

LOCAL HISTORY IN LARGE PRINT

Booklist 2010

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*All in a Lifetime by Charles Clark

The purchase of a typewriter for his 79th birthday inspired Charles William Talbot Clark to reminisce about his life in Doncaster. Charles recalls the arrival of the trams in 1902, schooldays, living conditions, changes to the town and our way of life before the First World War, his life in the Army and subsequent return to civilian life at Brodsworth Colliery. Well-known names and characters, such as Mary Teale, the 'Doncaster Dolls', 'Daddy' Hasselby, Sgt Tommy Tune and Tuby's, amongst others, appear in this nostalgic reflection of life in the early years of the 20th century. These reminiscences first appeared as a series of articles in Doncaster' Local History Review *Yesterday Today*.

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Dads Do Cry by Robert Renton

Robert Renton tells the story of the cage crash at Hatfield Main Colliery in 1939, in which one man died and over 80 were injured. This is a heart-rending account of the struggle of some of the survivors, many of who lost limbs, to overcome their disabilities. Their resilience and willpower to rebuild their lives, support their families, and in a few cases serve their country during the Second World War, is to be admired.

*From A Quarry To A Park by Frank Pearson

For over 100 years, Hexthorpe Flatts has been a popular place with Doncaster folk for recreation and sport. This book looks at its history and transformation from a limestone quarry to a modern park.

*Highfield Memories by Eric Higton

Eric Higton was almost five years old when the Armistice was signed in November 1918. Some of his earliest childhood recollections are of troops billeted in the village, 'Peace' celebrations at Glasgow Paddocks and the commemorative mug given to every child. Family life, school days and other memorable events, such as the visit to Adwick Cinema to see moving pictures with music, are all vividly described. Some of Eric's reminiscences are illustrated with his own delightful drawings. These memories were first published as a series of articles in *Yesterday Today*.

*The History of the St Leger Stakes 1776-1926 (2 volume set) by J S Fletcher

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the St Leger, this book looks back at the origins of the race, and contains a detailed account of every race, together with the names of the runners, owners and jockeys. The book also looks at the social impact the races had on Doncaster, and there are interesting accounts of the town and its visitors -from the rich and famous to tipsters and conmen -during race-week.

*Lines to Doncaster by Philip Scowcroft

The arrival of the Great Northern Railway in 1849 and the opening of the Plant Works four years later were significant events in Doncaster's industrial history. Philip Scowcroft's illustrated concise history looks at the impact they both had on the town for more than 100 years.

*Local Celebrities or Otherwise

This book brings together the stories of people as diverse as Jack Hawley, an eccentric 19th character, who was buried in a stone coffin in his orchard at Hatfield; Stephen Wade, deputy hangman to Thomas Pierrepont; 18th century property developer, Thomas Bradford, who gave his name to Bradford Row; Colonel Thomas Rainsborough, a Roundhead officer, who was unintentionally killed in an attempted kidnap by a group of Royalist troops in Baxtergate in 1648; and finally, but by no means least, the legendary Robin Hood and his connections with the Doncaster area. These articles were first published *Yesterday Today*.

*Local Heroes by John Chapman

Doncaster has been the birthplace or home of many people who have left their mark on history. This collection of biographies includes the 14th century mystic Richard Rolle, known as the Hermit of Hampole; Austerfield born Pilgrim Father, William Bradford; coachman John Frederick Herring, who became famous for his paintings of St Leger winners; Edmund Cartwright, inventor of the power loom; Edmund Denison, who was responsible for bringing the railway and Plant Works to Doncaster; Armthorpe born Alexander Allan Foote, allegedly a British spy and double agent during World War Two; Arthur Wharton, the first 'black' footballer, who on his retirement from football worked at Yorkshire Main Colliery and is buried in Edlington Cemetery; and lastly Douglas Bader, the World War Two fighter pilot, who spent his childhood years at Sprotbrough Rectory. All these article were first published under the series title Local Heroes in various issues of *Yesterday Today*.

*Memories Of Childhood Between The Wars

Washday on Monday, weekly baths by the fire, Sunday School, the 'penny-rush' at the cinema, all the fun of the fair and village 'feasts', the excitement of race week and games in the street are all memories of childhood between the wars. Peter Darvill, Margaret Burns, Kathleen Higson, Betty Colvill and Irene Smith reminisce about growing up in Bentley, Arksey, Hatfield and Norton in the 1920s and 30s. These articles were first published *Yesterday Today*.

