

THE

NATIONAL

ARCHIVES

HISTORY  
MYSTERIES



# History Mysteries: Anne Lister

Accompanying resource pack

Key Stage 3 | Empire and Industry 1750-1850

# Introduction

Thank you for joining History Mysteries: Anne Lister. This learning resource can be completed before or after watching the video or Q&A. It includes a brief introduction to The National Archives, a copy and transcript of Anne Lister's will, as well as a decoding activity of an excerpt of her diary. Below, you will also find further resources to aid in your teaching of the life of Anne Lister.

Suitable for:

KS 3

Time period:

Empire and Industry  
1750-1850

## Further resources for teachers:

[‘Gentleman Jack: Anne Lister – the first modern lesbian?’<sup>1</sup>](#) by Vicky Iglikowski-Broad, The National Archives

[Anne Lister Catablogue<sup>2</sup>](#): a series of blogs written by experts at West Yorkshire Archives Services.

[‘Anne Lister makes Some Shoppings’ blog<sup>3</sup>](#): Explore some of the places Lister went to in London, comparing how they look now with how they would have looked in the 1800s.

[MyLearning - Anne Lister of Shibden Hall<sup>4</sup>](#): activities and resources created by Calderdale Museums: Bankfield Museum.

<sup>1</sup> <https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/gentleman-jack-anne-lister-the-first-modern-lesbian/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://wyascatablogue.wordpress.com/exhibitions/anne-lister/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://wyascatablogue.wordpress.com/2023/06/22/anne-lister-makes-some-shoppings/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.mylearning.org/stories/anne-lister-of-shibden-hall/1345>

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## Task one: The National Archives

History Mysteries is brought to you by The National Archives – the official archive of the UK Government. We collect and preserve historical records from the past 1000 years, making them as accessible and available as possible. Can you put the following of our most iconic documents into chronological order?

**A**

Domesday Book

**B**

Guy Fawkes' Confession

**C**

Charles I's trial notes

**D**

The US Declaration of Independence

**E**

Charges against Anne Boleyn

**F**

The Windrush Passenger List



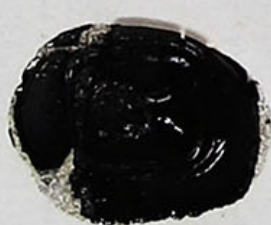
## Anne Lister's will, 1841

Catalogue Ref: PROB 10/6000

This is the last will and testament of me Anne Lister Sister of William Lister  
in the township of South Shields in the parish of St. Andrew in the county of York.  
written and made the ~~ninth~~ day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand and  
eight hundred and thirty six. I give and devise all my estate called ~~William~~  
Hall and all and singular the messuages farms lands tenements and real  
estate whatsoever and wheresoever which I own in anywise seized or entitled  
to or have power to dispose of unto my friend Miss Ann Walker who is now  
living with me at Shibden Hall

Provided lastly and I do hereby declare that in case of the marriage  
of the said Ann Walker all and singular the trust estates monies  
and premises and all the trusts powers and authorities whatsoever  
hereinbefore given to or reposed in her shall thenceforth cease and  
determine in the same manner to all intents constructions and  
purposes as if the said Ann Walker should have then departed this  
life

A Lister





## Anne Lister's will: Transcript

This is the last will and testament of me Anne Lister of Shibden Hall in the township of Southowram in the parish of Halifax in the county of York, spinster, made the ninth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty six. I give and devise all my estate called Shibden Hall and all and singular the messuages farms lands tenements and real estate whatsoever and wheresoever which I am in anywise seized of or entitled to or have power to dispose of unto my friend Miss Ann Walker who is now living with me at Shibden Hall. ...

Provided lastly and I do hereby declare that in case of the marriage of the said Ann Walker all and singular the trust estates monies and premises and all the trusts proven and authorities whatsoever hereinbefore given to as or reposed in her shall thenceforth cease and determine in the same manner to all intents constrictions and purposes as if the said Ann Walker should have then departed this life. ...

A Lister

## Task two: Anne Lister's diaries

Anne Lister's diaries were discovered by her distant cousin, John Lister, in the 1880s. With the help of the antiquarian Arthur Burrell, John immediately got to work on cracking the code.

After months of pouring over the diary, Arthur and John found a phrase they thought could be the key to uncovering the code. In her 'plain hand', it read: 'In God is my ⑥ 5 + 3'. Working backwards from here, they were able to figure out the rest of the code.

Activity: Can you decode the crypted phrase? Use the key below to help you.

⑥ 5 + 3

✓	th	⊙	ff	2	A	1	N
Λ	sh	:	ll	7	B	5	O
▽	ch	L	nn	0	C	+	P
X	and	!	oo	3	D	=	Q
f	bb	#	pp	3	E	p	R
3	cc	f	rr	u	F	=	S
i	ee	?	ss	^	G	2	T
				⊙	H	6	U
				4	I	9	V
				4	J	8	W
				1	K	w	X
				7	L	7	Y
				-	M	9	Z

**Challenge:** Can you decode Lister's most famous entry, below?

4 d 5 9 3 2 \ 0 5 \ d 7 d 5 9 3 2 0 3 u 2 4 p 3 p = 3 w



## Why do our hyperlinks come with footnotes?

Our resources are designed to be printed and used in classrooms, which means hyperlinks aren't always accessible digitally. We include the full link at the bottom of the page so that you can type in the address without distracting from the main text of the lesson materials.

## Did you know?

The National Archives Education Service also offers free workshops onsite in Kew and online in your classroom.

Our [Onsite Workshops](#) are available for free here at The National Archives and allow students to experience genuine original documents reflecting over 1000 years of history. From Elizabeth I's signature to the telegrams of the sinking Titanic, students love the wow-factor of being able to see real history on the desk in front of them.

Our [Online Workshops](#) allow our Education Officers to teach through your projector, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer with a projector, webcam and microphone. We'll arrange a test call before your session to check the tech is working.

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## Find out more:

 [nationalarchives.gov.uk/education](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/education)

 [education@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:education@nationalarchives.gov.uk)

[facebook.com/TheNationalArchivesEducationService](https://facebook.com/TheNationalArchivesEducationService)

[twitter.com/UKNatArcEdu](https://twitter.com/UKNatArcEdu)