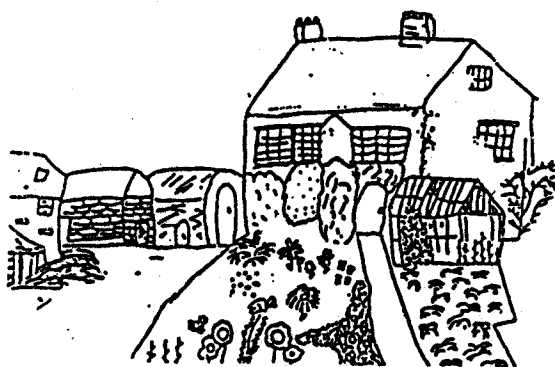
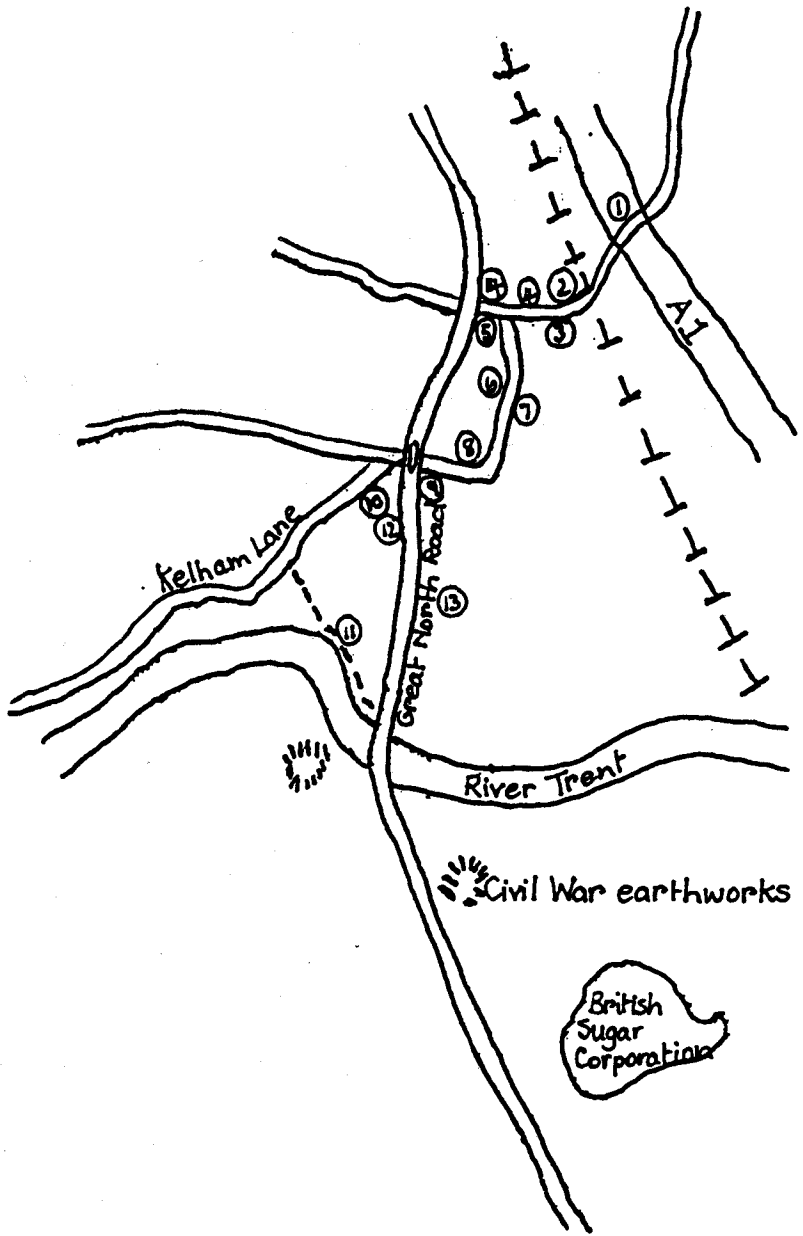