*Memories Of Cusworth Hall And Village by Nigel Young

Long summer days playing in the woods at Cusworth Hall, sledging in the Park at winter, the arrival of excavators and dump trucks to construct the A1(M) at the edge of the Park and an improvised bathroom in the shed are just some of the memories recalled by Nigel Young of his childhood, whilst living in the gatehouse at Cusworth Hall between the mid 1950s and 60s. The sale of the Hall to Doncaster Rural District Council in the early 1960s brought these carefree childhood days to an end. This article was first published *Yesterday Today*.

*Memories Of World War Two: Part 1

Rationing, 'Dig for Victory', 'Make do and mend', blackout and air raid warnings are just some of the memories of the impact WW2 had on everyday life. This compilation also recalls C T Goode's exploits, as a schoolboy, onboard Doncaster trolleybuses to and from Doncaster Grammar School, and the experiences of 'wartime copper', Syd Bycroft. These articles were first published *Yesterday Today*.

*Memories Of World War Two: Part 2

Another collection of articles from Yesterday Today includes 'Digging for Victory in the Doncaster Borough' a look at the ways civilians took up the challenge to become self-sufficient and supplement rationing; and 'What did we do in the war?' an overview of life in Doncaster between 1939 and 1945. Edwin Pretty looks at the role of RAF Finningley during WW2; Margaret Smeaton recalls her wartime childhood memories; and Mary Aldred discovers the reason why the Royal Army Veterinary Corps was stationed in Doncaster.

*On The Right Lines by Albert Collinson

Albert Collinson's love of music began in the 1930s when he learned to play the violin whilst at Intake Junior School. On leaving school in 1935 his ambition was 'to become a professional violinist', however, he had a variety of jobs before becoming a fireman on the railway. After a short spell at Bemberg's in the 1950s, Albert decided to 'follow his dream' and went on to study music at Huddersfield College. Despite disappointments along the way, he finally achieved his ambition and became a peripatetic teacher at the Schools Music Centre. This is the story of one man's determination to succeed.

*Reflections: Memories of Childhood Between the Wars By Doris Kitching

Chapel twice on Sundays, visits to Hexthorpe Flatts, the skating rink and the 'talkies' at the Ritz, Palace and Majestic cinemas, all the fun of race week, Christmas and the pantomime, these are all memories of Doris' childhood in the 1920s and 30s. In Doris' own words 'Money was scarce but life was simple and contented'. However, these happy times were tempered with hardship and sadness as she remembers the effects of the General Strike and the tragic Bentley Pit disaster in 1931, which took the life of her father. These articles were first published in *Yesterday Today*.

*School Days

A delve into the pages of a school logbook can provide a fascinating insight into the daily life of a school and how things have changed over the years. Jenny Pillay, Laurie Thorp and Margaret Pidcock have dipped into the logbooks of Brodsworth, Warmsworth and Adwick-le-Street Junior Schools and Thorne Grammar School to reveal some interesting facts about schooldays from the 1890s until the 1970s. Also included is an account by Don Phillipson of his time at Intake School in the 1930s. These articles were first published in *Yesterday Today*.

*Sport in Doncaster

Local people have always enjoyed sport, both as participants and spectators. This compilation of articles, first published in *Yesterday Today*, brings together the reports which include memories of race week, the visits of Edward VII to the St Leger, an amusing incident involving the British Heavyweight Champion-Peter Jackson during race week in 1892, a short history of Doncaster Rovers, memories of a Rovers' supporter in the 1930s, and a 'whistle-stop' look at other popular sports.

*William Bradford of Austerfield (Mayflower Pilgrim 1589/90-1657): His Life and Work by Malcolm Dolby

On August 5, 1620, 102 people left Southampton, on board the 'Mayflower', bound for the 'New World'. One of those passengers was William Bradford, who was born in Austerfield in 1589, and who, as a young man, had joined the Scrooby Separatist Church, before being forced to flee to Leyden. Malcolm Dolby looks at his life in England, the Low Countries and Plymouth, Massachusetts, where the Pilgrim Fathers eventually settled.

*An Ordinary Life: memories of a Balby childhood

By Winifred M Renshaw

Winifred Renshaw looks back on a childhood that began at the beginning of World War One, when there was no television or computers, and life was simple and carefree. She describes daily life in a typical working class family home with long summer days playing in the street, and visits to Bridlington and her grandparents in Barnburgh. School days at Oswin Avenue and the Girls' High, Balby feast and sports (the highlight of the year), the Sunday School treat, 'all the fun' of Tuby's fair, Christmas preparations and celebrations, and the excitement of listening to the first regular wireless broadcasts on a crystal set with headphones are all vividly recalled.

