## PRE-CONQUEST CARVED STONES IN LINCOLNSHIRE.

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## INTRODUCTION.

The outlines of the early ecclesiastical history of Lincolnshire are preserved in a few well-known passages in Bede's Ecclesiastical History and it is possible from this source to locate the centres of early Christian activity in the county. St. Paulinus was the first, who, about 628, 'preached the word in the province of Lindsey.' He converted Blecca, governor of Lincoln, and built there a stone church 'of beautiful workmanship,' the roofless walls of which were still standing in Bede's time (Eccles. Hist. ii, chap. 16). Early monasteries, in the same province, mentioned by Bede, include Partney (Peartaneu), Bardney (Beardeneu), Barrow-on-Humber (ad Barve), founded by Wulfhere of Mercia, and an unnamed abbey of nuns, of which Ethelhilda was abbess (Eccles. Hist. iii, chap. 11), and which has been placed by some at Skendleby.

On the defeat and death of the heathen Penda of Mercia, in 654-5, Edwy of Northumbria made Diuma, a Scot, bishop of the Mercians, the Lindisfari and the Middle Angles, and the province of Lindsey remained part of the Mercian diocese until 678, when it was erected into a separate see and Edhed was made bishop. Either at this or at a rather later period the see of Lindsey was fixed at a place called Sidnacester, which has been generally identified with the village of Stow, eight miles north-west of Lincoln. This identification is unsatisfactory for two reasons, firstly that the name Sidnacester implies, almost certainly, a fortified Roman site and Stow has no claims to Roman antiquity, being a mile off the Roman road to Doncaster and destitute of Roman remains. The second objection is even stronger and depends upon the list of bishops with their styles, appended as signatures to the acts of the Council of Clofesho, 803. The sees of the signatory bishops are divided into two classes, those styled cities and those styled simply churches; to the latter class belong all those churches, such as Elmham, Selsey and Lichfield, which we know to have been country churches; to the former class, on the other hand, belong those churches situated in towns of some size, and amongst these appears Sidnacester ('Syddensis'). It is in the highest degree unlikely that the term city could ever have been applied to Stow.<sup>2</sup>

The places mentioned in Bede are all identifiable. Barrow lies two miles to the east of Barton-on-Humber; the approximate site of the early church at Bardney is known (Arch. Journ. lxxix, 9), and it is much to be hoped that it will, one day, be excavated; Partney is a village two miles north-west of Spilsby. In addition to these mention is made in the Saxon Chronicle (under the year 654) of a monastery at Icanhoe, which appears to have been somewhere in the neighbourhood of Boston, and there were early foundations at Stamford and Crowland.

Considering the known existence of so considerable a number of early religious foundations in the county, it is not a little surprising that only one group of carved stones can be definitely assigned to the early pre-Danish period. This group, at South Kyme (plate VIII), may be dated with some probability to the close of the seventh century, mainly on account of the 'trumpet-spirals' on one of the stones, which are of such purity of form that they cannot be far removed in date from the examples of the same motif occurring on bronze bowl-scutcheons found in various parts of the

compound. If, as is likely, it comes from an O.E. Hornancæstir, and contains a personal name Horna, it must be too old to have replaced an original Sidnacæstir. The latter must have gone on until the Danish wars and I cannot imagine an ancient type of compound like Hornancæstir replacing it in the tenth century. In other words I believe the name Horncastle comes from a time not remote from the Anglian settlement, and if so Sidnacæstir is ruled out. There is no similar difficulty in the case of Caistor. The curious form Twangcaster, whatever its meaning may be, seems mediaeval and does not complicate the earlier history of the name.' See 'Lindsey and its Kings,' in Essays in History presented to R. Larie Poole, p. 145, note 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The cities are Canterbury, Leicester, Sidnacester, Worcester, Winchester, Dunwich, London and Rochester, and the cburches Lichfield, Hereford, Sherborne, Elmham and Selsey (Birch. Cart. Sax. no. 312).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Professor F. M. Stenton has kindly given me his views on this matter. He thinks that the most probable claimants to represent Sidnacester are Caistor and Horncastle, the former having the better claim. He writes: 'It is more accessible from the rest of Lindsey than Horncastle, and it may well have lost the first part of its name—just as Castor, Northants, represents an O.E. Deormodescæstir. The name Horncastle, on the other hand, seems an ancient



CREETON (I).



CREETON (2).



CONISHOLME.



CASTLE BYTHAM (I).



