle, on Tuesday the 20th day of July next.

By Order

John H Holloway Lindsey,
Maurice P Moore Kesteven,
John R^d Carter Holland
Clerks of the Peace

18th June 1847

Transcript of the Minute Book – (The only reply to the advert)

St Lombard Street London

22nd June 1847

Dear Sir

Red Hall Estate

I've an appointment to settle Mr Allsopp's purchase on Saturday and assuming that he will become the proprietor of the property he is willing to sell the entirety of two fields No 2 and 3 in the plan a copy of which we enclose – but he feels a great objection to sell a part of these fields. Lot 1 should also be included in the purchase and at least that part which abuts upon No 2 – Our client is of the opinion that the building of an asylum on the property will have a tendency to lessen the value of it – a point that must be considered in the price. If your client will take the whole of No 1,2,3, you should send us an offer for our clients consideration, or if they object to take the whole, say what part they require and what they will give for that part and we will at once get our Clients determination

We are

Yr.... O..... S

(Abbreviations used in original text)

Surr & Gribble

Transcript of the Minute Book –

(Letter from Mr Holloway (Lindsey) to Mr Moore (Kesteven))

Spilsby

24th June 1847

Dear Sir

Lunatic Asylum

I would incline to purchase the whole 45^a rather than lose this chance but could you not contrive to keep the negotiation alive until the assizes, only about 3 weeks? We can then have the opinion of the Committee – one stop to this might be to insist upon the uniform practice of the seller fixing a price, rather than calling upon the purchaser for an offer. \no doubt they will ask enough

Your very truly
Mr J H Holloway

Transcript of the Minute Book –

(Letter from Mr Carter (Holland) to Mr Moore (Kesteven))

Spalding

24th June 1847

Dear Sir

I think it extremely desirable to purchase the 44^a for the intended Lunatic Asylum – In this opinion D^r Moore entirely concurs. What is not required can in the first instance be let, for there can be no doubt but that eventually more will be wanted.

Yours faithfully
J R Carter

Transcript of the Minute Book –

(Reply from Clerk of the Peace to Mess^r Surr and Gribble)

Sleaford

25th June 1847

Dear Sirs

Red Hall Estate

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd inst.

I went over to consult the magistrate at the Gaol Sessions at Lincoln yesterday: the Clerks of the peace for the other Divisions of the County

They do not seem to entertain any decided objection to the purchase of the nos. 1. 2. 3, atho' so much more than is really required for the purpose; but they all desire me to answer that it is altogether unusual for the purchasers to name the price. The Vendor will therefore state the conditions upon which he will offer the property.

The buildings etc. if erected here would be ornamental to the surrounding property.

I think it is my duty to mention that fearing that your answer left the negotiation where it stood, and that I should be unprepared with a site at the adjoining County Meeting on the 20th July. I caused an advertisement for tenders to be published, upon my own responsibility, which advertisement I will order to be withdrawn next week, if the price to be named by you should appear likely to be approved.

The Bowin Sessions will be on Monday next the 28th June when I could consult each of the magistrates as will be there assembled, and therefore I shall request your answer by the returning post.

Yrs obedient Servant

Maurice P Moore

Transcript of the Minute Book – (Letter from Surr to Mr Moore)

80 Lombard Street
London 29 June 1847

Dear Sir

Red Hall Estate

My client will sell N^{os}.1 2 and 3 in the plans annexed to the printed par----- of sale for four thousand guineas - No 1 to be subject to the right of way over it, if - any such exist.

I am --- ---- ----

(squiggles used in original text)

S. Y. Surr

Transcript of the Minute Book –

(Letter from Mr Moore (Kesteven) to Mr Holloway (Holland))

County Asylum – Red Hall Estate

	a	r	p
N ^o 3 ---	22.	2.	22
2 ---	21.	0.	25
1(Road) -	1.	0.	6
	<u>44.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>13</u>

Sleaford

2 July 1847

Dear Sir

Above you have the quantity of land offered for 4000 guineas ---- I presume they meant £4000

Mr Chaplin yesterday would not authorise any further negotiation until the assize meeting. I have therefore, to keep things in hand, asked for permission to ascertain if water is to be had in good supply#

Yrs faithfully

M P Moore

Transcript of the Minute Book –

(Report of Land Surveyor on proposed Asylum site land.)

Harmston, near Lincoln

14 July 1847

Sir

In compliance with your request I have been over to Red Hall Estate near Lincoln and examined the two fields and Road in the annexed sketch --- cont^s together 44a . 3r . 13p.

