

Last Link With Local Family

[Contributed]

THE death took place at Ipswich on October 19 of the Rev. Peregrine Arthur Curtois, T.D., M.A., L.I.B., who was born in 1893 in Northgate Cottage, Nettleham - road, Lincoln.

He was a grandson of the sixth of the successive Curtois Rectors of Branston in the City, Bail and Close of Lincoln who died in 1891 and was a freeman of Lincoln as his ancestors had been.

He continued his education after preparatory school in Lincoln, at Bedford School and Queen's College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1914. He was twice wounded in the Ypres Salient during World War I while serving as a captain in the 1st Suffolk Regt.

On the staff of Woodbridge School, Suffolk for many years he was commanding officer of its Junior Training Corps.

He was the last of the priesthood of the Curtois family which has extended since the time of John Curtois, Rector of Branston, an ardent Royalist who was mobbed in Minster Yard by Cromwellian supporters after having preached, following Charles II's death, a sermon in the Cathedral on the "Divine Right of Kings."

Deceased was ordained late in life and was vicar of Beddingfield and rector of Fishangles and on retirement in 1957 continued his interest in the district by assisting in the parish of St. Andrews, Ipswich. His wife survives him. There is no family.

Big blaze at Branston Church BUILDING EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED

DAMAGE estimated at several thousands of pounds including the total loss of the beautifully carved choir-stalls, was suffered by All Saints' Church, Branston, in a fire on Christmas night.

A family service was conducted on Christmas morning by the Rector the Rev. R. C. H. Lucas, who has had charge of the parish just over a year, and this was followed by Holy Communion.

There was no evening service and shortly after eight o'clock that night Mr. Jack Taylor, who lives in the village, and who is a church-goer, saw that the church was on fire. He promptly rang for Lincoln Fire Brigade, and then informed the Rector at his home in Lincoln Road, Branston.

Saved What They Could

Hurrying to the church, the Rector immediately went into the vestry and removed the church vestments to safety, and he was joined by a number of parishioners.

In the fitful light of the flames which appeared to be concentrated in the organ vestry and its roof, and regardless of any danger from molten lead and falling debris, the party worked on and salvaged as many hymnals and prayer books and other church property as possible.

In the meantime Lincoln City Fire Brigade sent off a major fire engine in charge of Station Officer A. Brown and on approaching the village the firemen could see that flames had already pierced the roof, and a wireless message was sent back to headquarters for extra help. A turn-table ladder in charge of Station Officer J. Barker was soon on the scene, and a water tender also attended from N. Hykeham. Station Officers J. L. Corner, of Lincoln Fire Brigade, and W. Lockwood, of Kesteven Fire Brigade, were joined by Chief Officer J. W. Stonehouse, of Lincoln, and Chief Officer C. J. Murden, of Kesteven.

Intense Heat

Firemen climbed on the church roof and stripped away lead to get at the fire, and with extra water pressure provided from the Metheringham Pumping Station they were able to halt the fire's progress before it got a real hold of the nave roof, but the intense heat inside the building did carry the flames through an archway from the organ chamber to the roof of the nave.

It was impossible to save the choir stalls and the organ, and the roof of the choir, the organ chamber and the sanctuary were damaged beyond repair.

but comparatively slight damage was suffered by the nave roof.

The outbreak, the cause of which remains a mystery, was extinguished about 5 a.m. on Boxing Day.

The firemen returned later and sheeted the roof to keep out the weather.

The Rector called a meeting of the Church Council early on Boxing Day, and it was decided to call in the Diocesan Surveyor at once.

The Rector told the "Chronicle" that he was full of admiration for all who had helped to salvage what was possible and to save the church.

He said the Methodists of Branston had kindly offered the use of their church for Sunday's services.

It is understood that the church is fully insured.

Fatal accident at Woodhall

An accident which involved four motor vehicles and a cyclist took place at around 2.45 p.m. on Saturday in Station Road, Woodhall Spa. Vehicles involved were a taxi, driven by Miss Sheila Hornsey, a van owned and driven by Mr. Stanley Parkinson, of Woodhall Spa, a car just about to be driven off by Mr. Edwin Pell, of Norfolk Lodge, Witham Road, Woodhall Spa, and a parked van.

The cyclist, Mr. Thomas Pearson Pickwell, of Martin Dales, sustained severe head injuries and was conveyed to Lincoln County Hospital, but was found to be dead on arrival.

His wife was shopping nearby at the time of the accident and saw her husband taken away to hospital.

SANTA CLAUS AT MARKET RASEN

Cheers went up from some hundreds of Market Rasen children, gathered expectantly round the town's 20ft high Christmas tree when Santa Claus arrived in a white jeep decorated with holly as darkness was falling on Christmas Eve. The identity of Father Christmas is never disclosed but, as always, his sacks were bulging with presents for the tiny tots and queues were formed to enable the presentation to be made with gay formality at the foot of the Christmas tree.

As in the past, all the arrangements were made by a town committee with the help of local subscribers. Carols, which were relayed from the parish church, provided the right background to the approaching festival.