COLSTERWORTH (3).



LANGTON BY SPILSBY.

country and generally assigned to the beginning of the same century. This stone is further remarkable as one of the only two examples carved with trumpet-spirals which have so far been noted in England. Another stone of the same group bears the head of a bird which has obvious affinities with the birds of the Lindisfarne Gospels. It is not improbable that the stones at South Kyme formed part of a cancella or low screen at the entrance to the quire or chancel of the church; the moulded framing, which forms part of each fragment, favours this hypothesis, but until the stones are taken out of the wall, into which they are built, no confirmation or refutation can be obtained. It is possible also that the presence of these very early stones may indicate the site of one of the early monasteries and, if so, Icanhoe is the obvious candidate.

The coffin-lid at Howell (fig. 2) may perhaps also belong to the pre-Danish period. The grouped crosses bear a close resemblance to the decoration on a number of coffins and lids found in 1807 within the foundations of the abbey-church of St. Geneviève at Paris and commonly assigned to the

Merovingian period.

A third example, which probably belongs to the latter part of the same period, is the remarkable cross-shaft (plates v and vi) at Edenham. The lower part of the shaft only remains, but it bears on one face a carved figure, which appears to be one of the composite man and beast figures of the evangelists, which became not uncommon in western Christian art late in the eighth or early in the ninth century. Other examples survive in England at Ilkley (Yorks.) and Stapleford (Notts.). The figure at Edenham was probably that of St. John, as is indicated by the bird's feet of the figure. The other decoration on the shaft is quite in accord with an early ninth-century date and includes 'ivy-vine' sprays, and a scrolled ornament on one side which is too decayed for more exact description. On the back of the shaft is a crude figure, almost certainly an addition of late Saxon date.

At the beginning of the Danish invasions, Lincolnshire suffered perhaps less than the adjoining provinces and in 868 Alfred was married at Gainsborough. In 873, however, Healfdene wintered at Torksey and within a few years Lincoln and Stamford were included in the five Danish boroughs. As a direct result of this invasion the united see of Lindsey and Leicester was removed to Dorchester-on-Thames where it remained for two hundred years. The 'boroughs' were retaken about 918 by Edward the Elder, but that a very strong leaven of Danish blood was left in the county is indicated by the numerous Lincolnshire placenames of Danish origin. It is not to be expected that the half-century intervening between 870 and 920 was productive of any appreciable amount of ecclesiastical art, but considering the thorough Danish permeation of the county it is somewhat surprising to find so little reflection of their influence in the stone-carvings of the tenth and eleventh centuries. To this period belong the great majority of carved stones with which this paper deals, but out of perhaps fifty examples only one shows any trace of Scandinavian feeling. Most of the other stones are ornamented almost entirely with interlacing designs, nearly all attaining a fairly high standard of technical excellence, but displaying, at the same time, little variety or inventive power. All the stones appear to have formed parts either of cross-shafts and heads or flat tomb-slabs; on the latter are numerous examples of the figure-of-eight interlacement and many of the other interlace-designs incorporate the complete circle or ring which is always a sign of late date and does not appear in any known pre-Danish work. The remains of crosses include two wheel-heads at Colsterworth and Conisholme (plate 11), the presence of the wheel being again an indication of late date.

In view of the well-known and generally-accepted survival of Saxon architectural forms in Lincolnshire after the Conquest, the possibility should be borne in mind that some of the carved stones of the late period may equate, in date, with this survival.

At the beginning of the late period, that is to say in the first half of the tenth century, should perhaps be placed a cross-shaft (plate IV) of unusual design, now in a garden at Digby. It bears a bold design of large Acanthus-leaves on a thick stem, recalling the general form and arrangement of foliage-panels on the north and south faces of the late seventh-century Bewcastle cross. The use, however, of the Acanthus-leaf must definitely place this stone after the Carolingian revival, when that form of foliage

