WOMEN'S HISTORY IN YORK MAP

1. York St John University
2. St. Andrewgate
3. Stonegate
4. Gallows Site
5. Bar Convent
6. Castlegate
7. The Shambles
8. Coffee Yard
9. CAG
10. Coney Street
11. York Theatre Royal
12. Bootham Park Hospital
13. EGV Maggazine
14. Skeldergate House
15. York Castle Museum

Locations:
- York Minster
- Bootham
- Coney Street
- Coffee Yard
- CAG
- St. Andrewgate
- Stonegate
- York Theatre Royal
- York Castle Museum
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1. The Cruse sisters

*College for Mistresses, 1834-1854 (now York St John University)*

In July 1846, the Committee of the Two Divines appointed three sisters (Winifred, Catherine and Mary Cruse) to lead a recently established Female Training School in York. This was a convenient institution to the Training School for men founded in 1844 on Lord Mayor's Walk. Winifred and Catherine Cruse closely supervised the first 40 women students, who were not allowed to leave their accommodation on 33 Moricgate and go into York without previous permission. The sisters also created a timetable as strenuous as the men’s, running from 6am to 9.45pm, and including additional domestic chores.

2. Catherine Cappe and Faith Gray (1780s)

*St. Andrew’s*

These two female philanthropists are recognised for their pioneering work to reform the education and employment of girls in a local hemp factory in the 1780s, which led to the foundation of the York Spinning School on St. Andrew’s in 1782. This charity school offered paid work and rudimentary education to girls, who also received financial relief from the York Female Friendly Society; another initiative of Cappe and Gray to alleviate the conditions of working class women throughout their lives, in sickness, confinement and old age.

3. Female Prison

*New York Castle Museum*

In 1780, a new wing of the Debtor's Prison was constructed to hold female felons and cach prison overcrowding. Located opposite the Crown Court, the building was commandeered by visitors, such as the prison reformer John Howard, for its gender segregation. However, male debtors soon populated the wing, which also housed a chapel and wards for the sick.

4. Mary Bateson (1768 - 1809)

*Goddard St, behind York Crown Court*

While York Castle is remembered for halting Dick Turpin’s adventures, little is known about female outlaws of the time, such as Mary Bateman. Called the ‘Yorkshire Witch’ (for her trade in poisons, spells and other magical frauds), she was convicted for murder at the York Assizes and hanged at noon on 20 March 1809 outside the Castle. After her execution, her corpse was publicly exhibited at Leeds General Infirmary, and relics of her skin were sold as protective charms.

5. Kate Atkinson (1951 -)

*York Castle Museum*

Born in York, Kate Atkinson set her first novel *Behind the Scenes at the Museum* (1995) in her home city. Inspired by her childhood visits to York Castle Museum, Atkinson’s novel won the 1995 Whitbread Book of the Year Prize. Kirkgate, the museum’s famous recreation of a Victorian street, features prominently in the text as the space where the narrator Ruby Lennox can contemplate her own complex family history. Atkinson has continued to write critically acclaimed fiction including *Life After Life*, which won the 2013 Costa Novel Award.

6. Mary Ellen Best (1809 - 1891)

*Casting*

Mary Ellen Best was a renowned watercolourist of domestic life in early Victorian York. She grew up on Little Blake Street near the Minster, before spending three years in France with her family after the Napoleonic Wars. She later settled back in her hometown, in Castlegate, which she depicted through a series of watercolour scenes. Her compositions (around 1,500 in total) focused on the everyday life of middle-class households and gained her fame in Britain and Germany, where she died in 1891.

7. Margaret Clitherow (1556-1586)

*The Shambles*

Daughter of the Sheriff of York, Clitherow converted to Catholicism in the early 1570s. She was imprisoned for her faith (then prohibited in England) in York Castle, where she spent at least two other periods of incarceration. At her house in the Shambles, Clitherow constructed a secret room in which to hide persecuted Catholic clergy — this was discovered and she was tried at the Guildhall and sentenced to death. On 25 March 1586, Clitherow was pressed to death near the toll-booth on the Ouse Bridge. She was canonised in 1970 as one of the 40 English Martyrs. The Shambles building has been part of a large hotel since the 1970s but many original architectural features remain.

8. Elizabeth Inchbald (1783-1821)

*Snugate*

Born in Bury St Edmunds, Inchbald left her home at 18 for the London stage. She married Joseph Inchbald — a fellow Catholic and actor – and the two travelled to Edinburgh and Yorkshire, performing with Tate Wilkinson’s company in the Yorkshire Circuit. Inchbald went on to write numerous popular plays and novels. *A Lady’s Jorney and Nature and Art*, Joseph died in Leeds and Inchbald went on performing with Wilkinson’s company, staying with Mrs and Mrs Tyler, fellow performers, in Snugate.