The Soil

Is light loam easy of cultivation for either Agricultural or Horticultural purposes being what is generally termed good turnip and barley land ---- for Horticultural purposes the shrubs and tree in the immediate neighbourhood have all a cheerful and healthy appearance.

The Situation

Is dry and healthy, the subsoil being Limestone and Marl near the top, and Limestone Rock underneath.

Water

There is a plentiful supply of this useful article all round this portion of the estate, the wells in the adjoining fields and farm yards have I am informed a plentiful supply of water at all seasons of the year and the average depths of such wells are from eight to ten yards, two of them in use daily and which I measured I found to be from seven to eight yards from the surface of the land to the top of the water and the depth of the water to the bottom of the well to be about six feet.

I remain

--- ---- ----

(squiggles used in original text)

Rob^t. C Moore

Land Surveyor

Transcript of the Minute Book –

(Part of the minutes at which purchase Red Hall Farm Fields approved)

Grand Jury Room –Castle of Lincoln

20th July 1847

At a meeting of the committees appointed by the three divisions of the County of Lincoln, under the Acts of the 8th and 9th ic cap 126, and subsequent acts for the erection of asylums for pauper lunatics

----Present----

Lindsey	Sir Robert Sheffield Sir Charles Anderson M ^r . Weston Cracroft M ^r . Fardell M ^r . Charles Jarvis M ^r . Boucherett M ^r . Fyrche M ^r . C Dodson
Kesteven	The Earl Brownlow Sir John Trollope M ^r . Parker M ^r . Chaplin M ^r . Christopher M ^r . Pactre M ^r . Charles M Jarvis M ^r . Anthony Peacock M ^r . Humphrey Sibthorp
Holland	The Earl Brownlow D ^r Moore D ^r Roy M ^r .Bevridge M ^r . Houldsworth M ^r .Maurice Johnson M ^r .Milson
City of Lincoln	M ^r .Rich ^d Carland, Mayor of Lincoln and M ^r . Mason, Town Clerk
Borough of Grantham	M ^r . Charles Miller a Justice of the Peace of the borough of Grantham. M ^r . King Clerk to the Justices

(The meeting resolved that all the areas mentioned above would join together to provide an asylum for lunatic paupers (Contract of Union) Then the following resolution was passed)

Resolved that the Clerks of the peace be authorised to contact with M^r. Allsopp for the purchase of the land in Bracebridge as offered by him containing 44a . 3r . 13p on the best terms they may be able not exceeding £4200 subject to the approval of the Secretary of State.

Resolved that in the opinion of this meeting accommodation should be provided in the proposed Asylum for 250 Pauper Lunatics

Resolved that the Clerks of the Peace do advertise for plans as soon ass the Secretary of State shall have approved of the Contract of Union, and a Contract shall have been entered into for the purchase of the site

Resolved that as soon as the plans shall have been received, the same be laid before the Lord Lieutenant, who is requested to call a Meeting of the Committees to take the same into consideration.

Signed by Order of the Meeting

Brownlow

Chairman

Transcript of the Minute Book – (Letter from Richard Lambert to M P Moore)

My Dear Sir

County Asylum

I have had an interview with M^r Surr and made him an offer of £4000 for Lots 1. 2. 3. Conditionally on the appropriation of the Lunatic Committees and I am inclined to think it will be accepted. M^r Surr will see his Client and afterwards communicate with me but in the meantime he requires to be informed whether the intention of the Magistrates that the Asylum should front the present Road otherwise his Client would probably object to sell as he should consider the back part of the structure as prejudicial to the rest of the property – let me hear from you.

I am ----

(Squiggles used in original text)

Richard Lambert

28th July 1847

Transcript of the Minute Book – (Letter from Mr Surr to Richard Lambert)

80 Lombard Street

11 August 1847

Dear Sir

M^r Allsop will accept your offer and I will as soon as possible prepare & send you Draft Contract. I have been in communication with the mortgagee and finds there may be some difficulty with him, if there should be my Client will pay him off, but in that event the proposed purchase completed till he is paid off and he will be entitled to 6 months notice.

In the meantime some arrangement may be made for giving your Clients possession

I am ----

(Squiggle used in original text)

F Y Surr

Transcript of the Minute Book –

(Letter from Mr R Moore Land Surveyor to M P Moore)

Lion Hotel

31st August 1847

Sir

Not seeing you this afternoon I just write to say I leave the plan of the Asylum land for your use and a tracing for the Lithographer.

The Road

I find was stopped up about 50 to 55 years ago. I have met with two or three old men who recollect it crossing Diagonally the Close nearest Lincoln

The Water

The well sinking is not yet completed but there is I am told and excellent Well of Water covered over near the Road in the middle fence of this land where formally a pump through was there for water of cattle.