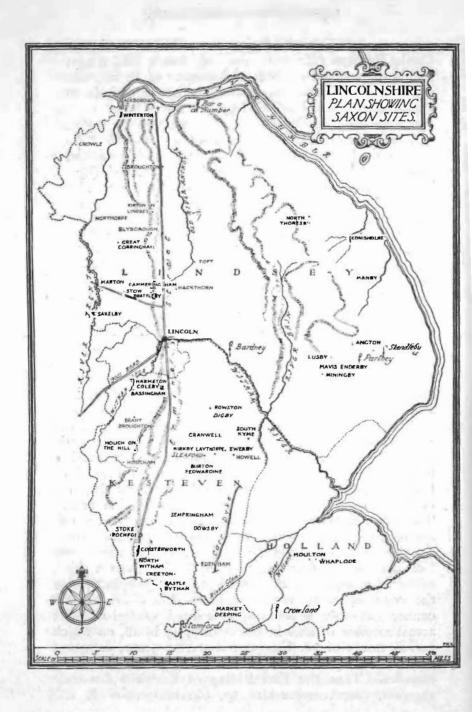
came again into general use. Another cross-shaft, at Castle Bytham (plates 11 and 111), has a well-designed scroll-ornament on one side and remains of an inscription on the face. The foliage in this example is entirely conventionalised and has little or no resemblance to the Northumbrian vine-scroll. It may perhaps be assigned to the middle of the eleventh century.

The single cross-shaft which bears traces of Scandinavian influence is that with the runic inscription at Crowle (fig. 1). The figures, on the face, are of the crudest type and the loose unformed interlacements are in striking contrast to

the well-formed patterns of most of the series.

The cross-heads at Conisholme and Langton by Spilsby (plate 11) and the cross-shaft at Harmston (plate 111) have crucifixes, of which the first is undraped, the last draped and the other of uncertain form, as it is broken off below the waist. At Harmston there are attendant figures on either side. The date of the prevalence of the draped crucifix in England has never been properly examined, but it seems certain that it occupied a middle position, between the early undraped figure, as exemplified on the Ruthwell cross (late seventh-century) and the mediaeval undraped figure, which perhaps came into fashion soon after the first millennium.

The geographical position of the carved stones, as will be seen from the accompanying map, is somewhat remarkable. The great majority of examples lies in the immediate neighbourhood of the ridge of land which runs from Grantham, almost due north to the Humber, and along the eastern slope of which runs the Roman Ermine Street. The ridge, however, from the grouping of the sites, would seem to have been the governing factor rather than the road. Another, but much smaller, group is found on the flats of Kesteven, in the neighbourhood of Sleaford, and a third, still smaller group, in the neighbourhood of Spilsby, near the south end of the Wolds. The whole of the rest of the county can only muster eight isolated examples. actual number of sites in the county, 49 in all, on which carved stones of pre-Conquest character occur, compares very favourably with that recorded in the neighbouring counties. Thus the East Riding of Yorkshire has only 13 sites, Northamptonshire 17, Cambridgeshire 8, and





HARMSTON.



NORTH WITHAM.



CASTLE BYTHAM (I).



COLSTERWORTH (I).



DIGBY.



BRATTLEBY.



BASSINGHAM (I and 2).



BURTON PEDWARDINE (1-4).

Huntingdonshire 5. The sites noted in Nottinghamshire number 12, including the lintel at Southwell, but both this county and Norfolk are poor in this type of work, Norfolk containing not more than 8 or 10 examples.

## DESCRIPTION.

In the following description the items are arranged under parishes, the positions of which are indicated on the accompanying map. The size of the various stones is given in the text so that the proportions of any illustrated example can be readily ascertained. It may be noted that carved work forming part of the architectural enrichment of an existing building is not included in the present survey.

The illustrations of the Edenham cross-shaft are reproduced from photographs by Professor Baldwin Brown,

with his very kind permission.

Alkborough. Stone, about 10 in. by 8 in., forming base of one of the responds of the tower-arch, with interlacing design. Now covered by a stone, with a ring fixed into it, to lift out.

Bassingham. Two stones (plate IV) behind the font in the church.

(1)  $29\frac{1}{2}$  in. long by  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. at one end tapering to  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. and 15 in. thick. On the front are two bands of interlacement, one wider than the other but connected at one end; two bands of cable-ornament at end dividing it

from panel above, which is broken off.

(2) 24½ in. long by 17 in. by 16 in. at one end and 15½ in. by 15 in. at the other end. On the front is part of a longitudinal panel of interlacement of good design and there is a similar panel across the end of the stone; both panels are enclosed by panels of cable-ornament and there is a further band with a single-line chevron-ornament on one side of the first panel. The stone has been hollowed out, at some time, to form a trough. Both stones are of late period, the second one having a free circle in the interlacement. They were perhaps tomb-slabs, though unusually thick; if on the other hand they formed part of a cross-shaft, the ornament has presumably been cut away on three sides. Illustrated in Lincs. Notes and Queries, Jan. 1915.

