

## THE RAN TAN

Many years ago in Stickney, in the 1920s, a man and his wife took in a single girl as a housekeeper. The villagers thought the man was taking more interest in the girl than he should, so they met and decided to "Ran Tan" him to show their disapproval.

One night he was expected home off the train at Stickney station. Villagers gathered to meet him with sticks and tins to bang and jeer and shout at him. They were well worked up to fever pitch but the whole episode fell rather flat.

'Ran tanning' or 'riding the stang' was a very ancient custom in connection with punishment of alleged miscreants. The word "stang" comes from the Anglo-Saxon 'steng' meaning a pole, where a victim was tied astride a pole and forced to tour the village accompanied by villagers armed with anything that would make a noise.

A "ran tan" of cans, buckets, kettles, trays and anything else which would make a noise together with the blowing of horns and the jeers of the accompanying mob would signal everyone to see who was being punished.

### **From Lincolnshire Hotchpotch**

Coltman's Book page 47 mentions Elizabeth Cavill once rode the stang in 1855.