

CHOCOLATE AND CHICORY

York and beyond, by bicycle

LISA NORTH

© Lisa North. All rights reserved.
First published in 2010.
This edition 2011.

Produced via the print-on-demand services at www.lulu.com, and
printed in the UK. Typeset by the author.

www.yorkstories.co.uk

Cover photos

Front cover: cycle track heading out of town, Rawcliffe.

Back cover, top: Acaster Malbis airfield. Other photos (clockwise from top left): 'Rupert's barn' at Poppleton; warning sign on cycle track by Nestlé Rowntree factory, during demolition work; detail from Healaugh's church doorway; former Marston Moor station; sheep by the river at Moor Monkton; milepost on Shipton Road.

Contents

Introduction	1
--------------------	---

The local landscape

Seeing the join	3
Crosses on the landscape	5
In search of churches	8
Industry, transport, and change	10
A 17th century lament	12

Routes

Route 1: Dreamers and aerodromes	15
Route 2: Bicycling to Bohemia	23
Route 3: Following the wars	33
Route 4: Doorways and duck ponds.....	47
Route 5: Finding asylum	56
Route 6: Old stones	64
Route 7: Of chocolate and chicory	75
Route 8: Racing trains, to Moorlands	85

Cycling

Bicycling beginnings	95
Back in the saddle	98
The Beckfield Lane mile	100
Cycling in the suburbs	101
Cycling now and then	103

Bibliography.....	107
-------------------	-----

Index	110
-------------	-----

*With 19th century comments on many aspects of cycling,
on pages 14, 22, 32, 46, 74 and 84.*

PDF preview of

*Chocolate and Chicory: York and beyond, by
bicycle*

by Lisa North

Available to buy online, from lulu.com

See www.yorkstories.co.uk/books/

*Preview pages in this document: title &
copyright page, contents page, introduction,
p23, p93 (map), index.*

© Lisa North, 2011

Introduction

This book is for anyone interested in the local history beyond our city's walls. It includes mapped routes for travelling by bicycle, but can also be enjoyed from the comfort of your sofa, without undertaking any two-wheeled journeys.

In 2004 I set up www.yorkstories.co.uk, with photos and observations of York and Yorkshire. As a long-time resident of York I've walked all over the city, and know it well from the perspective of a pedestrian on the pavements. Cycling gives you the ability to travel further and faster, and from somewhere, unexpectedly, came the urge to start cycling again, after a gap of around twenty years.

Through the late summer of 2008 I cycled through the local countryside on a borrowed bike, and in the spring of 2009 I bought one, and continued my journeys on my own 'trusty steed'. My long-standing interest in York's history led me to seek out more information on the places I cycled through.

I traced routes, retraced them, investigated bits of muddy bridleway that might serve as short cuts between busy roads. Periods of history began to form a more cohesive picture, in place of previously random, disconnected facts. As I cycled between factories and the fields that supplied them, between a stone tower and a battlefield memorial, this book started to form some kind of shape.

Each of the eight routes has a broad 'theme', with an emphasis on aspects of our more recent history. Toll cottages and mileposts and railway lines, our connections to an expanding world of travel possibilities. Asylums treating 'the insane', in the centuries before our national treasures talked openly about mental health difficulties. Our open spaces, our land, common land protected, not parcelled up and sold for development. Weathered stones still standing to remind us of 'pest-houses' that are long gone. Churches, some old, some new, some restored by the Victorians. Landscapes of war, smoothed over or still jagged, memorialised or not. All beyond the 'historic core' of central York.

The well-known historic streets and buildings in the city centre become a bit crowded, particularly in the summer months, and some of the 'tourist trail' history can feel a little stale. Guy Fawkes was born in York, and Dick Turpin died in York, as we no doubt all know. Yet there have been many interesting individuals who have had a proper, long-lasting connection with the city and its surrounding areas, and their

stories are less well-known. People who worked all their lives to relieve the sufferings of the poor and powerless. People who came here because of war or famine. People who were based at local airfields, during and after the Second World War. People who harvested crops in the fields in the 19th century. People who made a living from breeding and racing horses. People who had to choose sides during the Civil War. People who saw our suburbs burning. Their stories feature in these pages, and where possible, where their words were in print to be passed down the generations, I've quoted them directly, old-fashioned spellings and all.

I wasn't captivated by history when I was at school, and I know I'm not alone in this. It all seemed very remote, with too many dates, too many tedious treaties, and too much about kings and queens. Later, while attempting to engage with aspects I thought I should know more about, I found too much that was either horribly gory or too wrapped up in military terminology. So these pages make only passing reference to royalty and avoid elaborating on executions. A couple of military men are met with in these pages, but with their 'softer' qualities shown.

The first section introduces aspects of the local landscape featured in the routes that follow, placing them in context and reflecting on the wider landscape of the Vale of York – a flat land filled with airfields during the Second World War.