Blyborough. Tomb-slab, with broken ends, now 21 in. by 23 in. wide and 6 to 63 in. thick. It has three rows of interlacing design, all connected and filling the flat surface; along the edges is a narrow cable-ornament. Late period. Rubbing exhibited at the Soc. of Antiquaries, 1877.

Brattleby. Cross-shaft (plate IV), in the churchyard, now 34 in. high and 17 in. by 14½ in.; the base is buried but appears to be about 38 in. by 32 in. The design is much weathered but the front of the shaft has a horizontal panel of interlacement, surmounted by two upright panels with a similar design. The sides have each a single panel in the upper register. The south side has free circles in the interlacement. Late period.

Brant Broughton. Stone, built into the wall in the vestry, and about 18 in. long. It bears a complete interlace-design of the usual type and was perhaps part of a cross-shaft. Late period.

Broughton. Two stones fixed against the wall, inside the church. The top stone, broken down the middle, is flat with plain sides; on the front are two rows of interlaced pattern divided by a narrow cable-design; they are in sections but each pattern is connected with the other. This stone is 47 in. long by 17 in. wide and 5 to 6 in. thick. The design is well executed. Late period.

Burton Pedwardine. Six stones (plate IV), built into the west wall inside the church.

(I) Tomb-slab, 25 in. long by 17 in. wide, tapering to  $16\frac{1}{2}$  in. and broken off at one end. Across the top is a horizontal panel of interlacement with a cable-border and a double cable dividing it from the panel below; the lower panel had a plain Latin cross with interlace-designs between the arms.

(2) Fragment of slab, 24 in. long by  $13\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide, with horizontal interlace-panel at top including a free circle and a cable border; a double cable divides it from the panel below which also has an interlaced design. Neither panel is symmetrical.

(3) Fragment of slab, 16 in. long by 14 in. wide, with an interlace-panel and cable borders; though the borders agree with those on (2) the design is different.

(4) Part of slab, 25 in. long by 15 in. wide tapering to 14½ in., with two panels of interlacement divided by a

cable-band carried round a curious block which projects into one panel.

(5) Fragment, 11 in. by 8 in. with a closer pattern on

too small a scale to be very apparent.

(6) Fragment, 11 in. by 7 in. similar to (3) but with a free circle.

The interlace on these stones is of good bold design and execution but of late date.

Castle Bytham. Three stones preserved in the porch.

- (1) Part of cross-shaft (plate 111),  $37\frac{1}{2}$  in. by 14 in. wide tapering to 13 in., and 6 in. to 8 in. thick. There is a cable-moulding on two edges, the other two being cut away. On the top surface of the shaft are two dowelholes for fixing a further section of the shaft or its head. On the front are ten letters running the length of the stone, and on the back (plate 11) is cut a large cross 'paty' enclosed in an interlaced design with a rosette in the middle. The complete side has running scroll of conventional foliage.
- (2) Perhaps part of the same shaft,  $21\frac{3}{4}$  in. by 11 in. wide tapering to 9 in. and 6 in. thick. The same cable-moulding appears on two edges, the others being cut away. On the face are traces of letters.
- (3) Perhaps a third section of the same shaft, 20 in. by 12 in. tapering to  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. and  $7\frac{1}{4}$  in. thick. The cable-moulding remains on two angles only as in the other two stones. Otherwise the stone is plain.

This stone is noticed in Gough's Camden and in the Rev. J. Wild's *History of Castle Bytham*. No satisfactory rendering of the inscription has yet been produced. Late

period.

Cammeringham. Slab (plate VII) used as threshold in west doorway of church, 4 ft. long and tapering in width from 23 in. to 22 in. The surface has three rows of figure-of-eight interlacements all connected. At one end is a cable-moulding, now worn away at the sides. It is described and illustrated in Lincs. Notes and Queries, Oct. 1913. Late period.

Coleby. Stone, found in the foundations of a wall at Coleby Hall in 1879, 28 in. long by 16 in. wide and 15 in. thick. On the face are three panels of interlacement, that at the top being horizontal and the other two perpendicular.

One side has traces of scroll-work. Late period. It is described and illustrated in *Lincs*. Notes and Queries, Oct. 1897.

Colsterworth. Three stones, two found in 1877, under

the entrance to the rood-loft of the church.

(1) Cross-shaft (plate 111), 29 in. long and  $16\frac{1}{2}$  in. by 10 in. at the base, tapering to 15 in. by 8 in. at the top. Three faces have panels of interlacing design; the back has interlacement at the base and a floral design above.