VILLAGE TRAIL
OF
SOUTH MUSKHAM



Compiled
by
MUSKHAM SCHOOL

1985

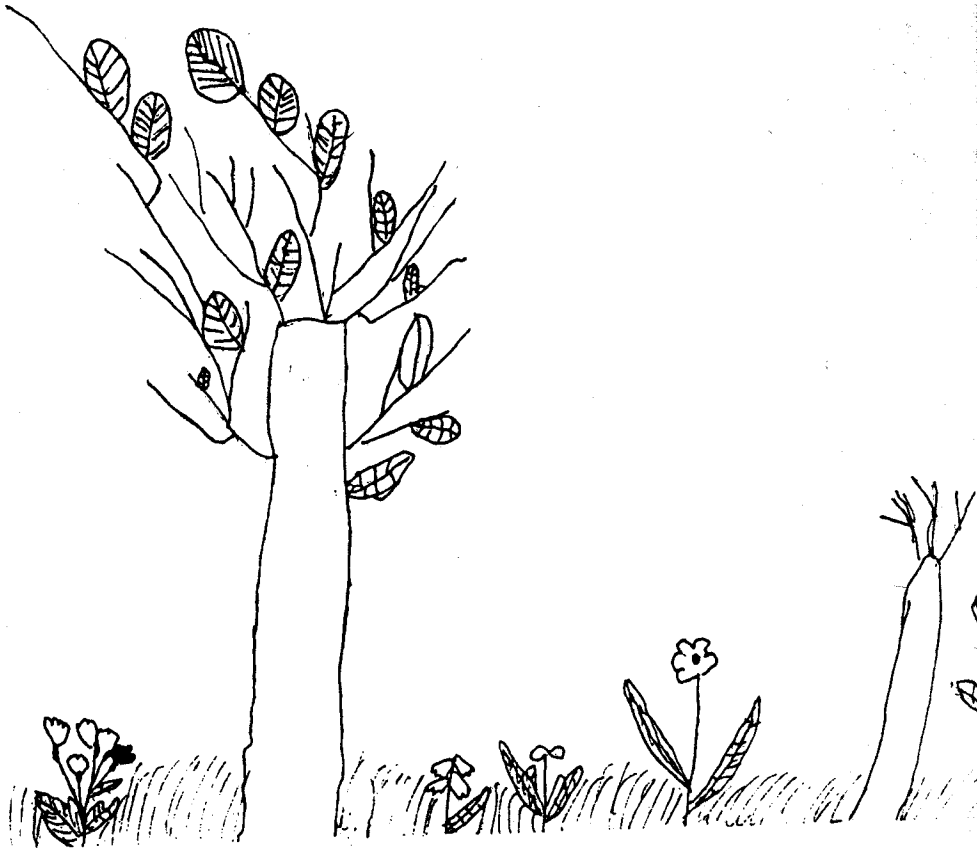


There is evidence of a Romano-British settlement, probably a farm, but the name South Muskham comes from Muscham meaning the farm of a Saxon named Musca. The Domesday book of 1086 mentions a Manor at South Muskham comprising nine and a half carucates that belonged to the Church of St. Mary, Southwell; there was land for nine and a half ploughs. Sontebbrand, a Dane, held land for one and a half ploughs. Herringbone patterns in the base of S. Muskham church chancel walls indicate that there was a church in existence at this time. The Prebend of S. Muskham in the Collegiate Church of St. Mary at Southwell was founded in the 12th century.

