



This charming picture was sent in by a relative of Grace Drakes, who is seated second from the right. Grace was born on 3rd May 1904, and joined the 'Middle Remove' Form at Lincoln Christ's Hospital Girls' High School (LHS) in January 1918, having transferred from the National Elementary School, Market Rasen. She was present for only seventeen days during her first term because she contracted mumps. She left LHS in July 1921 for 'home duties'. Her father, Alfred Drakes of 20 Union Street Market Rasen, was listed in the LHS Admissions Register as an auctioneer and valuer.

Miss Lucie Savill was the Headmistress at LHS at the time, having been appointed in 1910. The term 'Remove' was widely used in public, grammar and high schools for the Fifth Form immediately prior to entering the Sixth Form. Pupils were required to 'pass their Remove' before being admitted into the Sixth Form. Avid readers of Frank Richards' Greyfriars School and other school stories may recall that Horace Coker was a pupil who was something of a duffer and buffoon, who seemed always to be trying to get his 'Remove', but failing miserably!

Although the Admissions Register lists Grace as joining the 'Middle Remove', I cannot find any reference to that term in the LHS magazines of the time. Indeed, in her Annual Speech Day Reports, Moreover, Miss Cleeve refers to the Fifth Form taking the School Certificate. Perhaps it was used as a colloquial term at LHS, or possibly employed to mimic the term that was used for many years at Lincoln School?

A further conundrum is that Grace left LHS whilst still in the Fifth Form, aged 16. Perhaps the term 'Middle Remove' (the Form that she was in when she first joined the School at the age of 13) had a different meaning at LHS from its more conventional use?

One of the unusual features of this photograph is its informality. Most school photos of the era were posed and highly formal. It would be interesting to know why the girls at the back are making those choreographed movements. I would also be interested to hear from alumnae of LHS about the range of different uniforms that the girls are wearing. I am not suggesting for one moment that any of my contacts were at the School at the time, but they may have more knowledge and information about the uniforms of the post-Great War period than I do! They might also be able to confirm from the background that the photo was actually taken at LHS.

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