(2) Stone,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  in. by 15 in. wide and 6 in. thick. The face has a double figure-of-eight interlacement a baluster below this and traces of a square panel. The stone has been

cut away at the sides.

(3) Part of the wheel-head of a cross (plate II) originally about 18 in. across and 5 in. thick. The cross has, on both faces, a round boss in the middle with a connected interlacing design on the arms.

All the above belong to the late period.

Conisholme. Part of the wheel-head of a cross (plate 11) originally about 20 in. across and now only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick. The cross-arms have been broken off but the two upright arms survive and bear, on the face, a crucifix. It would appear to be of the undraped type as the legs are indicated; below the arms are three plain roundels; a fourth has probably been chipped off. Above the head is a crude interlacement. Late period.

Corringham. Stone, under one of the columns of the north arcade of the church, 23 in. long by 12 in. wide and 9½ in. thick. Of the parts exposed, one has an interlacement and the other is divided into compartments, one containing

an interlacing design, the other defaced.

Cranwell. Four fragments found in the foundations of the chancel of the church, during the last restoration.

(1) Probably part of a shaft,  $21\frac{1}{2}$  in. long by  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide and now 7 in. thick. The front and one side have an interlaced design.

(2) Stone, 17 in. long by 11½ in. wide and 8 in. thick,

with interlaced design on the front.

(3) Stone,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  in. long by  $12\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick, with an interlaced design on the face and a cable-border on one side.

(4) Stone, 26 in. long by 15\frac{3}{4} in. wide and 9\frac{3}{4} in. thick,





[Photographs by G. Baldwin Brown.







with interlaced design on the front and sides; only half the design appears on the sides, showing that the stone has been reduced in thickness.

All the above have well-designed interlacement but are of the late period.

Creeton. Two cross-shafts (plate 1), standing in the

churchyard.

(1) 5 ft. 4 in. high by 19 in. and 15 in. at the base, tapering to 15½ in. and 14 in. at the top. The sides have interlacements in panels; the front has a diapered design in two upright panels with diapered circles above and below connected by a central bar and having simple leaves in the spandrels. As the border of the panels on the sides of the shaft is considerably wider at the back than at the front, it is possible that the original face has been cut back and a later diapered design cut on it. The interlacement is of the late period and the diapered design is perhaps of the

(2) 4 ft. 2 in. high by 15 in. and 8 in. at the base, tapering to 12 in. and 5 in. at the top. Near the top is a square projecting necking. The sides, the necking and the face above the necking have poor interlacing designs and the face below the necking has a very degraded form of the Northumbrian vine-scroll, reduced to a crude running scroll without leaves or fruit. Probably middle period.

(3) A third stone, 3 ft. 11 in. long and tapering from 15 in. to 14 in. is built into the church-wall, by the south

doorway. The exposed face is un-carved.

Crowle. Cross-shaft (fig. 1), formerly used as a lintel to the Norman doorway between the tower and nave of the church, 7 ft. long by 18 in. tapering to 14 in. and 7 to 8 in. thick. The face has, at the base, a round-headed border or arch with remains of an inscription in runes; above is a figure on a horse or ass, two human figures facing one another, a whorl and, at the top, two confronted birds or winged beasts. On the back is a crude interlacement with a separate design at the top finishing with a head biting the tail of the interlacement. One side has a loose interlacement but the other has been defaced. The runes have been read as . . . . Æ LIC BÆCUN B[EAFTÆ]R . . . . , the names in both cases being missing. Described in Proc. Soc. Ants. 1868, Stephens, Old Northern Runic Monuments. Part III,

185 and Tyack, By-Gone Lincolnshire, 72-8, with illus-

tration. Late period.

Digby. Cross-shaft (plate IV), in the garden of a private house, was formerly in a collection of stones in the hands of an antique-dealer at Sleaford; its original provenance is unknown. It is a tapering shaft, about 5 ft. high and 14 in. wide at the base. The face has a bold scroll-design of

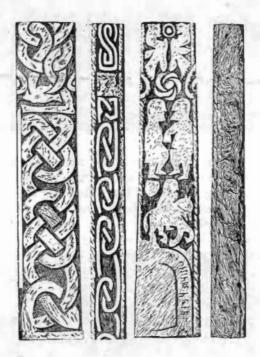


FIG. I. CROWLE.

large acanthus-leaves. The sides are plain and the back is invisible as the stone is clamped to a wall. Middle period.