*Our Doncaster -edited by Alison Morrish

Our Doncaster is a collection of memories of local people of life and times in Doncaster from 1914 to 1950. Childhoods spent in the rural villages of Bawtry and Fenwick are contrasted with life in the mining communities of Bentley, Rossington and Woodlands; experiences of a nurse at the newly opened Doncaster Royal Infirmary contrast with those of an assistant at the Doncaster Workhouse, known as Springwell House. Zeppelins, the first Armistice Day, the KOYLs, firewatching, the Home Guard and bombing raids reflect life during both world wars. Memories of race week, Prince Monolulu, the Fair, the Bijou Picture Palace, Piper's Penny Bazaar and many other people, places and events are all recalled in great detail.

No Sugar in the Tea: life in Thorne and Moorends in World War II

By Allen Darfield

Personal accounts of local people, evacuees and servicemen in the area revive memories of the dark days of 1939-1945. The work and exploits of the ARP wardens and Home Guard, schooldays at Thorne Grammar, the 'Dig for Victory' campaign, 'illegal' pig keeping and the contribution made by women and local industry to the war effort are all recalled. RAF tragedies in the area resulting in the loss of life are reminders of the harsh realities of war.

*The Changing Face of Doncaster by Colin Walton

The story of Doncaster's changing face is told through the history and development of its streets and buildings. Older readers will recall with great affection references to buildings, such as the Palace Theatre, Hanley's Flour Mill, Hodgson & Hepworth's, the Station Road Co-op, Red House Corner, Beethams, Parkinson's, the Sand House and many others. The book is fully illustrated and packed with interesting facts.

*Pride and Poverty: memories of a Mexborough miner by Frank Vernon

Frank Vernon was born in 1923 in Laughton-en-le-Morthen, a small village south of Maltby that was to be his home for the next 50 years before his move to Mexborough. He recalls everyday life in a mining community: his schooldays, starting work at Dinnington Colliery at the age of fourteen, and his subsequent moves to Thurcroft and Yorkshire Main Collieries, where he became involved in trade union activities. Interwoven into this are stories of World War Two, when he was a member of the ARP and an unexploded bomb dropped on the village. There are reminiscences about his fascination with greyhounds, bush beating for shoots at Thoresby Hall and his exploits in entertainment as a clubland singer and a member of the Edlington Glee Singers.

*Hatfield Woodhouse: myths and memories

compiled by June Conliffe

Hatfield Woodhouse during the 19th century, the coronation tree, the Bull Trust and church, chapel and Sunday school events are just some of the memories that villagers have been contributed to this well illustrated book by June Conliffe.

*The Bentley Pit Disaster, Friday 20th November 1931 by

John Woodhead

Coalmining has always been a dangerous occupation, and the consequences of an underground explosion could prove fatal. This dreaded scenario became a reality for the mining community of Bentley on November 20, 1931, when an explosion resulted in the deaths of 45 men and boys, leaving 21 women widowed and 88 fatherless children; 40 men also sustained serious injuries. John Woodhead describes the tragedy and its effects on the local community, the conditions underground, the rescue and subsequent official inquiry, largely through eyewitness accounts.

*South Yorkshire's Own: the story of 616 squadron by Ken Delve & Graham Pitchfork

Former RAF navigator, Ken Delve and Air Commodore Graham Pitchfork, a former station commander at RAF Finningley tell the story of 616 Squadron, the last of a series of squadrons of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force formed during the inter-war years. No.616 was formed at Doncaster Airport in 1938, the following year it transferred to Bomber Command and moved its base to Manston. It fought over the beaches of Dunkirk in May 1940, joined up with Douglas Bader's Tangmere Wing in Battle of Britain and played a significant role during the Normandy landings on D Day. Squadron members, who achieved distinguished service included Buck Casson, Teddy St Aubyn and Doncaster born Hugh 'Cocky' Dundas.

*Happy Event: the story of a fox and her cubs by C. F. Beck

A fox cub may seem a strange choice for a pet but for one animal loving Tickhill family, Midge was just the first of several fox cubs to be reared happily in captivity before breaking free. 'Happy Event' focuses on the vixen cub Wily, who whilst living in the Beck's garden found herself a mate and subsequently produced a litter of five cubs. Having reared the cubs successfully, advertisements in the local press resulted in all finding homes; several months later, however, Wily like the other foxes before her broke free, leaving her owners to grieve for the loss of a much loved pet.