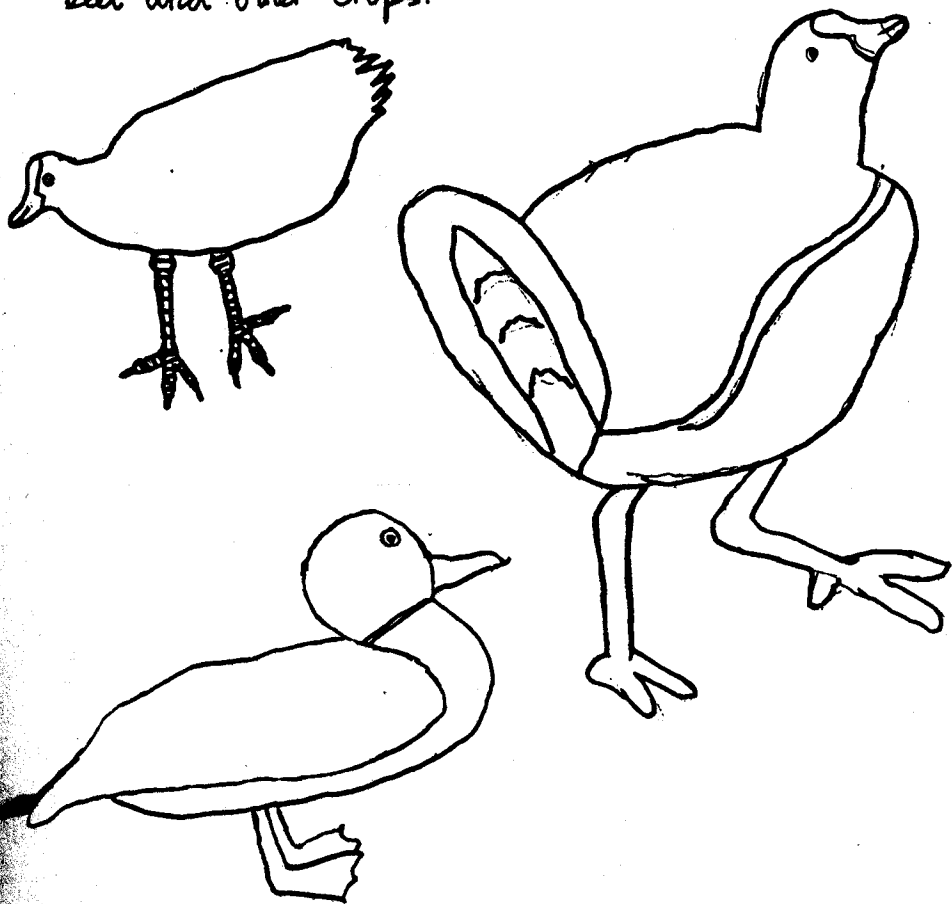


As you go round the trail, see if you can find the following :-

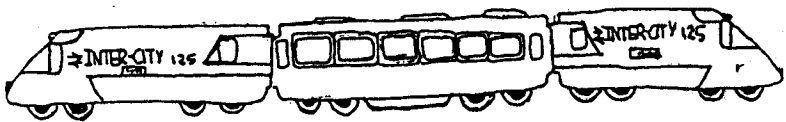
- a) a flood line dated 1875 showing the height water in the village
- b) a 1930s style house with rounded brickwork the staircase
- c) a building date of 1914
- d) a lamp-post part Victorian and part modern
- e) a walnut tree.



Start the trail standing on the bridge over the A1. The road was built in 1964 and provides a fast route from London to Edinburgh. The ponds you can see are the result of gravel workings and now are being stocked with fish. You may see coot and moorhen swimming. To the left is Mr Bunnets farm, a large dairy farm and important breeding centre in Notts, as well as growing sugar beet and other crops.



2. Turn and walk towards the railway crossing. The Great Northern Railway was built in 1852 and at one time there was a water tower and troughs full of water in the middle of the track for steam trains to pick up as they passed. There was also a gate-keeper's house. Now, the crossing is automatic and the line is in the process of being electrified.



3. Continue walking to the church. It is called St. Wilfrids and shares its vicar with North Muskham, Kelham and Averham. You may be fortunate and be able to go into the church to see the interesting interior. In the Civil War, the church door was damaged by a cannon ball. Hamps were installed in the church when it was renovated in 1876. Opposite the church is the Vicarage, now occupied by the Archdeacon of Newark.