Dowsby. Four stones, built into the external wall at the east end of the south aisle of the church.

(1) 12 in by 11 in. with bold interlacing design and a plain border on two sides.

(2) 16 in. by 9 in. tapering to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. with closely-woven interlacement of poor design.

(3) 14 in. by about 11 in. interlacing design with a wide cable-border on two sides.

(4) 11½ in. by 13 in. interlacing design with figure in

the middle. All four pieces, late period.

Edenham. Cross-shaft (plates v and vi), 3 ft. 8½ in. high (including tenon of  $\frac{1}{3}$  in.) by  $20\frac{1}{2}$  in. and  $13\frac{1}{2}$  in. at the base, tapering to  $15\frac{1}{2}$  in. and  $9\frac{3}{4}$  in. at the top. The front has a sunk panel containing a draped standing figure with arms crossed on breast, feet and legs apparently those of a bird, head probably hooded but not now clearly distinguishable. The back has, at the base, a crude figure in a roughly cut sinking, the whole being almost certainly an addition to the original design; the right hand crosses the breast and holds an object. The original design consists of an interlace-panel in a V-shaped frame with sprays of 'ivy-vine' foliage on each side. One side of the shaft is carved with much defaced running foliage and the other with a very loose interlacement. It seems probable that the figure on the front is one of the composite figures of Evangelists (in this case St. John) which are not uncommon in the art of the eighth and ninth centuries. Middle period.

Ewerby. Tomb-slab (plate vii),  $58\frac{1}{2}$  in. long by 17 in. wide, tapering to  $15\frac{1}{2}$  in., in floor of north aisle of church. The slab has a plain Latin cross, 38 in. by 16 in. in the middle, surrounded, except at the ends of the arms, by

interlacement. Late period.

Hackthorn. Two tomb-slabs, found in digging the foundations of the new church in 1844, together with two stone coffins from the same quarry as the slabs.

(1) 30 in. by  $21\frac{1}{2}$  in. slightly tapering and 9 in. thick,

with beaded edges but face weathered away.

(2) 29 in. by 19¼ in. tapering to 18½ in. and 9 in. thick, with cable-border and remains of a single rope design running from each lower angle, curved towards one another and then running straight to the top of the stone; between these lines, at the bottom, are long narrow triangles. Late period.

Harmston. Cross-shaft (plate 111), found built into a wall at the Old Manor House, Harmston, now in the parish church, 41 in. high by  $12\frac{1}{2}$  in. tapering to 10 in. wide and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick. The face has a double band of interlacement

stopping below a panel with a crucifixion with two attendant figures; the figure of Christ is draped to the knees and above it is an interlaced design. The back is similar but has an oval panel with a figure of Christ rising from the dead, feet and body as if bound by grave-cloths, but arms free. The sides have zig-zag ornaments and three of the angles have cable-moulding; the fourth angle has been cut away. Late period.

Hough on the Hill. Three fragments found about 1908 in repairing the east wall of the tower and the chancel-arch. When pieced together the pieces are 15 in. long by 10\frac{3}{4} in. wide and appear to have formed part of a string-course or impost, as the top is weathered on the top and throated beneath. The face has an intricate interlacing design also appearing on one end.

Hougham. Stone over south doorway, inside the church, 5 ft. 10 in. long and about 12½ in. wide, with interlacing designs in panels divided by two balusters in one place and a representation of a tree in another. Late period.

Howell. Flat slab (fig. 2), 6 ft. 3 in. by 1 ft. 6 in. tapering to 1 ft. 3 in. and 10½ in. thick, with one large and two small crosses in relief on the upper face, all with the formy type of head. Found used as a bridge over a ditch adjoining the churchyard. It has obvious analogies with the Merovingian slabs and coffins with crosses found under the church of St. Genevieve at Paris and with the re-used Roman coffin found near Westminster Abbey. It probably belongs to the pre-Danish period, but there are so few examples of the type that its dating must be uncertain. Figured in Arch. Journ. XXVII, p. 196.

Kirkby Laythorpe. Two fragments built into the west

face of the church-tower.

(1) 8 in. by 6 in., with interlace-panel and double

cable moulding on right side.

(2)  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. by 6 in., with interlace-panel and single cable-moulding on right side.

