The Anne Lister / Ann Walker Tour of Halifax and York

Welcome. *I hope that you find the following both informative and entertaining, and that it assists you in planning your trip to Halifax (and the surrounding area).*

First, do note that I call this the ***Anne Lister / Ann Walker Tour****, and not the Gentleman Jack tour. You will get all you want to see of the important things connected to Gentleman Jack, but my aim is to give you a tour of present-day Halifax, with all sorts of great stuff that was part of the real Ann(e)s lives. All connected to the series,but not necessarily presented in the series. However, I cannot start without saying a word about…*

Gentleman Jack

I'm assuming that 99% of you reading this are here because of the series. Simply put, in all my 6+ decades on this earth I've never seen anything like it. As the wonderful duo from the "Shibden After Dark" podcast, **Leanne Mertzman** and **Mary Schwartz** put it, I didn't even know I needed this. As a gay woman, I've spent a lifetime trying to shoehorn my feelings and responses into all the various forms of entertainment delivered to me through books, movies, television and music, disregarding pronouns and gender and, well, just making it work for my own emotions and life experiences. But now that I've seen *Gentleman Jack* I cannot deny its impact on my point of view.

Gentleman Jack is the very first thing I've ever had the pleasure of experiencing without translating it. Just a good old-fashioned Regency romance, in all of its dramatic glory, with two women as its lead characters. It leads one to believe that this sort of wonderful entertainment, focusing on a greater breadth of lives and lifestyles, can be provided, at a quality level, without apology or editing. And that is saying a lot.

But most revealing is the social media tsunami of deeply heartfelt tributes: to Anne Lister, to Ann Walker, to *Gentleman Jack*. Every bit of it speaks to the most primal of human longings: the desire to be recognized, without fear; to be seen, as part of the entire community of the world. To love, and be loved, without judgment or punishment, by others. And, most important, to love one's own self.

Helena Whitbread, and **Jill Liddington**, are to be forever congratulated for bringing Anne Lister into our literary consciousness. **Sally Wainwright** and **Anne Choma** deserve the same credit for bringing Anne – and Ann Walker – to us in this marvelous series. All of these women have not only educated us and entertained us; they have changed our lives. Women are rising, and these four women have added to that.

And this is no small footprint to leave behind.

(Please note: there are many other academics and scholars who continue to dig into the lives of the fascinating Anne Lister, and those connected to her. I thank them for their research. I find every bit of it intriguing.)

So, let us go now, to the place it all started. Let's start with the basics of traveling to:

Halifax

A WORD ABOUT THIS MARVELOUS PLACE: I have had the great fortune of traveling all over the world, countries great and small. I have never, ever, met such lovely people as I have in Halifax. I've found them to be incredibly friendly and helpful to the extreme, from the moment I first started looking for tour guides online (a story in itself) to this very day, when I received a lovely email from someone I met along my Halifax way.

Do keep in mind that a lot of what you'll see in the middle of Halifax town was not there when Anne was about – much of it is Victorian in age. But there are plenty of places that did exist, and were part of her life there. We'll talk about those later.

The following section is primarily directed at US or other travelers flying into the UK.
If you live in-country, please feel free to skip this section.

PRE-TRAVEL PLANNING:

Money: I've had many people ask if they should get English pounds at home, before they travel. Sure, that's fine. But it's just as easy to get them from an ATM machine in England. Not a bad idea to have maybe £100 with you to start, but you'll be fine once you get there. (By the way, if you haven't traveled overseas previously, do know that your credit card could be declined the first time you use it outside the States. This is not unusual; it's a credit protection thing. You may want to sidestep this by calling your credit card company and letting them know that you will be in the UK, prior to going.)

Where to Stay: I absolutely adore the **Shibden Mill Inn**. It's outside Halifax, was once a working woolen mill, and was once part of the Shibden estate and owned by the Listers. **Caitlin Heaton**, the innkeeper, has been incredibly gracious and helpful to me, both during my first stay and the following. Do mention my name if you run into her. I like people to know I'm recommending their businesses. The rooms are lovely, the breakfast (included) is EXCELLENT. If you're a marmalade fan, do try theirs! And the surrounding Shibden Valley? GORGEOUS.