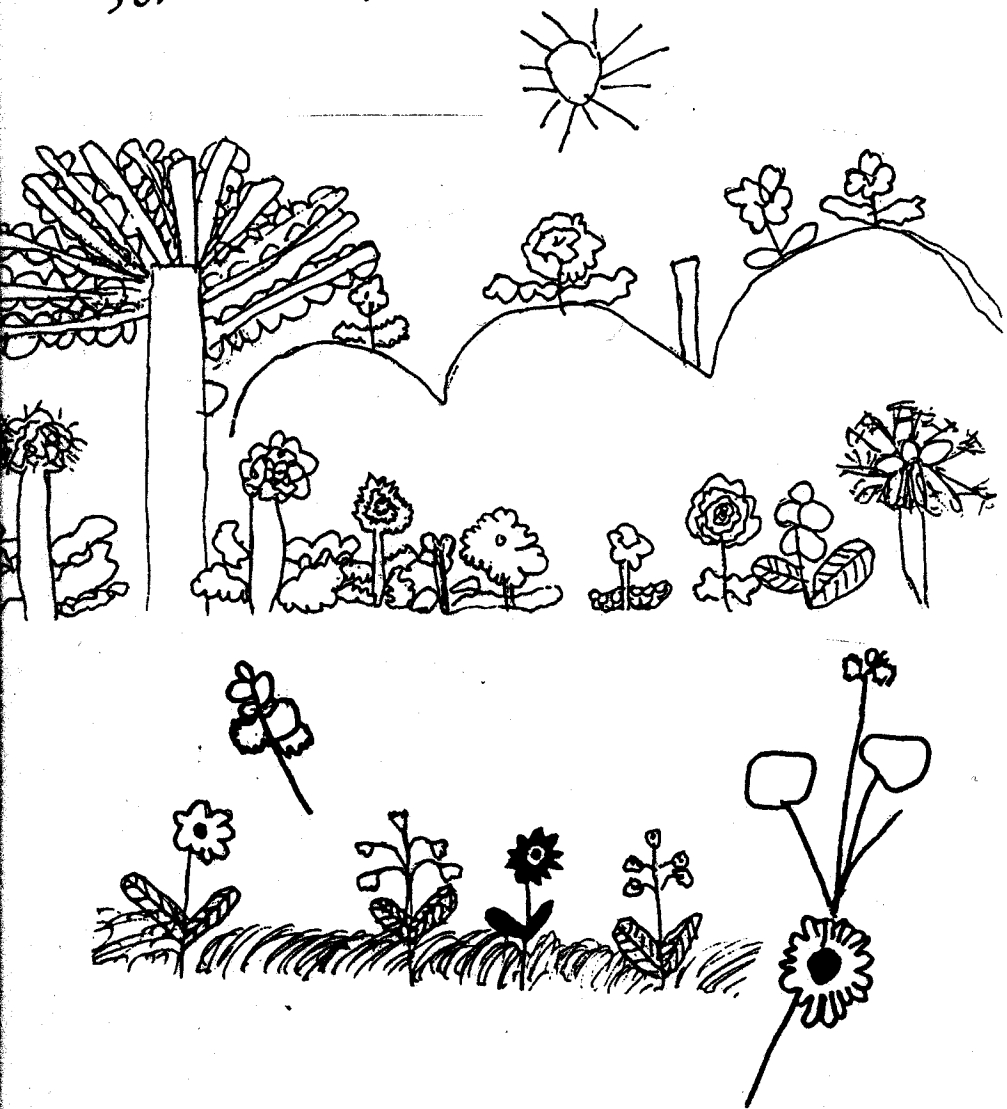
During the First World War, the Vicar the Rev. Moseley had to keep a record of all the dead and injured servicemen in the parish. The church clerk fought in the Sherwood Foresters. Another parishioner was killed at Ypres.

