

## Process Paper

### How we chose our topic

Our group, after brainstorming ideas, came to the consensus that we would do something on queer history, since it was something, we were all at least a little interested in. At first, we thought we might do Stonewall, but, after scrolling through a page of significant queer figures in history, the name Anne Lister caught our eye and we decided that this woman was more interesting.

### How we conducted our research

Since Bernice actually does not need to do NHD (it was her choice to do it), only Beverly and Makayla turned in the research sheets, although we all did research. Mr. Murphy (the person in charge of NHD for our grade) had us turn a certain number of sources incrementally as time went by, and that helped us pace ourselves.

### How we chose the performance category and created our project

Originally, we all just knew we wanted to do a performance and we were also generally into theatre, so we started thinking about a musical; That was decided against later because of the impending workload that would include. Over time we developed our script by meeting together in shared classes or at each other's houses, during that same time we worked together on planning the set and costumes. We met at the library and created a script 13 pages long, then we went home and practiced our lines individually. We went to thrift stores together to gather costumes and props, and Beverly worked from home to design and build our set. Because of the

quarantine we were not able to get together and record a new and edited version of our performance for State competition. So it was nice that we were not required to send a recording of our performance to National competition, and instead we edited our script.

#### How our project relates to the theme

Our project is on Miss Anne Lister of Shibden hall who made a point to break the barrier of expectations society had for her; she wore all black and dressed on the masculine side of fashion, was respectably more educated than the average woman would be, dated women, was a successful businesswoman, and owned Shibden hall.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources:

“Anne Lister: Reworded York Plaque for ‘First Lesbian’.” BBC News, BBC, 28 February. 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-47404525>

This picture is of a plaque dedicated to miss Anne Lister, it marks where Anne Lister was sealed in union with Ann Walker. We used this as an outline for a model plaque used in our performance.

Horner, Joshua. “Ann Lister Portrait.” Calderdale Museums. Calderdale Museums, n.d.

Web. 12/10/19. <http://museums.calderdale.gov.uk/famous-figures/anne-lister>

This Digital picture of a painting of Anne Lister is helpful to us because it shows us what she looked like. We modeled our costumes off it.

“Inflation Calculator.” Bank of England, 22 January 2019

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation/inflationcalculator?number.Sections%5B0%5D.Fields%5B0%5D.Value=90&startyear=11.7&end-year=1110.8>

This website is helpful because it helps us see how much money Anne Lister had compared to what its value is now. It also helped us understand how much money Anne had before she came to own Shibden Hall.

Lister, Anne and Helena Whitbread. *The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister*. Great Britain, Virago Press, 2010.

The book helped us with the project because it gives us an insight to what her life was like. It helps us understand the troubles of being a woman in the time period and how badly she was treated by people sometimes. The book tells us about nine years of her life from her own perspective. Therefore, it tells us how she is feeling. She also tells her diary what she tells no one else; we know more about her than the people in her life could have told us.

Whitbread, Helena. Typed interview. 12/17/19.

In this interview we had with Miss Whitbread, Helena brought to light a lot of details about Miss Lister's life we that we had not considered. She also used quotes in her answers that were quite interesting. We learned more about the context of Anne's life, as well as Anne's ambitions all laid out for us.

## Secondary Sources:

Anne's Story. 2015, <https://www.annelister.co.uk/>.

This online article about Anne Lister of Shibden Hall and Helena Whitbread (The woman who translated Anne's diaries) helped me understand more about who Miss Whitbread is, as well as giving me a good, easy to read summary of Miss Lister's life. The website also gives us a method to contact Helena.

Bent, Lloyd. Anne Lister: the true story behind Gentleman Jack based on trailblazing diaries of the 'first modern lesbian'. JPIMedia Publications Ltd, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

<https://inews.co.uk/culture/television/anne-lister-gentleman-jack-true-storydiaries-lesbian-shibden-hall-suranne-jones-499073>

This source is about Anne Lister and her partner Ann Walker. It helps us because it tells us about how and where they were 'married'; specific details regarding their personal lives; and the backlash that occurred after other people found out they were living together.

Choma, Anne. Gentleman Jack the Real Anne Lister. Penguin Books, 2019 United States.

This translation of Anne Lister's diary helped us understand on the growth of Ann Lister's relationship with Ann Walker overtime, it also shows the struggles of being gay and in a closeted relationship back then. It's helpful to have a firsthand opinion on everything she went through.

Crow Nest park Golf Club. "Our History" Crow Nest Park Golf Club, Apogee

Technology, 2019, <https://www.crownestgolf.co.uk/welcome/our-history/>

This website for the Crow Nest golf club tells us about the history behind Crow Nest, which was the home of the Walker family. The Walkers house was destroyed many years ago and turned into a golf course. It helps us because we spent a long time trying to find out where Crow Nest was, but the source tells us that it was destroyed a while ago. It also helped us calculate how far away Crow Nest was from Shibden Hall plus how far Anne had to walk to get to Ann's house (and vice versa).

Liddington, Jill. "What did Anne Lister do - in 1832?". December 11<sup>th</sup> 2019.

<http://www.jliddington.org.uk/anne-lister2.html>

This article on what Anne Lister was doing in 1832 gave us more context as to what the regional politics were at the time. We also learned that the author of this article wrote three biographies on Anne Lister.

Newton, Grace. "Gentleman Jack: The Tragic fate of Anne Lister's 'wife' Ann Walker". The Yorkshire Post, The Yorkshire post, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019,

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/heritage/gentleman-jack-the-tragic-fate-of-annelister-s-wife-ann-walker-1-9778383>

The article tells us about Ann Walker's brothers and sisters, where she lived throughout her life, and her sad fate after Anne Lister died. Ann Walker was declared insane by her family and was put into an asylum, she couldn't make a will because of her mental state. It helps us with our project because it gives context to Ann Walker's life from before she met Anne Lister.

“The real ‘Gentleman Jack’: the secret life of Anne Lister, Britain’s ‘first modern lesbian’”.

Immediate Media Company, May 20, 2019. December 11<sup>th</sup> 2019.

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/victorian/anne-lister-real-gentleman-jackdiary-code-history-secret-life-britain-first-modern-lesbian/>

In this article on Ann Lister we learned that the first people to break Anne’s code were John Lister and Arthur Burrell. We also learned that John, a distant cousin of Anne, hid the diaries in a hidden chamber at Shibden hall.

Wainwright, Sally. “Are You Still Talking?” Gentleman Jack. HBO, BBC One. UK, 22, April 2019. Television.

This episode shows the growth of Ann Lister’s relationship with Ann Walker overtime and it shows the struggles of being gay and in a closeted relationship back then. The TV show will help us understand how to act out the characters in the show, their mannerisms, and clothing, which would be hard to visualize in a book.

Woods, Rebecca. “The Life and Loves of Miss Ann Lister” BBC.co.uk.3 May, 2019.

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/the\\_life\\_and\\_loves\\_of\\_anne\\_lister](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/the_life_and_loves_of_anne_lister) The life and loves of miss Anne Lister, the title describes it well. It is a detailed summary of Ann’s life and loves. Besides being an excellent pool of information, if we ever need a recap or are looking for something about a specific time in her life we can go to this website, it is extremely easy to read, and has excellent flow.

It certainly helped me quite a lot with my preliminary research.