You never know who you might run into at the Inn. The last time I was there Tom Pye, the costume designer for GJ, had just checked out. The next night Sally Wainwright and Anne Choma were having drinks in the pub. Also, you can walk to Shibden Hall from the Inn – emphasis on the "can". There are hills involved. There are ALWAYS hills involved in Halifax. Be aware. It's probably a 25-minute walk, unless you're Anne Lister, in which case, it's probably 15.

There are other hotels in the area, including a number of very affordable places right in town: The Premier Inn (on Broad Street—there are others but they aren't in Halifax town), Travel Lodge and the Swan Hotel. I haven't stayed at Holdsworth House but I hear nice things about it. There are AirBnB's like Dyer House. I just love the countryside, so it's always the Shibden Mill Inn for me.

Anne Lister's Thermometer (Weather): The official UK weather site can be found here: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/ One thing to know: mid-summer days are VERY long here. I was at Shibden Hall on the Summer Solstice. It stayed light until 10:30 pm. The photo of Walker Pit that you will see later in this document was taken at 9:45 pm. Conversely, in the winter, it's dark at 3:30 pm.

COMING FROM THE UNITED STATES: TRAVELING TO HALIFAX VIA LONDON HEATHROW

I like to go through London because I love London. There are many Anne Lister sites in that great city..
You can view them at https://web.archive.org/web/20070928225641/http://www.historytoherstory.org.uk/index.php?targetid=84. When you arrive at Heathrow, seek out the train to London. It is well marked throughout the airport. The train is far cheaper than a cab. (I'm not against cabs; in fact, in London, I love them. But you don't need to waste money just to see a fairly boring strip of suburbs, plus traffic can really back you up.) The train takes you right to Paddington Station in about 25 minutes. A cab can take an hour or more, depending on traffic.

Let's talk about what time you're arriving in England. Most people take the night flight so as not to "lose a day." Do be advised that you will lose some part of a day because the jetlag can put a real wrench in your works. There is a morning flight out of Newark airport, leaving at 8 am and getting into Heathrow around 8 pm London time. I like to take this one because I go straight to a hotel near Kings Cross, sleep through the night and wake up more "on schedule". For me, it greatly alleviates the jetlag, so I get a whole day out of the next.

BUT: if you are taking a night flight, try to arrive at Heathrow no later than 9 am. This will give you plenty of time to arrive at Paddington Station via the airport train and then make your way to Kings Cross Station, which is across town, and is where the train to Halifax departs.

A WORD ABOUT KINGS CROSS STATION: it is directly across the street from St. Pancras Station, where the EuroStar train (the Chunnel train) arrives and departs, so if you're coming from Europe via that train, you're golden. ALSO: Are you a Harry Potter fan? The Renaissance Hotel, connected to St. Pancras and across from Kings Cross, has a stairway in it that was used in the movies. Just ask a nice person at the hotel desk and they may point you in the right direction. It's sort of hidden.

THE HALIFAX TRAIN, VIA KINGS CROSS STATION

There is ONE direct train to and from Halifax each day. *There are many others,* but you will need to *change trains*, probably at Leeds. If you like a quick and worry-free train ride take the 10:57 Grand Central, departing Kings Cross. (DO CHECK TIMING ON THE GRAND CENTRAL WEBSITE – this CAN change.) This train takes roughly 2 hours 20 minutes. The connector trains take 3 hours plus.

The train TO London, from Halifax, leaves around 9:30 in the morning. If you are flying out of Heathrow, you can make the later afternoon US flights, but do be careful about your scheduling. The train will arrive at King's Cross, noonish, and you will need at least an hour to get back to Heathrow. Add the two hours required for international check-in, and some buffer. Traffic, if you're making your way back to Paddington to catch the Heathrow train – can be a real problem in London.

If you're like me, you like to have everything in order before traveling.

A WORD ABOUT English (and European, in general) trains: FABULOUS. Countries not owned by Big Oil have a wonderful relationship with trains. America? Not so much, and it's a pity.

If you're like me, and you like to have everything in order prior to traveling, there is a handy "Grand Central" app for your phone. You can check schedules and buy tickets, which you can then download those to your phone. Simple. You can also purchase tickets at the station. (I like to know I'm actually going to have a seat. That's just me). The fare starts at £54.00, economy class. It may be more expensive if you purchase at the station. Again, check the app for your date of travel.