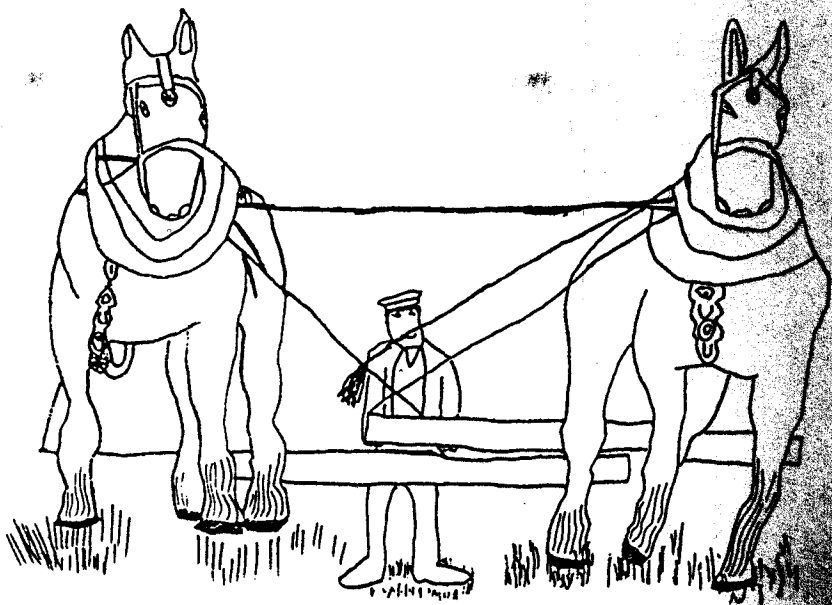


4. As you walk along Church Lane, look at the varying styles of architecture. On your right is Jasmine Cottage. This used to be a cobbler's and probably a school.



5. Turn left into Main Street. The house on your right is Rosegath. You will notice that the garden grows beautiful flowers and splendid vegetables that have won many prizes and awards for Mr. Cooper.





6.

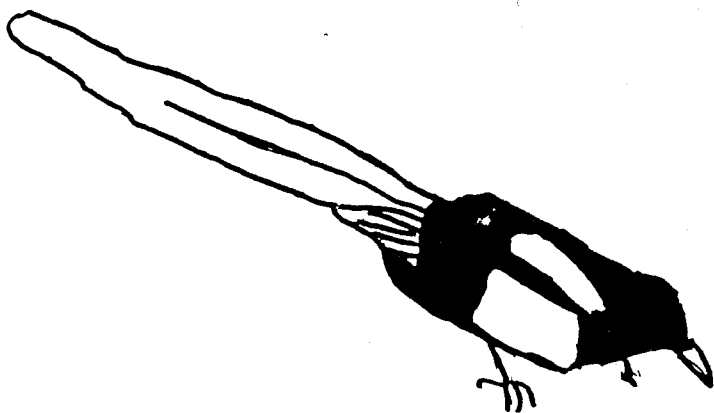
On your right is Forge Close, built where there used to be a field where the forge once stood. A little further on is Forge Cottage that used to be the home of the blacksmith - joiner - wainwright - undertaker. The last blacksmith was Mr. Parby and the business closed down in the 1960's.

7. Continue walking along Main Street and you will see the Post Office. The cottage was renovated and a room used for the Post Office. It also sells tinned food, pop, cakes, sweets, cigarettes and toys. It is the only shop in South Muskhram.

8. On the bend of the road is the Village Hall built in 1957. It was built on land formerly a field and was extended a few years ago. It costs £5 to rent for two hours and is used by the cubs, Old-aged pensioners, Women's Institute, Mothers' Union, play-group and private functions. The Hall is the meeting place for villagers.



9. Proceed to the cross-roads, passing on your left old farm buildings. The steep sloping roof of the farmhouse was probably once thatched. In the Spring of 1985, they were auctioned.