The Award

I cannot ascertain yet whether there is such a Document. M^r Mason is from home & neither his partner or his Clerks could tell whether such a Ded was ever in existence

I remain ----

(Squiggle used in original text)

Robt. C Moore

Transcript of the Minute Book –

(Letter from Mr R Moore Land Surveyor to M P Moore)

Harmston

Sept 3 1847

Sir

Red Hall Estate

M^r Edw^d Gibbeson says the Well now covered up on the land purchased by the County when used for watering cattle was never known to be dry in his time.

The Road from there to Canwick has remained where it now is and the other stopped up and discontinued from the time of his family entering to the estate about 1806 or 1807 beyond that period he knows nothing of it.

I recollect going to Canwick that way in 1813 and having some trouble with my horse in opening two gates at each end of the Road where it is now.

M^r Gibbeson also says that he repaired the Road for a time by filling in the Ruts while the Quick on the South side was young but about 20 years ago the gates were taken away the road thrown open to the public & the Parish of Bracebridge has repaired it ever since --- that he is not aware of any agreement nor ever heard of any such Document until I asked him if there was any nor is he aware that any verbal agreement was ever made ---- the Surveyor has never objected to repair it when necessary nor does he think he thinks he ever will do.

M^r G. also says he has never heard of a parish award nor is he aware of any such document

I am ---- ----

(Squiggles used in original text)

Rob^t C Moore

Transcript of the Minute Book –

(Letter from M P Moore to Mr Richard Mason (Town Clerk Lincoln))

Sleaford

April 19th 1848

Dear Sir

.....I thank you for your letter. You will be sorry to learn that L^d Brownlow feels himself too unwell to attend the County Meeting, and the magistrates will therefore I believe proceed to communicate with the Committees, with a view to a Meeting being held early in May, to take the plans into consideration.

The purchase of the land is to be settled for next week, and I shall therefore feel obliged by your instructing your Treasurer by the end of this week, to send me the Lincoln proportion of the purchase money $\frac{3}{80}$ ^{ths} £150. There will be some proportion further of interest et^{al}, which can be settled at the meeting

Yours ----

(Squiggles used in original text)

M P Moore

Transcript of the Minute Book –

(Letter from M P Moore to J P King Esq (Clerk of Justices Grantham))

Sleaford 19th April 1848

Dear Sir

County Asylum

The purchase of the Land, is to be settled next week in London, and I shall therefore feel obliged by your instructing the Boro' Treasurer, to send to me in the course of the week, the Grantham proportion of the purchase money $\frac{1}{80}$ th - £50 – There will be a further proportion of interest et^{al}, which you will learn at the County Meeting which I believe will be convened for early in May

Yours faithfully

M P Moore

APPENDIX 1

(Information taken from South East Lincoln – Canwick Road, South Common, St Catherine's and Bracebridge Editor Andrew Walker and Lincoln Archives)

Mr Allsop

Mr Allsop bought the 328 acre Red Hall Farm Estate in July 1847.