On the Grand Central, you can choose between first class, which allows you to reserve a specific seat, a bit roomier than standard, with free tea, coffee and biscuits (cookies to us Yanks) and lovely service. But the train gets there at the same time, regardless of class of service. The price difference is not that big a deal. Also: beware of simply downloading the app called "Trains". The price of your ticket may be much more expensive.

When you enter Kings Cross and get to the main area, you will see a large group of people staring up at the schedule board, mounted above the gate entrances. They are waiting to be told what platform the train will depart from. The Grand Central to HFX typically departs from platforms 9-11, but you should watch the board. AND: don't get nervous when they don't post the platform at 10:35, when they say they will. The actual posting always seems to happen five minutes before the departure time.

FROM MANCHESTER AIRPORT: You can catch a train to Halifax from the station within this airport. Fares start at £23.50. (I have not yet traveled to Halifax from Manchester, but my thanks to **Debra Faulmino** for the directions you will find attached on page 22, as an addendum.)

SO. Now you're on the train, maybe enjoying a bacon buttie and some crisps (a bacon sandwich and potato chips – my apologies to vegetarians and vegans, just throwing some English slang around. But in any case, English bacon has very little in common with the stuff we eat in the States). Enjoy the lovely ride and the wonderful views of the countryside!

Arriving in Halifax

HALIFAX CABS: There will be cabs at the train station when the train comes in. However, if you want to avoid using a car for the rest of your trip, I highly recommend Ziggy's taxis. Phone: 01422363636 You cannot flag Ziggy's down on the street, btw, but they respond VERY quickly. And, you can schedule them for pickups. They are very dependable, and the rates are (relative to NYC or London) very reasonable. A cab for two, to the Godley Lane car park at Shibden Hall, is £4.00.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: The local bus system is quite good. A bus does run to Shibden, owing to the delightful park locals make much use of, including boating on the lake Anne created out of the Red Beck, visible from the terrace up at the Hall. And sledding, during the winter! The buses leave from the Halifax bus station, right downtown (across from what was, long, long ago, Northgate House, where Anne's uncle lived. It's a big, ugly modern thing now). The 681 to Bradford leaves every 15 minutes and stops across the street from the Shibden car park on Godley Road. The bus will cost you £3.50, each.
(**Side note**: if you walk up Godley Road, you'll get a fine view of the gate Anne Lister built in 1836. She copied it from a gate she'd seen elsewhere on her travels. It's worth the look. The road itself was built in the 1820's, quite an engineering feat for its time. The land was purchased from the Listers. Also, if you walk down Godley Road, you'll come to the Stump Cross Inn, also around in Anne's time. The inn you see now was built on top of the original (during Anne's time), owing to the digging and moving of earth for the road.)

RENTING A CAR: If you'd rather have your own transportation, the only car rental place in town is Enterprise. Nice people, like everywhere else in Halifax.
A word about rental cars: The standard rental in England is a standard (stick) shift. Automatic is available, but you have to be careful as you make your selection from an app or online – make sure it says automatic transmission. Now, I adore driving stick – it's what I learned on back when the Earth's crust was cooling – but driving stick in England means: a) you're on the wrong side of the road (Americans, that is); b) you're on the wrong side of the car; c) you're using the opposite hand that you usually use to control the shift, AND the opposite foot to control the clutch; d) the roads outside of town are narrower than US roads, and are QUITE full of curves; e) there is a 100-ton lorry heading directly at you whose driver assumes you know what you're doing. And then there's the roundabouts and figuring out what exit to take.

Not for the faint of heart. That being said, I did rent one for the day during the last visit, for a trip over to Haworth to see the Bronte parsonage. But then, as *Gentleman Jack* said, I'm always alright. 😉

Touring The Halifax Area

WELL! Now you're in Halifax, and you're ready to start touring. Four pages in, and we're ready to talk locations.
HIRING *THE* GUIDE: I am going to take a moment for a plug: if you truly want the most amazing Anne Lister / Ann Walker experience possible on your trip, go straight to your email and send a note to **David Glover** at *david375@btinternet.com* David is the president of the Halifax Antiquarian Society, and he is THE leading expert on all things Ann(e)s. He is a lovely gentleman, packed full of facts and anecdotes, and will NOT disappoint.