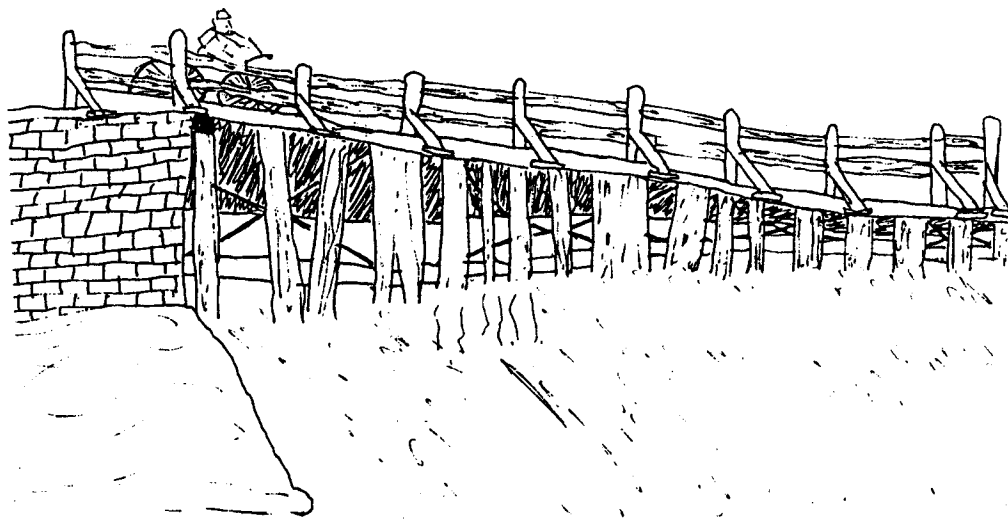


10. At the crossroads, go straight across and down Kelham Lane (NOT along the A616). You will see some magnificent Horse Chestnut trees. About a hundred metres along on the left is a wooden signpost 'Footpath to Muskham Bridge'. Take this path by going through the gate just past the sign. Proceed across the field at right angles to the lane. You may be lucky and see mallard or heron. Magpie and pheasant also like these fields and copses.

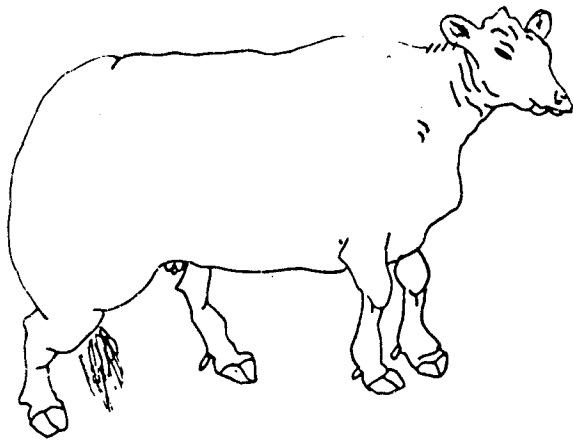
Can you spot the iron winch that was once used to pull boats in to the side of the river?

11. Facing the river, turn left to Muskham Bridge. For hundreds of years, this area caused problems and there are many records of the village being flooded, coaches swept away in the Trent and travellers being boated from Newark Bridge to South Muskham. The bridge was timber, with a single guard rail either side until the present one was built in 1922. It was opened by the Duke of Portland.

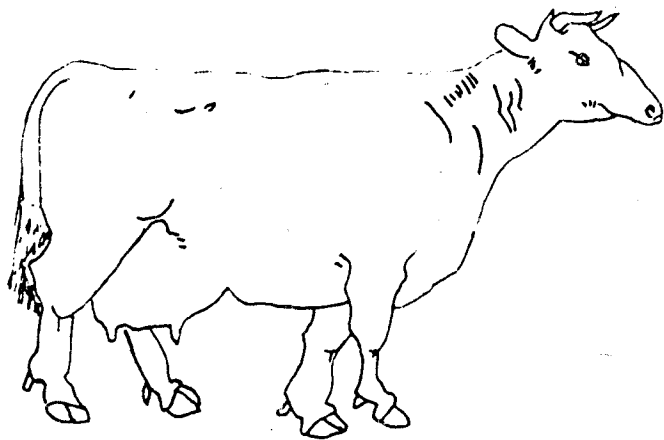
Nowadays, there is a more reliable flood bank to stop the village flooding.



