

## Bourne, Lincolnshire



The town is located on a Roman road now known as King Street and was built around the natural springs, hence the name "Bourne" (or "Bourn", as the town was originally known) which derives from the Anglo-Saxon meaning "water" or "stream".

For a long time my research into the Pridmore family came to a stop in Bourne in Lincolnshire, taking me back to the late 1700's. Only in more recent times have we moved our origins back to the Luffenhams.

**Bourne** is a market town and civil parish in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire, England. Bourne is situated on the eastern slopes of the Kesteven Uplands and the western edge of the Lincolnshire Fens. The population taken at the 2001 census was 13,961, which increased to 14,456 at the 2011 census.

The Ancient Woodland of Bourne Woods is still extant, although much reduced. It originally formed part of the ancient Forest of Kesteven and is now managed by the Forestry Commission. The earliest documentary reference to Brunna, meaning stream, is from a document of 960, and the town appeared in the Domesday Book as Brune.

Bourne Abbey, (charter 1138), formerly held and maintained land in Bourne and other parishes. In later times this was known as the manor of Bourne Abbots. Whether the canons knew that name is less clear. The estate was given by the Abbey's founder, Baldwin fitz Gilbert de Clare, son of Gilbert fitz Richard, and later benefactors. The abbey was established under the Arrouaisian order. Its fundamental rule was that of Augustine and as time went on, it came to be regarded as Augustinian. The Ormulum, an important Middle English Biblical gloss, was probably written in the abbey in around 1175.

Bourne Castle was built on land that is now the Wellhead Gardens in South Street.



Bourne was an important junction on the Victorian railway system, but all such connections were severed after the Second World War. The business stimulus it brought caused major development of the town, and many of the buildings around the medieval street plan were rebuilt, or at least refaced. Improved communications allowed a bottled water industry to develop, and to provide coal deliveries for the town's gas works.

The then local authority, Bourne Urban District Council, was very active in the interests of the town, taking over the gas works and the local watercress beds at times of financial difficulty and running them as commercial activities. Large numbers of good quality council houses were built by them in the early 20th century.

Bourne sent many men to both world wars, but was otherwise only lightly affected. During the Second World War a German bomber was shot down and crashed onto the Butcher's Arms public house in Eastgate. Nine people were killed, including the bomber's crew. In a separate incident, a number of bombs were dropped on the Hereward Camp approved school, a row of wooden huts adjacent to the woods that may have been mistaken for a military camp. Charles Richard Sharpe was injured in the second incident, but he was no stranger to fighting the Germans, having been awarded the Victoria Cross in the first conflict of the century.

The Pridmores of Bourne were mainly in the saddlery and rope-making professions providing services to the local farmers as agriculture was the mainstay of local employment. James Pridmore (1821 – 1866) was a saddler who married his own first cousin, Susannah Pridmore and lived in Bourne.

James Pridmore and Elizabeth Ward were living in Star Lane, Bourne in the 1841 census whilst in 1861 Thomas Pridmore and Mary Franks had premises according to the Post Office Directory as a Collar, Harness and Rope Maker in North Street near to the Angel Inn.



The Angel Inn with large middle arch.

This may have been a toll road where coaches would stop to change horses hence good business for a local saddler, harness maker.

Appears to have given up the premises in North Street in 1866 per newspaper record Stamford Mercury 5th Jan 1866. Premises were said to have access to Back Lane, a generic term for rear access. This could have been onto current street of Meadowgate.

Still had premises in Star Lane as a harness maker in Kelly's Directory of 1885



## Long Sutton

It may be hard to imagine it today, but Long Sutton was one of the busiest trading centres in eastern England during the early medieval period. Perhaps it was that prosperity that eventually brought the notorious highwayman, Dick Turpin to Long Sutton.

Turpin lived in the town for 9 months under an alias, and there is a road named after him. Another version of the story says that Turpin paused in the town on his desperate overnight ride from London to York to establish an alibi for a robbery he had committed.

A market town in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. Long Sutton was granted a charter for a weekly market in the 13th century, and the market continues to this day. St Mary's church has a lovely spire of timber covered with lead, built to the same design as Chesterfield's famous twisted spire, but in this case, the steeple stands straight and true! The town well known for its floral displays in spring and summer.

The gaunt outline of Harrison's Mill is a local landmark. The mill was built in 1843 for Charles Treffitt. It stands 6 stories high. It was driven by wind, utilising 6 sails to drive 3 sets of grinding stones. The sails were disconnected in the 1920s and the mill was driven by engine power.

The sails were removed in the 1930s and used for Brunswick mill. Long Sutton mill was then gutted and left to decay. The wooden upright shaft remains in place, with sections of gearing, but other than that the mill is ruinous.



Long Sutton Market Place

William Pridmore and Susannah Beeston were married in Bourne in 1813 but had moved to Long Sutton by the time their daughter Susannah Elizabeth Beeston Pridmore was born in 1816 and were still there in 1835 when the last of their children arrived. William was a chemist and it was from his family that the Pridmores appear to have spread their wings in a southerly direction, leaving

Lincolnshire for Bermondsey in London.

## Gedney

Gedney is both a village and parish about 100 miles north of London, 3 miles east of Holbeach, about nine miles east of Spalding and nine miles north of Wisbech. Holbeach parish and Fleet parish lie to the west. The parish is a long, narrow affair running roughly north and south and originally extended to the border of Cambridgeshire. It includes the hamlets of Gedney Broadgate, Gedney Drove End and Gedney Dyke. The A17 trunk road runs through the parish. The area is marshy, drained by many small canals and the South Holland Main Drain.

This place has long been famed for its beautiful church, which is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, and is supposed to have been erected by the abbots of Crowland, who had a house and large possessions in the parish; it contains fifty-three windows, those of the north aisle having considerable remains of stained glass. The living is a vicarage, in the presentation of the crown. In this parish there are some vestiges of entrenchments, conjectured to have been the site of Roman fortifications.

My great grandfather, Thomas Pridmore was born in Gedney in 1851 and was part of the movement of Pridmores to Sheffield from Lincolnshire.



Thought to be second from right on the above photo taken at Reuben Thompson's Coach premises in Sheffield.