

The North Lincolnshire Folk Collectors

Percy Grainger (1882– 1961)

Probably the most influential of the North Lincolnshire collectors. He was an Australian pianist and composer born in Brighton near Melbourne. He came to London in 1900, where he met Gertrude E. the tenor from Brigs. His wife Lady Winifred and her brother, the Hon. Oswald Fielding, Grainger's collector for collecting folk songs came from a lecture called 'The Collecting of Folk Songs' given in London in March 1905. In the lecture he described the song 'The Lost Lady Lucy', which she had noted from her nurse who came from Lincolnshire. He visited Lincolnshire several times after this and collected songs from local people from 1905–1908. The song was recorded in this process by the Elwes family who lived at the time in the manor house in Brigg. Grainger later used some of the songs in his composition 'Lincolnshire Posy'.

Peter Kennedy (1922–2006)
Between the 1950s and the 2000s, Peter Kennedy collected, researched and published British and Irish folk music and customs. He worked for the English Folk Song and Dance Society, the BBC and as an independent operator. He visited North Lincolnshire in 1953 and recorded the Barrow Plough Jags. Luke Stanley and Joseph Taylors youngest daughter Mary Ann. He also recorded a fiddle player from East Houghton called James Fussay.

Ethel Rudkin (1893–1985)
Born Ethel Hutchinson in Willoughton, Lincolnshire. Rudkin was a dedicated collector of Lincolnshire material and was active in a number of fields including local history, archaeology, folk life, dialect folklore and folk-song. Though Rudkin worked for many years with little recognition or encouragement, she eventually became an acknowledged expert in all these subjects. Her home, which was packed with artefacts, farm implements, and memorabilia, as well as books and manuscripts, became a place of pilgrimage for researchers and song collectors. On the 1 January 1957 Rudkin assembled several singers at her home. These performances were tape recorded by Stanley Ellis M.A. of the School of English at Leeds University. One of the songs recorded were Luke Stanley from Barrow-upon-Humber. Rudkin also

travelled around Lincolnshire collecting songs and tunes, often accompanied by her good friend Percy Rance. Her one book, 'Lincolnshire Folklore' was published at her own expense in 1936, reprinted in 1973 by EP Publishing of East Aveling, and is still in demand. There was a fascinating and extensive collection of her material housed at North Lincolnshire Museum.

Maurice 'Mo' Ogg (29 May 1946–6 Dec 1980)
Mo Ogg was a carpenter and joiner by trade. Ogg was credited with compiling the Coleby Plough Jags from plays he had collected from residents in Scunthorpe and surrounding areas. He collected many tunes and songs from the residents of North Lincolnshire throughout the 1960s and 70s. He also wrote some of his own material, the most noted of which is 'Sludger Tom'. He was passionate about keeping the tradition alive. Mo was a superb musician greatly admired by many. Alister Anderson, the influential Northampton musician, wrote a beautiful obit after his death in 1980. He is buried at All Saints Church in Wintertonham.

Brian Dawson (16 August 1939 – 22 November 2013)
Brian Dawson was an expert in Lincolnshire dialect and folk song, especially the songs collected by Grainger and Kennedy. Dawson's 'abiding interest' was always the traditional songs and stories of his native county. Through his friendship with the folklorist and collector Ethel Rudkin, he introduced the people of North Lincolnshire to the songs that he and others had collected in the area. He regularly gave concerts and was highly regarded in the area.

Mabel Peacock (1856 – 1920)
Mabel Gerda Woodville Peacock was an English folklorist. She was the daughter of Edward and Luke Peacock of Bottesford Manor, Lincolnshire, and later of Kiron-in-Lindsey. Her maternal half-sister influenced many other collectors such as Ethel Rudkin and gives the reader a fascinating insight into Lincolnshire life. She was of an inspirational person and some of her extensive material is housed at the North Lincolnshire Museum.

William Matchett
William Matchett settled to Wintertonabout 1954 but was born between Horncliffe and Louth. He was recorded by Robert Peacock.