12. Turn left along the main road and as you approach the cross-roads you will see on your left a Victorian house, Muskham Grange, Mr. Staniforth's farm house. This is a large mixed farm and you may see lambs and a donkey in the paddock.



a beef cow



a dairy cow

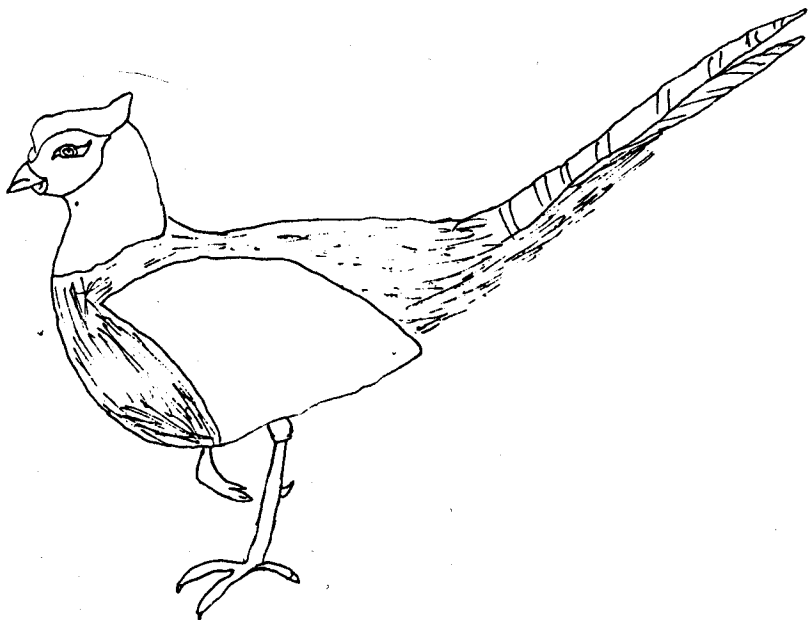
3. Continue along the main road. You are on the old
A1. It is a Roman road. At the beginning of this
century children played whip and top on the road but
if school-children were found straying there they were
given six strokes of the cane. Before many people
had cars, they travelled by horse and cart or shanks
pony to Newark for their provision although many
families grew vegetables and fruit and kept a pig.

In the 1743 there were 41 families.

In 1832 there were 261 families.

In the 1891 census there were 245.

How many do you think there are now?



14. Stand at the cross-roads of the Great North Road and Church Lane. On the corner of the lane is a private house that used to be the old school. Most of the village belonged to Lord Middleton and he gave the land and some money to build the school. There was a head-teacher and monitors. In this century, there two teachers and the room was divided by a curtain. In 1913, the head-teacher was Mrs Edwards who earned £80 a year; "the highest limit of this school," said the managers.

Teaching was on slates. Subjects included Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Gardening, Handwork, Needlework, Nature, Religious Instruction, Geography and Drill.

Lord Middleton's estate was sold in 1924 and raised £37,000; £200 for the school that was bought by the church. It continued with about twenty children until 1965 when Mrs Billyard, the headteacher in North Muskharn wrote,

"Today, the children of the North and South Muskharn Schools are joined together in the new school."

School Inspector's report 1883

'A very good beginning has been made here. All the standard work was well done and the Infant instruction, except perhaps in number, was satisfactory.

'The specimens of sewing were of fair quality. Order and singing were pleasing'

1885 school grant £26.10.4

Number of children 20

1914 Sept. 10
- 21st
- 29
Oct. 20th

Articles made for soldiers and sailors shown in School and parents and friends invited to look at them.

July 5th

As we are to close on Friday for Summer Holidays the gardens must be judged this week for the prizes, so I think it only fair to give the children the chance to put the finishing touches on their plots. I think of allowing them to spend the Drill Lesson in their gardens.

July 9th

Holidays commence.
Prizes given for gardens. Four are generally given but this year the gardens are so nice, Mrs. Brogley has very kindly given one extra prize and Mrs. Storm two extra making seven in all.

12th

Shrove Tuesday. Half a day's holiday. Mrs. Storm kindly send twopenny for each child but she was sorry not to be able to send the oranges as usual on account of the War.

Answers to questions:-

a) the flood line is on a wall of the old School

b) the 1930s house is in Church Lane

c) 1914 is on a house in Main Street

d) the lamp-post is in the garden of a bungalow

e) the walnut tree is in the grounds of the Village Hall





