

Finds grandfather's name in roof

IDENTICAL WRITING

Working on the roof of a building in Lynn, Mr Basil Proctor, a slater and tiler of Wood End Road, Heacham, discovered the name of his grandfather and the date 1890 scratched on a piece of lead found on the side of a sky light

On Tuesday 44 year old Mr. Proctor and his 20 year old son, Brian, discovered a piece of lead with "James Proctor, May 25 1890" scratched on it.

"The writing is identical with mine" said Mr Proctor.

Mr Proctor hopes to find the name of his father – Mr James Proctor – during his work on the roof, which would mean there had been four generations of the family working there – at St Anne's Street, Kings Lynn.

Worker

"I have found the name Charlie Pishorn, 1908 scratched on the lead. He worked with my father which could mean he has worked here" said Mr Proctor.

The trade of slater and tiler had been in the Proctor family for generations.

Mr Proctor's grandfather, who lived at Setch, retired in 1933 and died shortly afterwards.

"My father under whom I served my apprenticeship at Heacham, died in 1951", said Mr Proctor.

In the trade

Mr Proctor, born at Great Yarmouth, has been in the trade since he was 14 and his son Brian, working with him now, also joined the trade when he was 14.

"I have two uncles, four cousins and a brother-in-law in the trade, too," said Mr Proctor.

His ten-year-old son Graham also wants to learn the trade, and had already been on the job with his father during school holidays.

Mr Proctor and his son are removing old slates and laying new ones. They are sub contractors for Messrs Pattinson and Co Ltd, roofing specialists of Sleaford. During the past three weeks, they



MR Basil Proctor and his son Brian study the piece of lead which Mr. Proctor found while working on the roof of a house in St. Anne's Street, Lynn and on which was carved the name of his grandfather, James Proctor, and the date 1890 (CD2865).

have found hundreds of names and dates scratched on the lead they are removing. "W.Hall, 1882 and G.Ellis, 1879, are at the moment, the two oldest dates found.

Apprenticeship

Mr Proctor, who has about another ten days work to do on

the roof, said his apprenticeship to the trade lasted for five years.

"It was five years before my father allowed me to touch a slate," he said.

"Although the trade is not actually dying out, there is not so much calling for it in these days of modern building".

"To my knowledge, there are only two other slaters and tilers in this area," said Mr Proctor.