The general flatness of our landscape makes it a good location for cycling, for those of us who prefer not to cycle up too many hills. In the York area we're particularly fortunate, as our 'cycling city' status has meant we're provided with a good network of cycle tracks and cycle lanes. The suggested routes in this book use the off-road cycle tracks to get beyond the city centre, and then head for quiet country roads and bridleways, avoiding busy roads wherever possible. Those closer to the city centre use the 'cycle-friendly' routes.

All the mapped routes have been travelled and tested by a rather unfit forty-something on an old and basic bike. An account of my return to cycling – and the daunting business of buying a bike – is included in the final chapters.

I hope you enjoy this exploration of York and beyond. If you have comments or questions, email lisanorth@yorkstories.co.uk.

Route 2

Bicycling to Bohemia

In which we visit three airfields, make connections with Canada and Poland, and take a quiet bridleway through an oddly-named place

St Joseph's church

At the roundabout at the end of Bur Dyke Avenue is a modern-looking brick church, St Joseph's. Just behind it was Clifton's airfield. Residents of the area would have been used to the sound of aircraft taking off and landing, throughout the war and afterwards, when bombers were flown here to be dismantled. On 8 June 1945 one of the Halifax bombers on its way to Clifton airfield encountered a problem in landing, and in trying to climb away, a wing tip caught the tower of the church. The aircraft crash-landed on the other side of the roundabout, where the Imperial Hotel used to stand, and both the pilot and engineer were killed. Eyewitnesses said that the pilot manoeuvred the Halifax away from the housing. The impact of the crash sent pieces of wreckage through windows of nearby houses, but no civilians were killed.

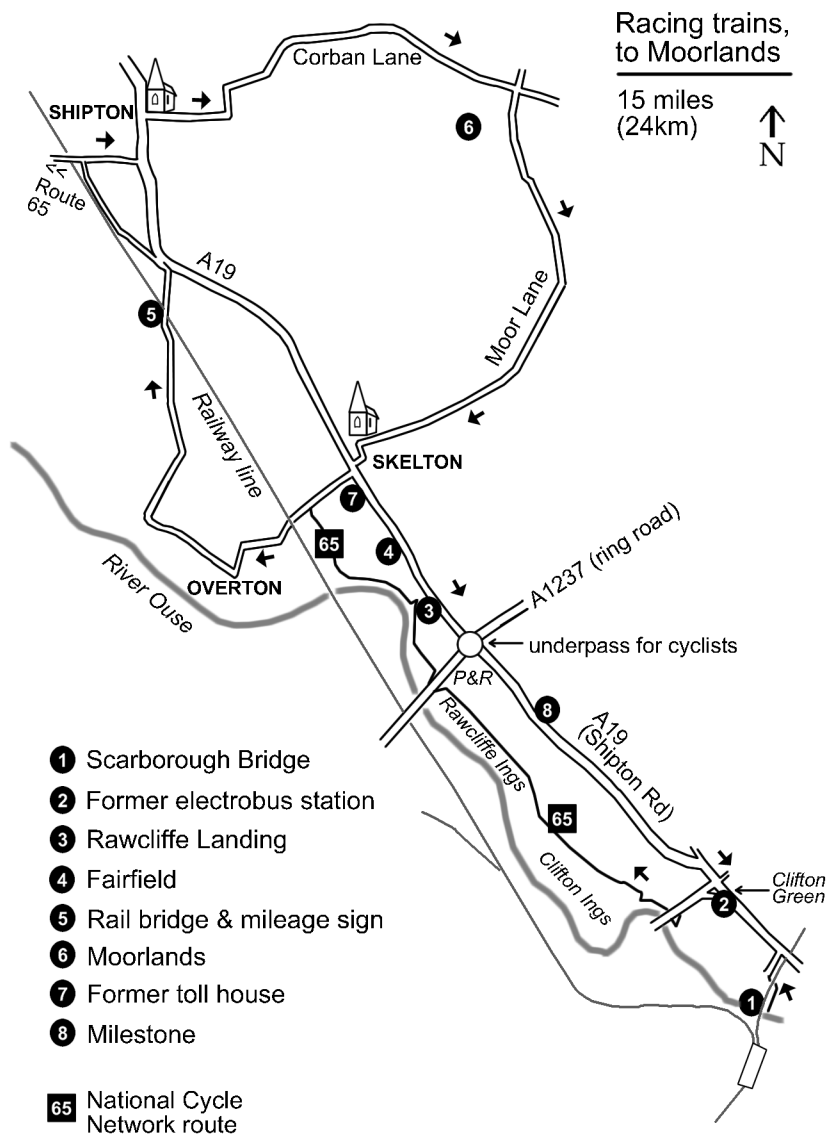
Just one of many, many crashes during the war years. An inevitable consequence of so many airfields, so close to the city and its surrounding villages.

