

## X

### GRASBY VILLAGE CHANGING ECONOMY IN THE C20<sup>th</sup>

Clixby ceased to be a parish in its own right and was amalgamated with Grasby in 1936. The 1,261 acres of Clixby combined with Grasby now gives the new parish a total area of 2,961 acres.

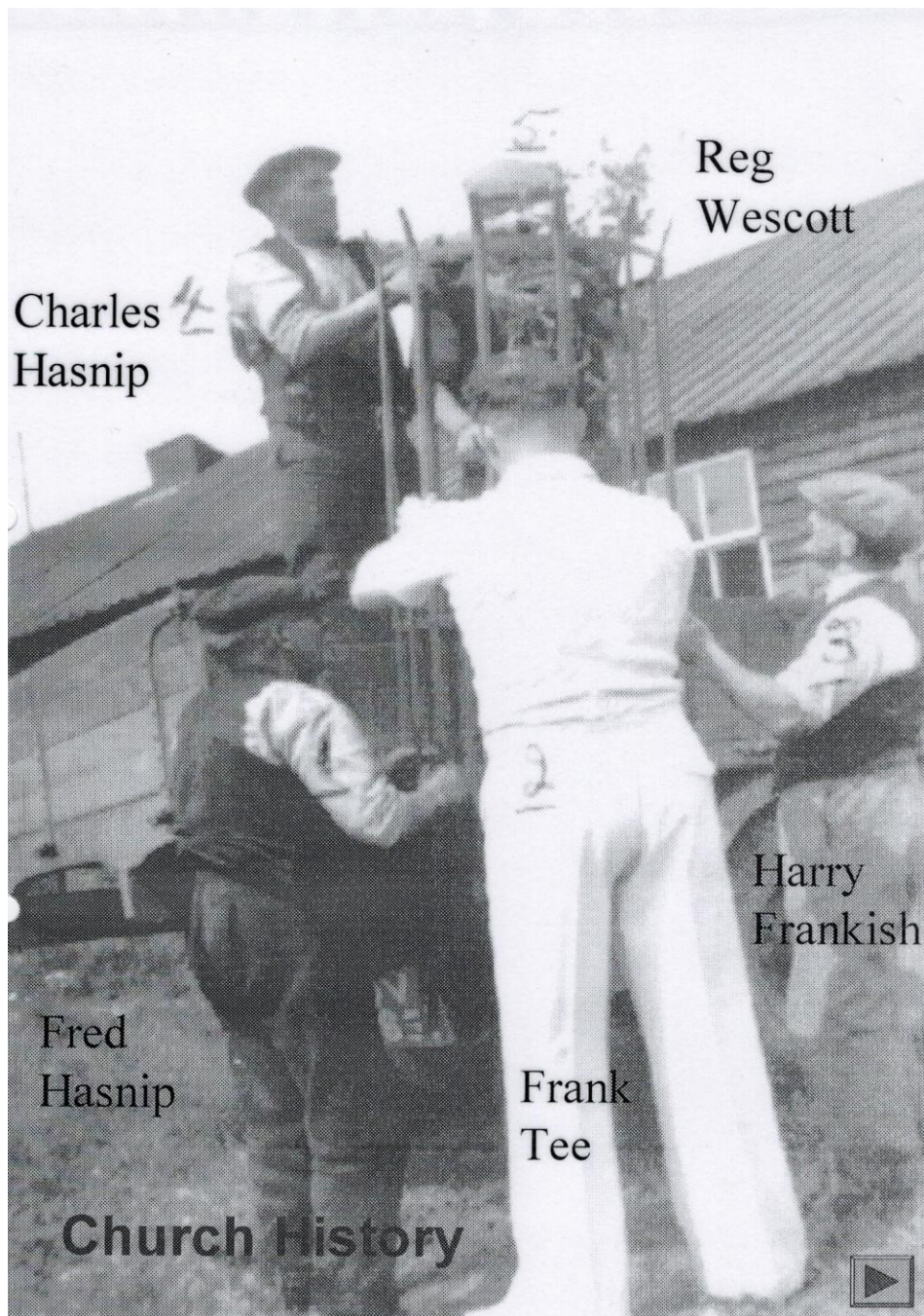
There was a steady decline in the population of the village between 1911, when it stood at 373, and 1971 by which time it had fallen to 267, despite the inclusion of Clixby after 1936. This reflected the changes in agriculture with its increasing mechanization and diminishing need for manual labour. With these changes the days of the village based rural craftsman were also numbered.

