

## History On A Walking Stick



The following is a transcript of the details found to be taped around a walking stick which was owned by the late John Drayton of Branston.

**J.D.**

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Lincoln Magistrates were believed to have met in private to comment on a plan to impose a 20 m.p.h. speed limit, and the idea of forcing cyclists to use a red rear light.

Branston's oldest resident, Mr John Drayton, celebrated his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday and recalled how as a boy he ran away from a job of looking after horses for which his wage was £5 a year.

### **'Fasten penny' compelled you to return to job.**

What is a 'fasten penny'?

The term for the penny given to workmen from their employer when they started employment came up in a story I read in an Echo from October 1932

It was among the memories of John Drayton of Branston who was celebrating his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday and he was talking to an Echo reporter of his life. He was born at Scawby and had been a reader of the Echo since the first day of its publication in 1893.

As a boy of seven he and his sister worked for four old pence a day 'tenting' (scaring) birds from the fields. He recalled how he ran away from a job looking after horses for which he received a wage of £5 a year, at Croxby

After 'absconding' he obtained new employment, but having taken the 'fasten penny' he was sought out by the police and compelled to return and finish his term of employment with the horses until the next May Day, the date when many hirings commenced. He was ordered to pay £2 for the cost of taking him back so when his year's work had been completed he received only £3 and of this he gave £1 to his mother.

Leaving this situation he obtained work as a waggoner on a wage of £13 a year, but when Grimsby dock was being deepened he went to work there. His hands since then still showed signs of having wheeled heavy barrows of clay. Becoming licensee of the premises in Alfred Street, Lincoln, for two years, he then moved to Branston where he was landlord of the Plough Inn for 48 years. He has lived in the village for over 60 years.

*Walking stick loaned for copying by John Grant of Washingborough*