

Book of the month

A HISTORY OF LINCOLN

by Richard Gurnham, Phillimore & Co Ltd, Oving,
Chichester, W Sussex PO20 2DD
ISBN 978 1 86077 459 1 £17.99

LINCOLNSHIRE'S TOP TEN

1. History of Lincoln - Richard Gurnham
ISBN 9781860775512
2. Bygone Lincoln 3 (dvd)
3. Uphill Lincoln 1 - Andrew Walker
ISBN 9780953865048
4. Aspects of Lincoln - Andrew Walker
ISBN 9781903425046
5. Bygone Lincoln 2 (dvd)
6. Lincoln's Allotments - Geoff Tann
ISBN 9780953865024
7. Big Skies Over Lincolnshire -
Peter Washbourn
ISBN 9781859832240
8. Monk's Road - Andrew Walker (ed)
ISBN 9780953865017
9. Bygone Lincoln 1 (dvd)
10. Hanged at Lincoln - Stephen Wade
ISBN 9780750951104

Compiled by Waterstone's Lincoln

There have been shelves of books about the history or aspects of the history of Lincoln, in both words and pictures, but this is the first attempt at a chronological and reasonably detailed account. It began with a Celtic settlement by the Brayford Pool, now the site of its University. The highly organised Roman colonia, a fortress with forum and basilica established Lincoln as a provincial capital.

Under the Anglo-Saxons it was the capital of Lindsey, grew and prospered with the arrival of the Vikings, and then the Normans who built the castle and began the cathedral. In the twelfth and

thirteenth centuries Lincoln was a major centre for the wool trade, but then suffered a period of decay and decline, and damage done during the Civil Wars.

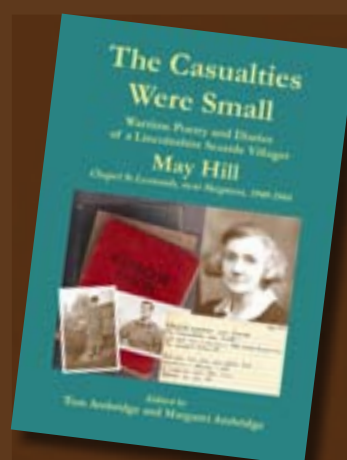
Transformation came with the arrival of railways in the nineteenth century and the growth of heavy engineering: 'Made in Lincoln' was a guarantee of quality. During the First World War the city gave birth to the military tank and also made aeroplanes. Today's role is about learning, administration, shopping and tourism as much as industry.

The many changing aspects are illustrated by some 150 black and white photographs and plans. Here is both detail and explanation – and highly readable. (DNR)

LINCOLNSHIRE BOOKS IN BRIEF

- *The Casualties Were Small* by May Hill
[Ambridge Books](#), 10 Lockwood Close,
Woodbridge IP12 1HZ £8.99

Wartime diaries and poetry 1940-1944 of a mother at Chapel St Leonards (she died in November 1944). Diaries record domestic routine of spring cleaning and jam making, renovating clothes for the family, preparations for weddings, war news, and all the while concern for her son on active service in the RAF. Very personal insight into local life. Illustrated with photographs. A great letter writer. Revealing comments on relations, and the way the war crept into daily life. An



eloquent record, and a simple effective way with words in the poems which also reflect her Christian faith – as in *The Reasons We Learn*, *The Click of the Garden Gate*, and *Prayer for Peace*, and 'The Casualties Were Small', a quotation turned into fear for her son and concern for others:

'When Winton aerodrome was bombed
The 'Casualties were small'.
Just your son, my son and little widow
Brown's son,
The youngest of them all.'

This little book is highly recommended reading.