Up until the 1960s Front Street (Butcher's Lane in the C19<sup>th</sup>) remained the main focus of retail activity. There was a tailor at the top, a butcher (Milson's) below the cemetery and, on the other side of the street, a grocer (Lusby's) half way down the hill, which later became a cycle repair shop and finally Kirkby & Sons', located on the corner of Front Street and Bentley Lane (previously called Little Drift), a grocer and draper's shop dating from 1856, later becoming a butcher's shop.

Outside Kirkby & Sons' were two petrol pumps, with two more in front of the Cross Keys.

In addition to the shops, a carpenter (Frankish) could also be found on Front Street.

The present village hall replaced a wooden building, erected in 1937 on the same site, in the 1960s. The oak tree outside the hall was planted to commemorate the coronation of King George VI (see below).



*Planting the oak tree to celebrate the coronation of King George VI  
1936*

Source: Ifor Barton





**Bentley Lane**

*Before (top) and after (bottom) petrol pumps were installed at **Kirky & Sons***  
*Source: Ifor Barton*

At some point during the century the two village water pumps disappeared. One was opposite the Bluebell on Church Hill, the other was on Middleton Lane. It is surprising that the former has been lost as it had been refurbished and reinstated with some ceremony between the two Wars.



*Source: Ifor Barton*

There was a cobbler's workshop on Church Side (now a garage for one of the cottages).

The Bluebell Inn was on Church Hill, as was the blacksmith's smithy and workshop. With the exception of the latter which closed in the 1990, the last of these businesses closed in the 1970s.

The Post Office became a listed building 1980, but closed for business in 1990.

The Reading Room, established as a village library and stocked with books by Charles Turner in 1853, became a sweet shop in 1907 (see below). Where the books went is, apparently, a mystery!





*Reading Room Cottage as a sweet shop*

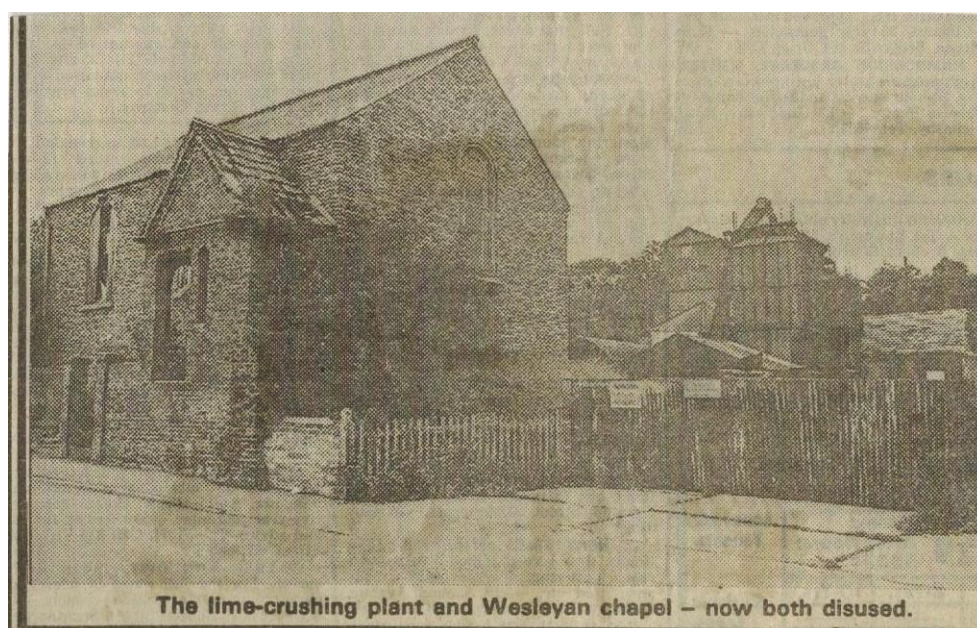
*Source: Ifor Barton*

The Mill, north of the A1084, operated until 1921.

