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## Graham's "The Diary of Joshua Whiting from 1861 to 1873" - Book Review

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This book is a work that involved a wide range of historical approaches, from the use of primary sources from the seventeenth century to oral history from the twentieth century. It is a risky venture at first glance, because it appears to tie together distinct periods. This is offset by the maintenance of a central proposition that the development of a Quaker Apocalyptic Testimony in the seventeenth century enables active intervention during the intervening years. In this endeavour the book is a successful one and presents us with a clear link between present and past that is both valuable in itself, but also an exemplar of historical relevance.

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GRAHAM, S. (compiler), *The Diary of Joshua Whiting from 1861 to 1873* (York: William Sessions, 2006), pp. xxiii + 122. ISBN-85072-318-4, Paper, £9.50.

This is a charming and lovingly compiled little book which interweaves original entries from the diary of Joshua Whiting, 'citizen, countryman and Quaker' of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, with expert comment on beekeeping by Will Messenger, and editorial notes by Sarah Graham. The diary (the original of which is now in Friends' House Library) offers some valuable insights into the life of middle class English Quakers of this period. This edition would be of particular interest to beekeepers and gardeners, and illustrates a time when Friends were generally rather more in tune with nature, and able to sustain a domestic economy with the fruits of their own outdoor labour. Lavishly illustrated, and dealing with often idyllic subject matter, the contents are nevertheless far from sentimental. They also suggest an ever-present, if not always wholeheartedly supported thread of environmental concern among Quakers.

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