Voices: memories of Doncaster 1939-1945

edited by Richard Finch, Chris Fitt & Carol Hill

'Voices' tells the story of the valuable contribution Doncaster and its people made to the war effort. It was compiled from the recollections of over 250 people, and is a fascinating insight into the changes, brought by war to everyday life through the eyes of local people. It recalls memories of the outbreak of war, rationing, evacuation, the Home Guard, blackout, bombings, wartime childhood, daily life, fundraising, service life, the RAF, prisoners of war, VE Day and the immediate post-war years. The courage, strength and fortitude shown by Doncaster people during six years of war are evident throughout.

*The Mulberry Tree Years by Lois Makin

Lois Makin's story begins in the years of zeppelins, suffragettes and World War One, when she was a small child living in Hyde Park. She recalls the effect war had on her family and the hope that the 1920s would bring prosperity. Family life, school days, Sunday school and Christmas celebrations are just some of the memories described against a backdrop of local, national and international events during the interwar years. The book's title evokes memories of the mulberry tree at the bottom of her grandparents' garden; its berries appearing tempting and delicious but sometimes disappointingly sour; just like life itself.

*Stainforth by Peter Dumville & L. Peterson

This Stainforth miscellany begins with a brief introductory article by Linda Peterson outlining the village's intrinsic link with both the River Don and canal. Following on the waterways theme, Peter Dumville looks back at Stainforth watersports, which were, for almost a century, part of local Feast. Peter also explores the village's musical heritage, the opening of the Hatfield Main Welfare, the arrival of the railway in Stainforth and the formation of the new ecclesiastical parish of St Mary's in 1885. He also looks back at the distinguished career of Stainforth's most famous son, the scientist, George Porter, who became Lord Porter of Luddenham. These articles first appeared in Doncaster's Local History Review *Yesterday Today*.

*Butcher, Baker, Cabinetmaker: an illustrated history of the shop and shopkeeper's of Doncaster by Carol Hill

Parkinson's, Hodgson & Hepworth's and Sheard, Binnington's were arguably three of the best-known shops in Doncaster; they like many others were established in the 19th century at a time when the focus of trade was centred on the Market Place and adjacent streets. This book looks back at an era before supermarkets when the independent shopkeeper reigned supreme and local businesses, such as, Hastie's, Scarborough Brother's, Swaby's, Poynter's and Smithson's were all household names. These were soon to be challenged by the arrival of the Co-op and its unique 'divi' system and the gradual emergence of chain store's such as Freeman, Hardy & Willis, Lipton's and Boots to name but a few. The book is fully illustrated and will evoke memories of shopping in not just one, but several shops for weekly food and essential household items!

*The Bag Muck Strike Denaby Main 1902-1903 by J.E.MacFarlane

Denaby Main, built in the late 1860s, was a hybrid community of miners and their families from different parts of the country, who had come to work at the new Denaby Main Colliery. The whole village was 'owned' by the Denaby Main Colliery Company, who built the houses and provided other amenities, such as shops, schools and churches. Since 1901, there had been a dispute over payment for the removal of 'bag muck': an uneven layer of rock that had to be removed before coal could be mined. This dispute culminated in a bitter strike, which led to the eviction of many miners and their families by the Colliery Company. This book sets out the events leading to the strike and describes the heartbreaking evictions and survival of the families in the harsh winter of 1902-3.

A Doncaster Soldier: my life from 1919 to 1946 by
Leonard Bertram Harvey

Leonard Harvey was born in Derbyshire but at the age of four, and following a brief stay in Edlington, his family settled in Bentley, where his father was employed as a storekeeper at the Cementation Company. During this time he kept a diary describing his childhood, schooldays and work at the Cementation as an apprentice fitter. Following the outbreak of war he worked at Jackson's Garage and British Ropes before receiving his call-up papers and joining the Army in 1941. He was assigned to the Royal Engineers and after a period of training and various postings in the UK, served in South Africa, Egypt and the Middle East. His diary entries describe his wartime exploits until his 'demob' in 1946.

*Return to Bawtry by Jack Smith

Jack Smith recalls life in and around Bawtry station from 1930 when as a boy of six he moved, with his family, to Bawtry when his father became the stationmaster there. Jack brings to life the daily business of the station and all the people who were involved in the running of the station and the train service passing through it. Memories of life at the station and stories of interest are recalled including the day a motor accident left a car on the lines although not causing any casualties it did disrupt the train service. Jack left Bawtry in 1943 when he joined the RAF and he concludes his story when he 'returns to Bawtry' 50 years later and tells of the changes that he witnessed.