Depending on whether you do a day or two days, your tour will most likely include such fascinating spots (and more on many of these, later) as: Lightcliffe Churchyard, Lidgate House and the other properties of the Walker estate. Also, many of the buildings that were part of Anne's life in Halifax, including two of her schools; several locations connected to Eliza Raine (did you know she lived in Halifax for some time?); Hope Hall, home of Christopher Rawson; the Literary and Philosophical Society, where Anne Lister was the only woman member. And, of course, Halifax Minster. David is a steward of the Minster and knows just about everything about it, and Anne Lister's many connections to this beautiful place.

When you consider that you might need to rent a car for much of this, the fact that David tours you in HIS car really balances out the fee for the day. I will end my plug by saying this: I enjoyed my time with David so much that I hired him again on my second trip. I would not think of visiting Halifax without connecting with him, even just for tea.

OH, THE PLACES YOU WILL GO

SO many great places to visit! Just to give you an idea of relative distances, here's a handy little visual. As you can see it's all fairly close, if you're an Anne Lister power-walker.

First on your list is most likely:

Shibden Hall

IS IT OPEN? The latest word I've received is that the Hall will remain open thru December, and will now be open on Fridays. Filming for the second season of GJ is likely not to start until May or June, due to production scheduling, weather and daylight. It is difficult to say how long it will be closed. But do check on this by emailing museums@calderdale.gov.uk

HOURS: Open 10-5 on weekdays and 11-5 on weekends.

Shibden Hall Guides: You do not need to use a guide when visiting the Hall, but I highly recommend it. There are some quirky little bits you will miss if you tour on your own – original walls and fireplaces hidden behind the paneling that Anne Lister installed to dress the place up; fascinating facts about items that you are viewing (books, hatchment, thermometer – which is actually a barometer). And then there's the ability to ask questions (and get answers). I have been to the Hall several times, twice using a guide, the same person both times, **Nancy Curran**. The second time I asked for Nancy in advance. Nancy loves her job and is great at it. You won't be disappointed if you are able to book her for a tour.

"Mecca"

TO CONTACT SHIBDEN HALL:

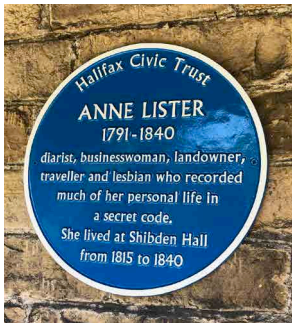
Via email: museums@calderdale.gov.uk You can also use FaceBook Messenger. There is a "send a message" button on the Shibden Hall FaceBook page. They usually answer within the day.

SHIBDEN AFTER HOURS:

Here's another wonderful thing about visiting Shibden Hall: while the Hall itself closes at 5:00 pm, the park is open until 9:00 pm. Walking around the outside of the house in the evening, as the sun goes down, is pure magic. There's no one there, it's so quiet, and the fading light is beautiful. For a moment you can imagine you might run into Anne herself (that is, if you're a history fiend like me.) The last time I did this, my wife and I had the great good fortune to run into Sally Wainwright and Anne Choma, walking along the garden on that lovely summer's night. We were the only four people there. Quite a moment.

For a moment you can imagine you might run into Anne herself...

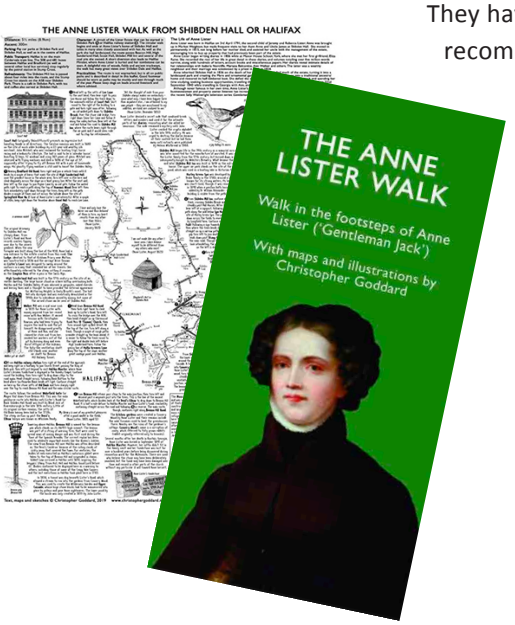
By the way: you may already know this, but what you're looking at when you see Shibden Hall in *Gentleman Jack* is the hall AFTER Anne renovated it, which didn't happen, in full, until Ann Walker moved in. That was when the tower, which was to be Anne's study, was added (amongst other bits). It wasn't quite completed when Anne and Ann went to Russia. Anne, of course, did not live to see it finished.