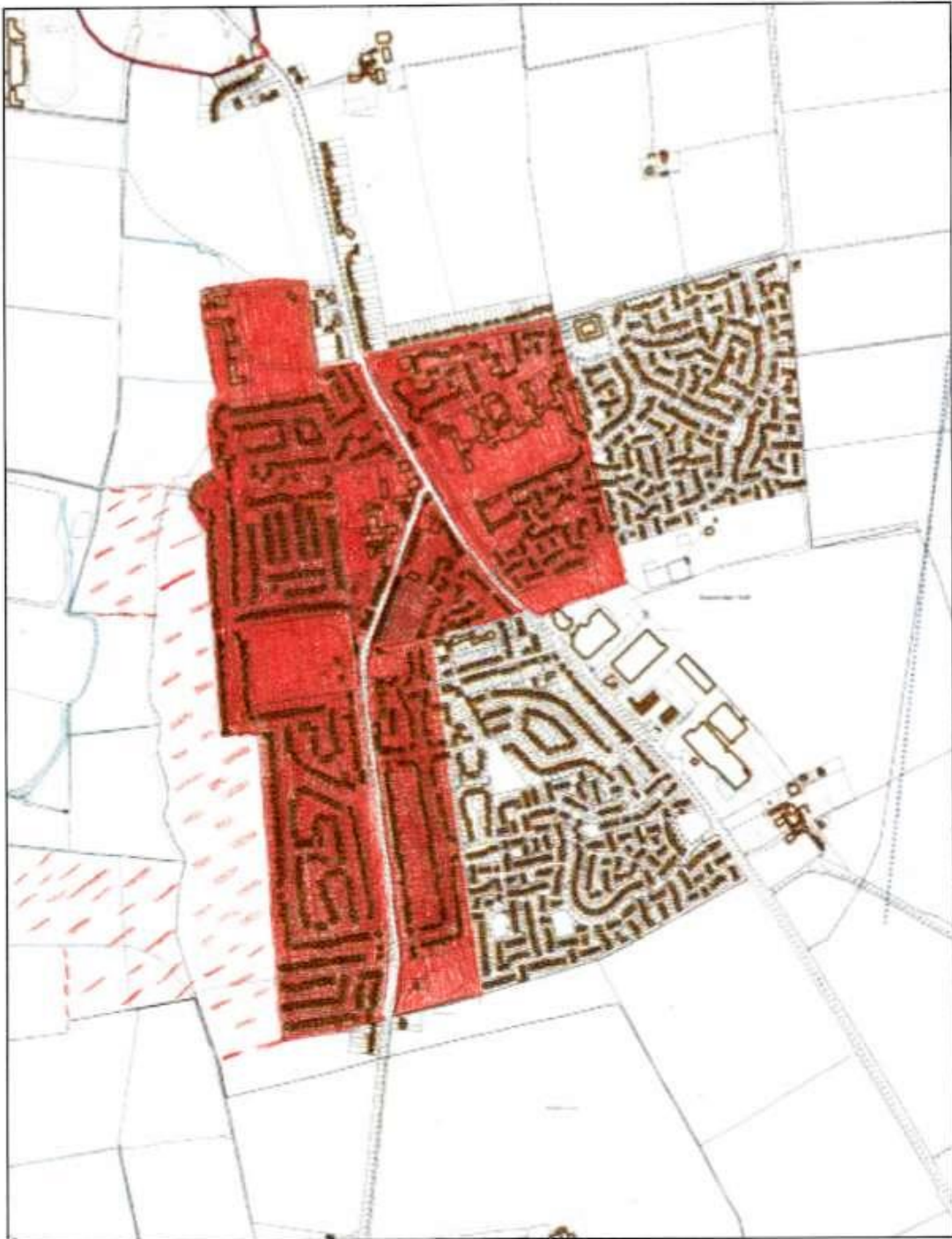
He was a stockbroker from London who had become wealthy by buying and selling shares in the railway building industry. Thomas Allsopp was captivated by the Chartist's ideas and land plans as portrayed by Feargus O'Connor, the Chartist's leader. Their idea was to subdivide the farm land into three, four or five acre plots with cottages on some plots. The cottages and subdivision of the farm land were completed by November 1847. In May 1848 the plots of land and cottages were auctioned off but very few sold and were later disposed of in private sales. It is the most northerly Chartist site in England.

Six Chartist cottages stood equidistant from each other on Waddington Road (now Grantham Road) with four acres of land. These plots of land can clearly be seen on the early OS Maps and were mainly used for orchards and growing produce for the city of Lincoln.

The farm consisted of the farm buildings in what is now Bracebridge Heath and a number of fields stretching from the escarpment top, down the cliff edge to either side of Brant Road. (Appendix 2)

APPENDIX 2

Map of Red Hall Farm Land within the built up area of Bracebridge Heath in 2016. The road (now Canwick Avenue) and the two large fields can be seen to the east of London and Sleaford Road.



The remaining housing area on St John's Hospital site was originally in Canwick parish and at the present time it is unknown who owned it. The uncoloured housing area between Sleaford and Grantham Road was originally part of the Manor House Farm before being built on.

Different names of St John's Hospital

1852 -1893	Lincolnshire County Lunatic Asylum or Lincolnshire County Pauper Lunatic Asylum
1894 - 1915	Lincolnshire Lunatic Asylum
1897-1898	Lindsey, Holland, Lincoln and Grimsby District Pauper Lunatic Asylum
1903-1920	Lincolnshire Asylum
1898-1902	Bracebridge Pauper Lunatic Asylum
1902-1919	Bracebridge District Lunatic Asylum
1919-1948	Bracebridge Mental Hospital
1930-1938	Lincolnshire Mental Hospital
1939-1960	Bracebridge Heath Hospital
1961-1989	St John's Hospital, Bracebridge Heath
The hospital was also used as a wartime Emergency Hospital in the period 1940-1943, and a few records of this function survive with the asylum records at Lincolnshire Archives.	

Imperial Measurements for area

Measure	Equivalent
144 square inches	1 square foot
9 square feet	1 square yard
30¼ square yards	1 perch
40 perches	1 rood
4 roods	1 acre

Abbreviations

a is acre

r is rood

p is perch