North Kelsey railway station fell under the “Beeching Axe” and closed in 1965.

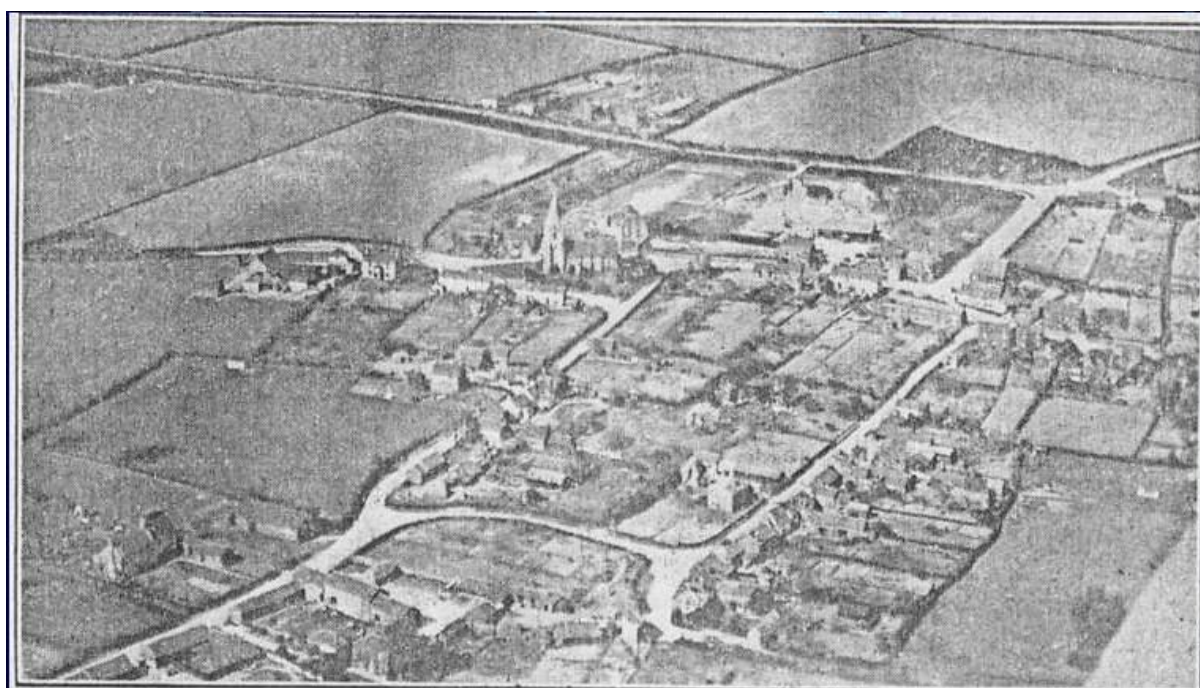
The Lime Pits opened sometime in the C19<sup>th</sup> and in the 1930s were producing about 3,000 tons of lime per annum. In 1944 it was formally opened as “Grasby Limes Ltd” by Mr E Addison, Chair of Caistor War Agricultural Committee, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, to meet the new demands of agriculture. Production post war rose to 100,000 tons a year and the village became a very noisy and dusty place to live in until the end of the 1960s. The quarry across the road fed the plant with chalk by a conveyor belt, which ran in a tunnel under the road. Although the entrances are bricked up, the tunnel is still there.





The lime-crushing plant and Wesleyan chapel – now both disused.