Finally, *Gentleman Jack* has sent visitation at the Hall through the roof. In the past, the Hall averaged maybe 40 people on a weekday and possibly 100 on a weekend. That has changed, drastically. On Anne Lister Weekend, in July, 2019, over 800 people toured the Hall on Saturday alone. 10,000 visited in August. As you can imagine, this has changed the visiting experience. Space is somewhat tight in the Hall, so the staff is now limiting how many people can go in at one time. You may have to wait in line, and you may have to jostle a bit to see over shoulders. While it is entirely possible that may calm down, my recommendation would be to go in the middle of the week if you possibly can, or at least a weekday.

And do walk the grounds as well. Anne created the lovely little boating lake down at the base of the property, as well as the lily pad pond closer to the house. Also, do take a look at the Cunnery Wood, which once held the kitchen garden. It can be found by following the path under Lister Road that runs between the paisley garden and the terraces, toward the stone tunnel.

SOMETHING TO PURCHASE AT SHIBDEN HALL

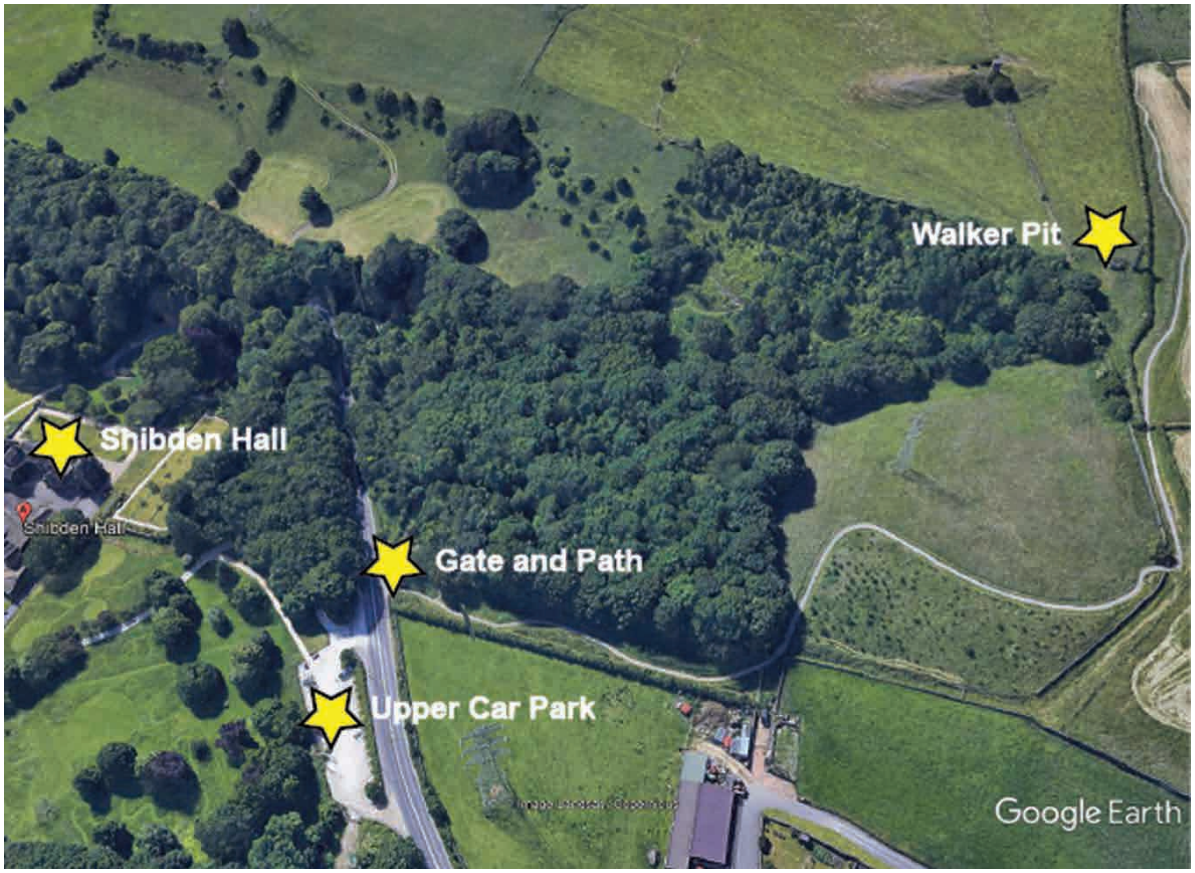


They have a nice selection of souvenirs at the Hall. One that I highly recommend is the great "Anne Lister Walk" brochure. It contains a wonderfully informative map and comments about a healthy hike around Lister Territory. I am