Kirton in Lindsey. Fragment of a stone with interlacement was seen by the Rev. Canon J. T. Fowler, F.S.A., on a rockery in a garden in this town. It was similar to the stone from Northorpe (now at Durham), see Haverfield and Greenwell, Catalogue of Sculptured and Inscribed Stones



CAMMERINGHAM.



EWERBY.



LINCOLN CATHEDRAL.



WHAPLODE.



SOUTH KYME.
(By courtes) of the Soc. of Antiquaries.)



MARTON.



in the Cathedral Library Durham, p. 129. It is now lost.

Late period.

Langton by Spilsby. Cross-head (plate 11), found in the Rectory-garden, now in the porch of the church, 19 in. across and 17 in. high. The cross-head is of rough form with a raised Latin cross on the face on which is a crude figure of Christ. The date of this fragment is uncertain and it may be post-Conquest.

Lincoln Cathedral. Tomb-slab (plate VII), in the cloister, about 5 ft. long by about 21 in. tapering to 19½ in. It has a plain border and a Latin cross, also plain, with panels of

interlacement between the arms. Late period.

A second stone, possibly a head-stone, is an oblong block, 3 ft. high by 23 in. and  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick. It has a cable-moulding round the top, continued half way down the sides of the face. On the face are two plain incised crosses, one within the other and there is a deeply cut hole about the middle of the stone for the insertion of a fastening.

Lusby. The former existence of a fragment, 7 in. by 5 in. and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick is recorded by Mr. G. Maughan in Lincs. Notes and Queries, iv, p. 227-8. It is now lost.

Manby. Two fragments, found when the chancel of the church was rebuilt in 1889, now built into the interior of the north wall. The larger stone, 26 in. by 19 in., has a cable-moulding on three sides, the middle being carved with three bands of interlacement. A second stone with carved work supports the first. Late period.

Market Deeping. Two fragments, found when the church was restored in 1878-80 and placed outside the east

end of the chancel.

(1) 19 in by 12 in. by 6 in. thick, has a free circle with two strands passing through it saltirewise. Late period.

(2) 19 in. by  $14\frac{3}{4}$  in. by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick, with two bands

of interlacement. Late period.

Marton. Eight fragments (plate VIII), built into the west wall of the south aisle of the church, with interlacing designs. Five are similar and have small and light interlacing with a cable-moulding on one side and a plain border on the other. No. 5 shows no interlacing, only a plain border marked by three or four grooves; it is evidently the end of a stone, broken off before the beginning of the interlacing design. No. 8 has a closely-worked interlacement with a double border. The sizes of the stones are (1) 10 in. by 13 in;

(2) 10 in. by 17 in.; (3) 11 in. by 15 in.; (4) 9 in. by 15 in.; (5) 8 in. by  $19\frac{1}{2}$  in.; (6)  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. by 14 in.; (7) 9 in. by 9 in.;

(8) 6 in. by 11 in. All late period.

Mavis Enderby. Coped slab, forming threshold of west doorway of church, 52 in. long by 20 in. wide and over 6 in. thick, with interlacing designs on the sides of the top. Lincs. Notes and Queries, iv. pp. 227-8.



FIG. 3. NORTHORPE.

Miningsby. Slab, 44 in. long by 19½ in. wide and 6 in. thick, formerly used as a threshold but now in the chancel of the church. The beading at one end is worn or broken off. The face is carved with figure-of-eight knots in panels.

Lincs. Notes and Queries, iv. pp. 227-8.

Moulton. The Elloe Stone, now mounted on a modern base, set in the hedge side about half a mile from the parish church. This is the hundred-stone of Elloe Wapentake. It is 32 in. high by 16½ in. and 10 in. at the bottom; in the top is a small hole. There are remains of interlacing ornament on the face and sides and the top has two bulbous projections.

Northorpe. Portion of a tomb-slab or cross-shaft (fig. 3),

3 ft. 2 in. long by 11 in. wide and now 5 in. thick, found in one of the walls of the old hall and now preserved in the Cathedral Library at Durham. The face has two rows of figure-of-eight interlacements with two free rings or circles at one end; one edge has a cable-moulding but the other edge and the back have been cut away. Late period. Haverfield and Greenwell. Cat. of Sculptured and Inscribed Stones in the Cathedral Library, Durham, p. 129, with illustration.

North Thoresby. Part of slab, 22 in. wide, 14 to 17 in. long and 10 in. thick, set on a modern pedestal in the church. On the face is a figure-of-eight interlacement and on the one unbroken edge is a cable-moulding. Late period.

