

## RECOLLECTIONS BY ROSA FORMAN

In the summer of 1942 I was invited to Stonefield House, 14 Station Road, Branston, at the time I was a 3rd year nurse in training at The City Hospital Nottingham, petrol was rationed and transport was difficult at all times. The village was a rural community mainly of stone houses. The Forman family owned a Transport Haulage business and employed a large number of village people. Agriculture and farming Patrick Dean, Co-operative farm, Nelstrop and the hospital Branston Sanatorium were also employing the village people.

Approaching the village from Lincoln mostly ribbon development of houses, the Egg Packing Station was on the right it was run by a Mr Downey who in later years bought the house Moor Lodge and converted it to a hotel. The Branston Hall Hospital was on the right of Lincoln Road it treated tuberculosis and chest diseases, it was formerly occupied by the Leslie Melville family. The matron was Olive Taylor a Branstonian. On the left was the village hall it was a wooden structure which in later years was replaced by a brick building due to the efforts of the local people.

On reaching the corner on each side of the road was a public house on the right the Waggon and Horses on the left The Plough, each was made of stone. The village was almost self sufficient in shops, first came Mrs Clarricotes sweet shop, next Mr Lintin the butcher Mr Young the baker and opposite the Co-operative Stores, all these shops made home deliveries, orders were given on certain days and deliveries always took place bearing in mind rationing was on for most foods. Opposite the cenotaph was The Post Office run by Mrs Applewhite and her daughter Agnes the village had its own postman. On Silver Street was another shop run by Mrs Marshall this was known as a shop which sold beer, alcohol etc. and stayed open until 10 pm. Across the road on Sleaford Road were two more shops, Martins on the right and Speeds on the left.

All Saints Church and the Methodist Church were both very active, church bells of course were not allowed to be rung because of the country being at war. Opposite the church was the District Nurses Cottage, Olive Manning was on duty 24 hours a day, she was the mainstay of the village. People in trouble would knock on her door at all times, the local Doctor was Dr. Harrison he lived at the Manor House in Heighington. Lincoln County Hospital was a voluntary hospital but always accepted all patients no waiting in those days.

The village had a local resident policeman living on Station Road. The village school was on the High Street. If pupils desired to go to Lincoln for education they either went on bicycles or took the local bus. Transport into Lincoln was provided by Mr & Mrs Gelthorpe the buses were parked in sheds near the garage and cafe. Gelthorpes buses were always there, they started at 6.50 am each morning the last bus was at 10 pm at night. The fare to Lincoln was 4d. They also transported the Lincolnshire Echo to a local distributor in the village.

I married in 1945 and came to live in the village in 1946 working as a Departmental Ward Sister in Lincoln. Branston was a close knit community where all families knew each other. After the war years schools and housing estates were developed many people moved from other areas working in Lincoln and local industries, as the village expanded the local environment and atmosphere changed.