Electricity in Doncaster and the Electricity Men by Eric Pinder

Prior to 1900 Doncaster streets and buildings were lit by gas and oil lamps or candles, however some businesses, such as the Co-op on Station Road and Scarborough Brothers on St Sepulchre Gate had their own electricity supply powered by their own generator. It was not until 1897 after much opposition from certain members of Doncaster Council, and pressure from leading tradesmen that the Council agreed to investigate the possibility of an electricity supply for the town. Eric Pinder describes the events leading up to the great 'switch-on' in April 1900 and the subsequent arrival of the public tram service two years later. He also looks at the impact electricity had on theatre and cinema and the 1935 Silver Jubilee and 1937 Coronation celebrations. These articles first appeared in Doncaster's Local History Review *Yesterday Today*.

The Day the Earth Trembled by Frank Vernon

Friday 24th April 1942 saw miners at Barnburgh Colliery go to work as usual but for 17 of them this was going to be no ordinary day down the pit; for the 17 miners didn't realise that they were going to be 'buried alive'. Forty-three hours later 13 were lucky enough to survive this ordeal but four were not so lucky.

Frank Vernon tells the story of 'the day the earth trembled' at Barnburgh Colliery, the valiant rescue of the trapped men, the aftermath and the enquiry into the cause of this tragic mining disaster.

*Road, Rail, Windmills and Pinfolds by various authors

Transport and power are the main themes in this book, which begins by exploring the network of Roman roads in the Cantley area and the forgotten highway -Ricknield Street, which ran from Strafford Sands, near Mexborough to the Roman Ridge at Scawsby and beyond. Stray animals often made road travel hazardous, since medieval times they were rounded up and held temporarily in a secure compound known as a 'pinfold' until a small fee secured their release; Edwin Pretty discovers that many pinfolds have survived and that many streets in the Doncaster area are named after them. By the mid-19th century road transport had been overtaken by the railways; Doncaster became an important centre for rail transport and locomotive engineering, *From Steam to Diesel* looks at the impact both had on the town. Rail transport was relatively safe and accidents were rare; however the discovery of a mystery photograph of a funeral cortege led Martin Crawley to delve into the past to unravel the events of an accident at Babworth in 1923. The 19th century was 'the golden age' of the windmill in England and the last three articles recall the mills and millers in this area. Once again, these articles first appeared in Doncaster's Local History Review *Yesterday Today*.

Tickhill: Portrait of an English Country Town By T.W.Beastall

Although, basically a history of Tickhill from its first mention in a document of 1109 through to the modern country town it is today, this book tells the story of the earlier settlements of Dadesley, Lindrick, Spital and All Hallows, places mainly remembered by the various street names they have inspired. Tom Beastall talks of the geology of the area and the town's ancient buildings such as the Castle, the Parish Church of St Mary's, St Leonard's Hospital, now known as the Parish Rooms. Local people from land owners such as Roger de Busli and Earl Scarbrough to the local residents with information from the 1851 census giving details of the occupations of Tickhill's residents at the time, feature in this publication.

*Stage and Screen by various authors

Before the age of television, 'stage and screen reigned supreme'; the Theatre Royal in the Market Place opened its doors on September 23, 1776, and for more than 120 years was a popular venue with the upper and middle classes. Programmes were varied and ranged from farce to tragedy to an exhibition of Madame Tussaud's waxworks. Street theatre, in the form of travelling shows such as menageries and 'freak' shows, was popular with the working classes. The Circus Hall on Station Road provided alternative entertainment, hosting events such as Boswell's Circus, pantomime and variety acts, and in 1896, the Cinematograph was operated there for the first time in Doncaster. In the early 20th century, cinema was seen as a rival to the theatre; silent movies gave way to the 'talkies' and most working class folk went to the cinema at least once a week. Until the post-war years and the advent of television, there were six cinemas in the town centre and every suburb and village had its own. The excitement of the 'live' show' the queues, the 'penny rush', the gods, the bag of Harry Teale's humbugs and other memories are all recalled in this book, in an era when 'stage and screen reigned supreme'! Once again, these articles first appeared in Doncaster's Local History Review *Yesterday Today*.

A History of Doncaster by Brian Barber

This is the story of Doncaster, with an introduction giving the town's early history from the Roman settlement of Danum through to the Norman community mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. Brian Barber goes on to give us an insight into Doncaster as a prosperous market town, its industrialisation, the effects of the two world wars and through to present day. No history of Doncaster would be complete without a mention of the races including the St Leger, the Doncaster's coalmining heritage and of course the major effect that the coming of the railways and the Plant Works had on the town.

Entertainment in Rhyme by Betty Pearson

Retired schoolteacher, Betty Pearson, puts her memories of Doncaster and the surrounding area into rhyme. She recalls school and childhood experiences, memories of the war years and reflects on the changing face of Doncaster. Visits to Doncaster by the Queen Mother and the Beatles are remembered here in Betty's poetry.

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