The Canadian crews

Memorials are also to be found in the churches at Little Ouseburn and Alne. These churches too were damaged when stricken aircraft crash-landed close to them. At Ouseburn, a stained glass window in the porch is the village's memorial to the crew, of the Royal Canadian Air Force. At Alne, the village church lost its stained glass in the east window, blown out when a bomber caught nearby trees and came down near the church. The framed memorial on the church wall records that the plane was from nearby Tholthorpe, and crashed shortly after take-off. Again, the crew were Canadian.

As remembering the war tends to make many people feel particularly patriotic, it's easy to forget that many of the young men flying off from

Route 8 – Racing trains, to Moorlands



Index

- abbey wall 4, 33
Acaster Malbis 17-19
Acaster Selby 20
Acomb 8, 10, 47, 67, 103 (see also Beckfield Lane)
'Adelpha' 32, 74, 95-96
agricultural implements 68
aircraft crashes 6, 18, 23, 24, 25, 41
airfields 5, 6-7, 17, 18-19, 23-26, 27-28, 35, 40-41
Aldborough 24
allotments 65
Alne 7, 23
Ashe, Simeon 34-35, 38
Askham Bryan 47
Askham Grange prison 54
Askham Richard 47
Asylum Farm 60
Asylum Lane 56
asylums 56-61
asylums, private 61
- Bad Bargain Lane 80
Baedeker raid 3, 35
Baily's Magazine 89
barracks 69
Beckfield Lane 41, 100
Bedlam 57
Belcombe's asylum 61
Belgravia magazine 95
Beningbrough 98, 103
Best, Charles (Dr) 57-8
Best, Mary Ellen 58
bicycle-buying 98-99
Bike Rescue 99
Billbrough 50, 51, 53
Bogg, Edmund 51-52, 53
- Blair Athol 89
Bohemia 27
Bolton Percy 49
bomb damage 3, 15, 35, 41
Bootham 34, 35
Bootham Crescent (football ground) 9
Bootham Park Hospital 57-8
Bootham Stray 66, 67-8
Boye 39
Bridge Lane (see Asylum Lane)
Bridge of boats 17, 36
bridges 85-86
Broadhead, Arthur 35
Buckden Pike 5-6
Burton Stone 67
- 'Camp coffee' 80-1
Canadian airmen 5, 7, 23-5, 27,
Carter, Henry Barlow 33
Chambers Journal 95
chaplains 7, 33 (see also Ashe, Simeon)
Charles I 36, 51-52
chicory 10, 68, 76-8, 79-81
Chrzanowski, John, & family 25-26
churches 8-9, 23, 47, 48-50, 52, 90
city walls 4, 10 (see also abbey wall)
Civil War 3-5, 12, 17, 33-39, 42, 49, 50-52
Clifton 101-102
Clifton airfield (Clifton Backies) 23, 28
Clifton cinema (Clifton Bingo) 35

-
- Clifton Green 58, 61, 86
 Clifton Hospital 59-60, 89
 Clifton Park 59
 Cocoa, Chocolate & Chicory Works 77
Coming Up for Air 16
Complete Cyclist, The 96
 Conolly, John 58
 Cromwell, Oliver 39, 106
 Cycle tracks, development of 103-104
Cycling! 22, 96
 Cycling
 competitive 84
 excessive 46
 fashion 14, 96
 and health 57, 74
 history of (19th century) 95-97
 hundred years hence 22, 27
 in bad weather 104-105
 in wartime 27
 older cyclists 32, 97

 Defence of Britain project 18-19
 Derwent Valley Light Railway 76
Devil's Whore, The 4
 Dodsworth, Roger 33, 51
 duck ponds 47-48
 Duncan, Dr 58
 Dunnington 61, 68, 76-77, 79

 East Moor 24-26, 27
 electrobus station 86-87

 factories 10-11, 76 (see also Rowntree factory)
 Fairfax, Anne 50, 52-53
 Fairfax, Ferdinando 49, 51
 Fairfax, Thomas 39, 50-52, 53
 Fairfield 68, 88-89, 90

 ferries 85
 fever hospital 79
 Finnegan, Frances 78
 First World War 15, 16
 Fisher of Dreams 16, 17
 Foss Islands 10, 76
 Fulford Cross 70

 Garrowby Hill 6
 Garrowby memorial 6
 Goddard, J T 95
 Great North Road 90
 Guildhall 35

 Halifax, Lord 6
 Handley Page 28
 Harewood Whin 41, 104
 Hargrove, William 37
 Healaugh 48-49
 Henry VIII 70
 herdsman's cottages 68, 69, 71
 Higgins, Godfrey 57
 Hob Moor 65, 66
 Hob Moor stone 66
 Holtby 77, 80, 82
 Holy Trinity Priory 34
 horse breeders 88-89
 Horsefair 56
 horse racing 88
 Hull cinema 3
 Huntington 67
 Huntington church 68
 Huntington cross 68-69