including an image of the map but I've purposely made it unreadable. Somebody worked hard to create this. As a published author, I'm all about the value of intellectual property and the importance of paying creators.

You can also purchase this online (just do a Google search for "**The Anne Lister Walk**") if you'd like to get it before you go.

Walker Pit

Yes, Anne Lister did sink a coal pit with the aid of Ann Walker's money, although she did it after they were living together. And yes, Anne did name it for Ann. And yes, it is on the top of a hill, right near Shibden Hall, although it is NOT the same hill where that glorious reunion scene was shot. That is on the other side of Shibden Dale.



Walker Pit: not far from the Hall.

Getting to the real Walker Pit

It's a pleasant and not-too-challenging hike from Shibden Hall to Walker Pit, a slight incline to the top of the hill that sits between Shibden Hall and Halifax. Just find the upper car park (on Lister Road) and cross the road to the green metal gate. (NOTE: You will find a couple of these gates on your way up. They may appear to be locked. THEY AREN'T. You just have to raise the lever.) And when you're done, do consider going to the top of the hill for a fabulous view of Halifax and beyond!

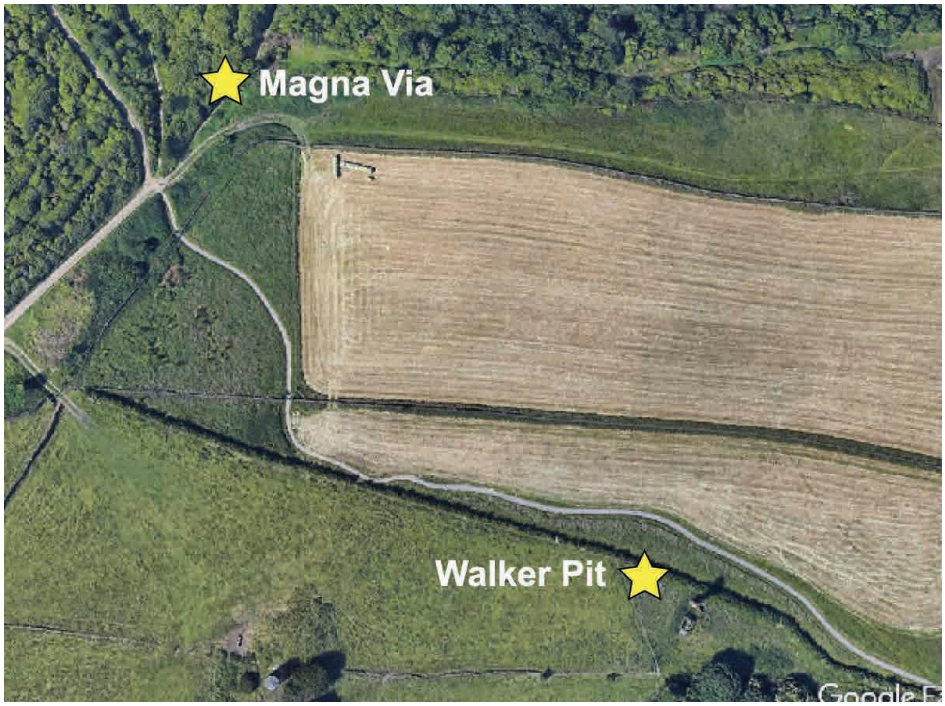
And here's a photo of the gothic ventilation shaft for the actual pit, a lonely sentinel on the hill.