North Witham. Part of cross-shaft (plate III), found in the foundations during the restoration of the church in 1887; it is now in the porch. It is 30\(\frac{1}{2}\) in. long and 14 in. by 10 in. at the base, tapering to 11 in. by 8 in. All four sides have interlaced ornament, the panel on one of the sides having free circles. Late period.

Rowston. Fragment built into the external face of the south wall of the chancel. It is about 12 in. by 11 in. with

an interlacing design. Late period.

A second fragment, 18 in. by 6 in., with an interlacing design, is set in the tower wall, south aisle. Late period.

Saxilby. Fragment in tower of church, 13 in. by 13 in., with a double row of interlacement and a double cable-

border. Late period.

Sempringham. Fragment of a tomb-slab in church-porch. It is 18 in. long by  $16\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide and 6 in. thick and formed the middle of the slab; it has a plain shaft, 3\frac{1}{2} in. wide, in the middle with panels of interlacement on either side. There is an interlacing design also on the edge of the stone.

Late period.

Sleaford. Two fragments, built into the walls of the High School, 18 in. by 14 in. The house formerly belonged to an architect who collected a number of stones from various churches he restored. The original provenance of the stones is thus unknown. The fragments have an interlaced design, similar to but larger than that on the fragments at Kirkby Laythorpe. Late period.

South Kyme. Six fragments (plate VIII) built into the

internal face of the north wall of the chancel-aisle.

(1) 12 in. by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. with moulded border and part of the figure of an eagle set in a panel.

(2) 10 in. by  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. with similar border and part of

panel with loose interlacement.

(3) 17 in. by  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in. with similar border and part of panel with loose interlacement and foliage, perhaps part of (2).

(4) 10 in. by 9 in. with similar border and part of

panel with foliage.

(5) 7 in. by 5 in. with similar border and part of panel with rectangular fret-ornament.

(6) 10 in. by 10 in. with similar border and part of

panel with well-executed trumpet-spirals.

These stones are described and illustrated in the Antiquaries' Journal iii, p. 118. They belong to the early

period.

Stainby (9 miles S. of Grantham). Part of a cross-shaft was discovered in an outbuilding of the Rectory, adjoining the church, some years ago. It is now kept, under cover, at the Rectory and is 19 in. long by 17 in. wide and 8 in. thick, and has interlacing ornament similar to that on the Colsterworth and North Witham stones.

Stoke Rochford. Cross-shaft, found in three fragments near the ruins of the old church of North Stoke, in the Park, and re-erected near the lake. It is nearly 7 ft. high,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  in. by  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. at the base tapering to 14 in. by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. at the top. The lowest part of the shaft is plain except for a carved border  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep carried round the four sides; the middle portion has carved panels on three sides and the top portion on all four sides; the panels contain interlacing designs, much weathered; on the face is a Tau-cross, but a portion of the shaft, at this point, is probably missing. Probably late period.

Stow. Two small flat slabs, 15 in. by 8 in and 12 in. by 9 in., in the north transept of the church, covered with an interlaced pattern of figures-of-eight; the pattern is incomplete and the slabs have perhaps been cut down from a larger size; the second slab only differs from the first only in having the figures more angular; it was discovered in the churchyard, 'covering the head of a skeleton, which was lying in a very rude cist or coffin, constructed of such stones as are used to form a rubble-wall.' Both slabs date

from the late period. One slab is figured (fig. 4) and both described in Boutell's Christian Monuments in England and Wales, p. 3. There is also a stone, 7 in. by 4 in., with a

snake's head upon it.

Toft next Newton. Two stones built into the church, with the usual interlacement and 17 in. by 10½ in. One of the stones is the middle portion of the complete slab and has a central division. Late period.

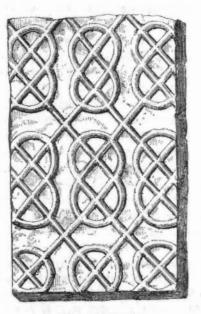


FIG. 4. STOW.

Whaplode. Four stones (plate viii) on a window-sill in the south wall of the church.

(1)  $15\frac{1}{2}$  in. by  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick, has a crude

diagonal fret-pattern.

(2) 14 in. by 10 in. and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick, has a central division with an interlace-panel on each side, evidently part of a tomb-slab.

(3 and 4) Fragments each about 11 in. by 7 in. with

parts of interlace-panels. All late period.