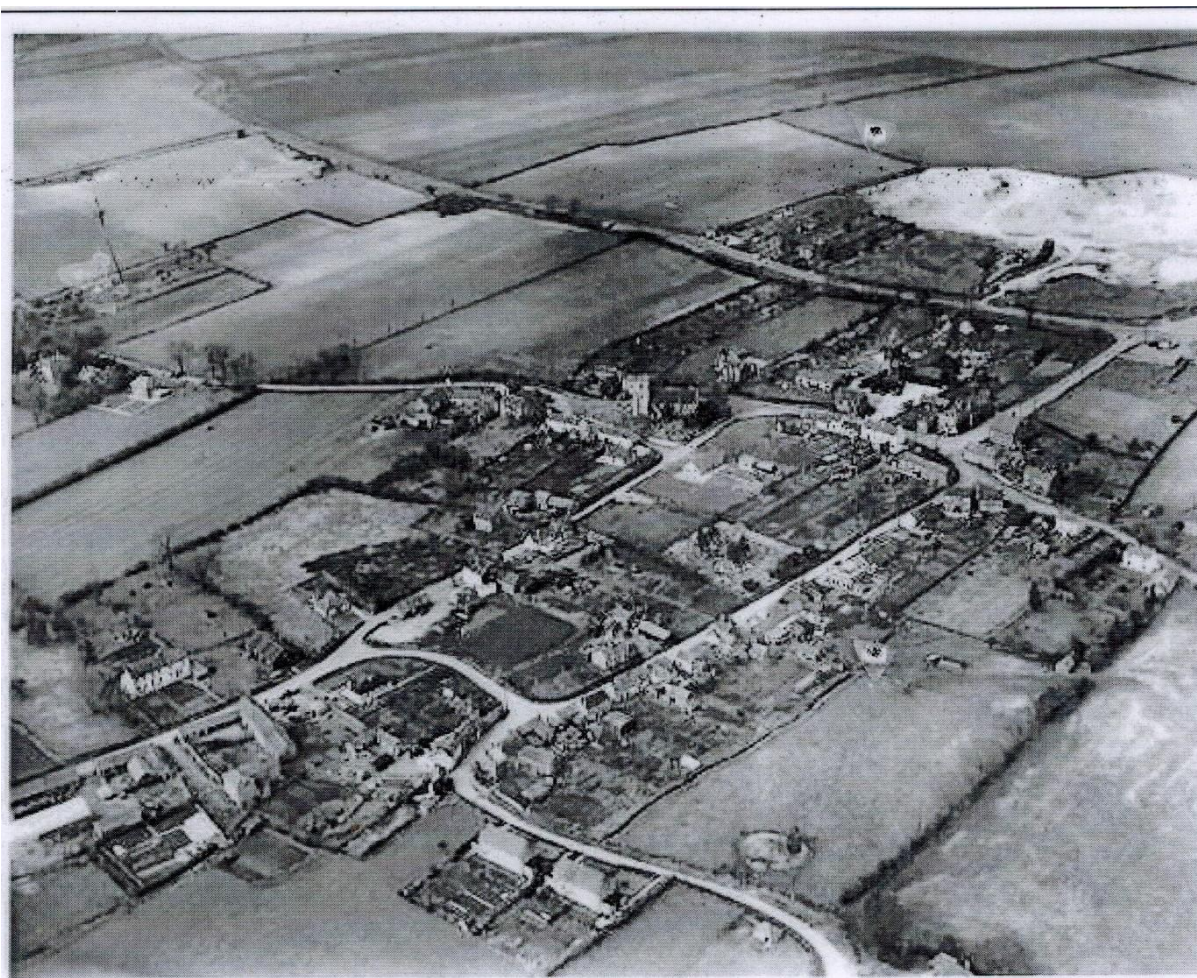
*Now both demolished!*



*Aerial photograph of Grasby 1947*

*(Note church still has a spire & there is no quarry to the north of the A1084)*





*Aerial photograph of Grasby looking NW.*

The date is unknown, but is likely to be between 1961 & 1969 after the council houses in Bentley Lane had been built (bottom centre) but before there had been any more modern developments e.g. on Station Road (bottom left), Church Hill, Canty Nook, Vicarage Lane (middle left) or Clixby Lane (middle right). Most of the area in the centre of the village between Church Hill and Front Street is still largely open ground. The quarry is clearly visible in the top right of the photograph. The church no longer has a spire. The second “new” vicarage can be seen next to the first “new” vicarage built by Charles Turner (upper left), both now private dwellings called “Winton” & “The Grange” respectively. Charles Turner’s vicarage was sold by the Church in the 1940s and the second new vicarage not long after it was built in the 1960s.