You'll see a bit of history up there, the beacon. This device was put in place hundreds of years ago, before modern communication. It was lit in emergencies (such as the approach of the Spanish Armada)

MAGNA VIA: Walking in Anne Lister's Footsteps

Now that you've finished your visit to the Walker Pit, you may want to experience a real Anne Lister Walk: the Magna Via, a medieval road that passes west to east through the Shibden Valley. This particular section of the Magna Via leads from the top of the hill, near Walker Pit, and right down to Halifax Minster. Anne Lister refers to this old road in her diaries. The bit between Walker Pit and the Minster is about a twenty-minute downhill walk. NOTE: Do NOT do this if it has been raining, the stones can be QUITE slick. If you're a hiker, you can walk the entire five miles. Here's a guide: *http://www.jumadesign.co.uk/milestonesite/pdf/HalifaxWalk.pdf*

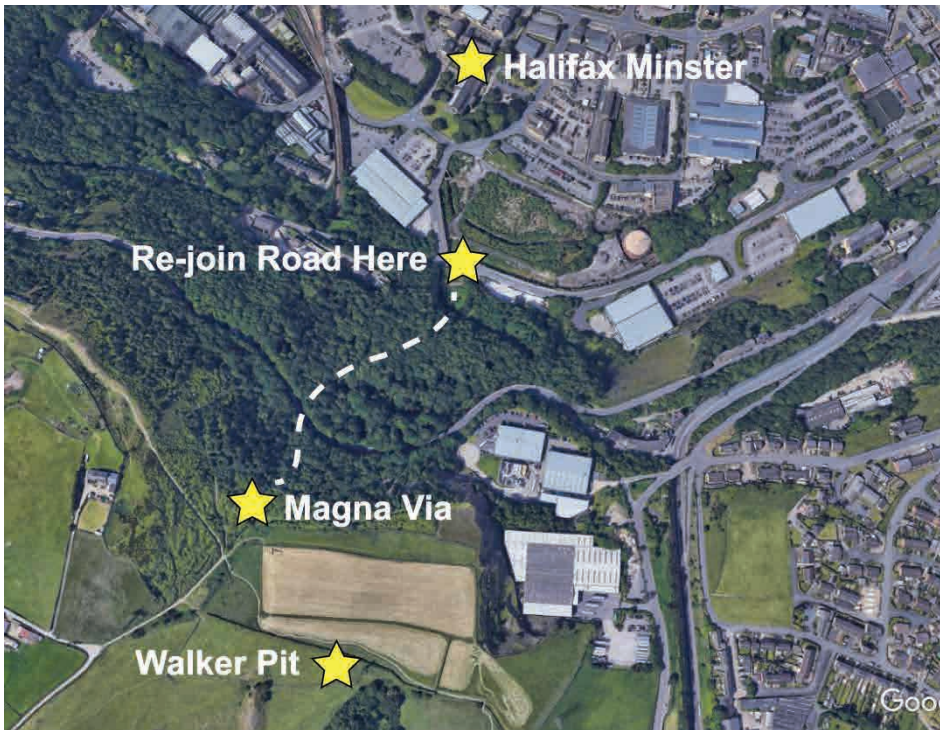
Here's a visual of the path as it relates to Walker Pit:

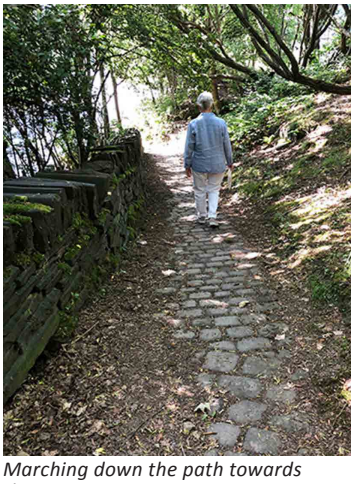


The stones you will be looking for as you enter that section of the Magna Via. These were laid in the Middle Ages.

The path is quite worn away in some places.

And here's a visual as it relates to the distance between the Pit and The Minster. Remember, it is mostly downhill from the uphill entry to the old path.





