



Book of the month

PAPERMAKING IN LINCOLNSHIRE

1600-1900 by Hugh Nott

Society for Lincolnshire History &
Archaeology, Jews' Court, Steep Hill,
Lincoln LN2 1LS

ISBN 978 0 903582 33 9 £15

LOCAL INTEREST TOP 10

1. Did You Know? Lincoln – A Miscellany
2. Lincoln's West End: A History
3. Four Deeds & Suspicious Deaths In and Around The Fens – Glenda Goulden
4. Pitkin City Guide Lincoln
5. Big Skies Of Lincoln – Peter & Pat Washbourne
6. Lincolnshire Railway Memories – Paul Anderson
7. Walking Through Lincolnshires Seasons – Hugh Marrows
8. Nobbutt A Yellerbelly – Alan Stennett
9. Lost Railways Of Lincolnshire – Alan Stennett
10. A Portrait Of Lincoln – Janet & Peter Roworth

Compiled by Waterstone's Lincoln

The earliest record of a paper mill in Lincolnshire was at Leasingham in 1617. The main requirement was a river with enough energy to power a watermill to pulp the rags that were the papermakers' raw material. This book incorporates new research identifying seven other sites – three at Tealby (where the author lives and his interest started), and at Louth, Houghton in Grantham, Barrow on Humber and West Deeping. He visited each to trace what remains of the mills and drying sheds; some have completely disappeared but mill buildings remain at Louth and West Deeping.

There is information on the people who worked the low-tech hand-made paper producing mills and how the businesses were run. Even watermarks have been found,

which show that good quality white paper was made for printing and writing. Today we take paper for granted but in the seventeenth century it was a rare and expensive commodity.

A section describes the method of papermaking, first developed in China nearly two thousand years ago, and another on the working of a paper mill. Evidence for those in Lincolnshire includes documents from archives not previously published, site plans, watermarks and photographs to demonstrate the extent of the industry in the county. From the 1830s competition from mechanised steam-powered mills elsewhere overwhelmed local producers, some of which converted to corn mills, and the last paper mill to close was at Houghton in 1890. (DNR)

LINCOLNSHIRE BOOKS IN BRIEF

• *'Gratefull to Providence': the diary and accounts of Matthew Flinders, surgeon, apothecary and man-midwife 1775-1802* ed Martyn Beardsley and Nicholas Bennett. Lincoln Record Society c/o Boydell Press, PO Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DF ISBN 978 0 901503 59 6 £30
Wonderful detail of family and home in Donington – daily routine, socialising, family births and deaths, bills for treating patients (with some detail), unusual events (Powell the fire-eater), travel and road conditions. References to childhood and schooling of eldest son Matthew – interesting background to the future circumnavigator and

namer of Australia (see Poachings). Revealing insights of life in late-eighteenth century Lincolnshire.

• *A Town Remembers Vol 3 Parts 1 and 2* by William Hunt Richard Kay, 80 Sleaford Road, Boston PE21 8EU ISBN 978 1 902882 60 1 and 978 1 902882 60 X £15 each
First World War surnames A-K and L-Y and all Second World War eligible but omitted from commemoration on Boston War Memorial. Lists 320 including surrounding villages. Details of where and how they died, with biography. Remarkably detailed record to have as a memorial.