 Ibson, Thomas 17
 Ingram's almshouses 34
 ings – Clifton & Rawcliffe 86, 87, 88
 INL club 80
 inner ring road (proposed) 56, 70
-

Index

- Inns, Mr 25
Irish immigration 77-80
- Jackson, John 88-89
- King's Manor 33
Kingsway 101
Knavesmire 15, 65, 71
- Layerthorpe 10, 66, 76, 87
Linton-on-Ouse 28
Lithgow, W 100
Little Ouseburn 23
Long Marston station 43
- Marston Moor 4, 5, 33, 36, 37,
38-40, 104, 105
Marvell, Andrew 51, 53
Mason, William 57
McAndrew, Teddy 78
McKay, Russell 27
memorials 5-6, 23-24, 25, 26, 28
metal detectorists 40
Micklegate Bar 42
Micklegate Stray 65, 71
milepost 90-91
milestone 64
Millennium Bridge 70, 86
Mill Mount School 71
Milton, John 51, 52
Monk Stray 69, 86
Moorlands 89-90
Moor Monkton 36-37
mounting block 64-65
Murton 76
- Nestlé (see Rowntree factory)
North and East Ridings
Asylum/North Riding Asylum
(see Clifton Hospital)
Nun Monkton 36-37
- Orwell, George 16
Overton 36, 88, 92
- Palmes, Brian 70
Pemberton, A C 84
pest houses 66-67
Pilgrimage of Grace 70
plague 64, 66-67, 69
Plainville 27
Polish exiles 25-26
Polish aircrew memorial 5
Poppleton 17, 36
Poppleton Rd School 41
Poverty and Prejudice 78
Prince Rupert 36
Proctor, William 78
psalm singing 37
- railway lines 16, 75-76, 85, 87-88
railway station 86
Rawcliffe 88, 89, 101-102
Rawcliffe ings 88
Rawcliffe Lake 102
Rawcliffe Landing 60, 87
RCAF – see Canadian airmen
Red House 36
Retreat, The 58-59, 79, 89
Robertson, W N 96-97
Rowntree, Seebohm 79, 80
Rowntree factory 9, 75-6, 77, 79
Rowntree Halt 75-76
Rowntree, Henry 79
Rowntree, Joseph 77
Royal Agricultural Society
Show 68
Rufforth airfield 6, 40-41
Rupert's barn 36
- St Aidan's church, Acomb 8, 47
St James's church, Bilbrough 50

-
- St John's church, Healaugh 9, 48-49
- St Joseph's church, Clifton 23
- St Martin le Grand church, Coney St 3
- St Mary's Abbey 4, 70
- St Mary's Tower 3, 4, 33, 35, 50
- St Saviourgate 34
- Scottish soldiers 17, 80-81
- Second World War 3, 5-7, 17, 18, 23-28, 35-36, 40-41, 65, 76, 92
- service hostel (WW2) 35-36
- Shipton 88, 92
- siege of York 3, 33-35, 36, 42, 59
- Skelton 64, 89, 90
- Slingsby, Charles 39
- Slingsby, Henry 36-37, 42
- Smith, Thomas 'Chicory' 10
- Stables, Gordon 74, 84
- statues 16
- strays 15, 64, 65-66, 67-68, 69, 71
- Strays and Ways of York* 65, 70
- suburbs 12, 13, 33, 34, 101-102
- Sutton-on-the-Forest 24-26
- Tang Hall 80
- Terry's of York 10
- Tew, Edward Grosvenor 90
- Tholthorpe 7, 23, 27
- Thompson, George 89
- Thompson, Henry 68, 88, 89
- toll houses 86, 90
- Towneley, Mary 39
- Trevor, Arthur 38
- Tuke, Daniel Hack 59
- Tuke, Maria 59, 79
- Tuke, Samuel 59, 79
- Tuke, William 58
- typhus fever 78
- velocipede 95
- Wallwin, Rev 96
- Walmgate 80
- Walmgate Bar 59
- Walmgate Stray 69
- Watson, Scoutmaster 38
- Weir Pond, Holtby 82
- Wentworth, Thomas 67
- Wharton, Lord 49
- Wesleyan Chapel, Bilbrough 52
- Widdrington, Thomas 12
- Willard, Frances 97
- Williamson, Mrs Harcourt 14, 96
- York Aircraft Repair Depot 28
- York Asylum (see Bootham Park Hospital)
- York to Selby cycle route 15-16
- Yorkshire Fine Arts and Industrial Exhibition 56
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust 90
- Zeppelin raids 15