Federick Prescott
Frederick Prescott lived in Kiron-in-Lindsey on Queen Street. When he retired he kept himself busy by mending bikes in his garden shed. He was a member of Kiron's Baptist church where he delighted in singing. He was recorded by Robert Peacock.

James Fussay
James Fussay from East Houghton was a fiddle player. He was recorded by Peter Kennedy in 1977.

Cyril Dent
Cyril Dent lived in Thorton Curtis. He was recorded by Peter Kennedy in 1977.

Robert Pacey (1938 - present day)

Robert Pacey is from Kiron-in-Lindsey. He collected in the North Lincolnshire area in the 1970s. In 1974 at St. Benet's Hall Oxford he studied for a Doctor of Philosophy in Lincolnshire Folklore. He toured around North Lincolnshire collecting songs for his thesis. The results were published as Folk Music in Lincolnshire Volumes 1 and 2. He was a close friend of Ethel Rudkin and edited 'The Diary of Ethel H. Rudkin'.

Fred Hamer (1909 - 1969)
In 1967 Fred Hamer recorded Luther (Lulu) Stanley and others. He was a remarkable man, despite going blind by 1952 he continued collecting and recording folk song around the country. His findings were published in 'Green Groves'.

Other Folksters Collecting in the North Lincolnshire Area

Luke Stanley
Luke Stanley was a farm worker from Barrow-upon-Humber. Stanley had a vast repertoire of songs. He was recorded by Peter Kennedy and Fred Hamer. He was also a member of the Barrow Plough Jags.

Mrs Robinson and Albert Robinson
Albert Robinson lived in Winterton, as his family had for several generations. His mother, Mrs Robinson, who lived with him also sang several songs. Both Maurice Ogg and Robert Peacock recorded them.

Osbourne Redhead
Osbourne Redhead now lives in Scotland with his daughter. Before this he lived in the Burton Slatther area where his family have lived for many generations. He learned the Burton Slatther Broom Dance from hearing it played at plough jags time. In later years he played the side drum and mouth organ. He was recorded by Robert Peacock.

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John Martin
John Martin lived in Barrow-upon-Humber. He was a retired blacksmith in his late 70s when Robert Pacey recorded him. He was the main voice behind the revival of the Barrow Plough Jags.

Joseph Harrison
Joseph Harrison was from Kiron-in-Lindsey, where his family had lived for at least two generations. Most of his family were farm workers.

Edith Learning
Edith Learning lived in Winterton and kept house for her father. For many years she was the housekeeper at Coleby Hall. She was recorded by Maurice Ogg, Robert Pacey and Brian Dawson.

Mr and Mrs Clarke
The Clarks lived in Winterton and were both in their 90s when Robert Pacey recorded them.

James Cooper
James Cooper lived in his wife lived in Winterton. He worked as a supervisor for the local highways department. He was about 92 when Robert Pacey recorded him.

Cyril Dent
Cyril Dent lived in Thorton Curtis. He was recorded by Peter Kennedy in 1977.

Tal Goodhand
Tal Goodhand lived in Esham and was noted by Ethel Rudkin.

Robert Brader
Robert Brader lived in Scunthorpe and was recorded by Fred Hamer.

James Fussay
James Fussay from East Houghton was a fiddle player. He was recorded by Peter Kennedy in 1977.

Dave Hoy
A well known singer on the local scene as well as nationally, Dave was a singer all his life. He first sang for sweeties on the sweetshop counter at the age of four, but progressed to earning money for bookings when he was 15. His wonderfully melodic voice, and huge vocal range ensured that he was always in demand at folk clubs, festivals and singarounds. He was famous for his vast repertoire of hundreds of songs, encompassing everything from ballads and shanties, to love songs and sea songs. He was one of the few shanty singers to have sailed around the town.

William Short
William Short lived in Kiron-in-Lindsey. He was recorded by Robert Peacock.

Edgar Hildon
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