Marching down the path towards the Minster.

ON TO ANN WALKER TERRITORY

Your primary stop for Ann Walker will most likely be where she is buried, but there are other things to see in the area. However, there is not much in terms of actual tours, just a look-see. Again, hiring David will get you to many of these places without having to hire a taxi or a car, plus he can explain what you're looking at.

Lightcliffe Churchyard / Ann Walker's Burial Site

For St. Matthew's Churchyard (also known as Lightcliffe Churchyard), where Ann Walker is buried, reach out to **Ian Philp** *ianrphilp@icloud.com*. Ian is a terrifically helpful and knowledgeable gentleman, and a proud member of the Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard. Ian (or **Dorothy Barker**, the wonderful secretary for that organization) is *delighted* to give tours and will show you all the ledger stones connected to the actual people portrayed in *Gentleman Jack*. There are many here. We will talk about them in a bit.

If Ian or Dorothy are not available, you can still tour the stones if you have a QR code reader app on your phone. There are six posts around the churchyard with QR codes, all of which offer a tour on their own. Posts 1 and 6 have extra sections on *Gentleman Jack*.

The Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard is dedicated to the upkeep of the churchyard. It takes a LOT of work to keep the place up. The organization has managed to clear much of the overgrown weeds that choked the place, opening a whole new view of the area's (and *Gentleman Jack's*) history. And, their research is ongoing.

If you do go, **PLEASE DONATE**. Give what you can, it doesn't have to be much, but remember: it is they who are protecting Ann's grave. You can donate here: http://www.lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk/

But wait! There's more!

No, not a set of steak knives, but If you donate, you will receive the Lightcliffe Churchyard email updates, packed with really wonderful bits of info about who's buried there and what's going on with any new efforts (which, I would assume, would include a new stone for Ann Walker, should that come to pass.)

While we are on that subject…

An effort has been made to create a lasting memorial for Ann Walker at the churchyard.

Creating a Memorial for Ann Walker: Challenges

Let's discuss this for a second. An effort has been made by an outside organization, **Ann Walker Memorial**, to create a lasting memorial for Ann Walker at the churchyard – a worthy effort, should it happen. The challenge is, the ownership of this small plot of land is complicated. Involved are: The Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe, a local organization; The Friends of Friendless Churches, a national organization that rescues, repairs and campaigns for historic churches in England and Wales; and finally, St. Matthew's Parochial Church Council. (The "new" St. Matthew's Church is just up the street.)

Here's the impact on the location as a whole and Ann Walker's burial site in particular:

Simply put, Ann Walker was laid to rest within St. Matthew's Church, "under the pulpit" (more on that later). The outline of the old church (only the tower still stands)can still be made out in the churchyard, where some of the foundation stones can still be seen. But who would make the decision regarding placement of any memorial? The tower is owned by The Friends of Friendless Churches. The rest of the area is owned by St. Matthew's Parochial Church Council. The churchyard is cared for by The Friends of St. Matthews Churchyard, Lightcliffe. Any decisions regarding any kind of memorial for Ann Walker are under the jurisdiction of The Friends of Friendless Churches and St. Matthew's Parochial Church Council. The Friends of St. Matthews Churchyard, Lightcliffe has no say in any of this. The controversy arises from whether any changes should or could be made to the historical location, for anyone—*any* persons buried here.

And yes, the organizations *do* care about her. There is a small plaque that has been set on a stone at the entrance to the site, under the plaque that describes the old church, abandoned when the new St. Matthew's was built a short distance away. And, there is a memorial plaque inside the tower. Read on.

The Walkers at St. Matthew's

St. Matthew's was the Walker family's home church, and their prominence can be seen in a view of the benefactor plaque that was saved from demolition. This plaque is stored within the tower, the only bit of the church left. Ann's parents are buried in the churchyard, along with a few other family members. Their ledger stone lays toward what would have been the altar end of the church. You can see the curve of the foundation stones at the far end from the point you enter the churchyard. When the church was torn down, many of the interior plaques memorializing them – including Ann Walker's – were saved. They are locked in the tower. More on that in a bit.

There are many great articles specific to the people buried at Lightcliffe to be found on the Lightcliffe site: http://www.lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk/people-of-interest

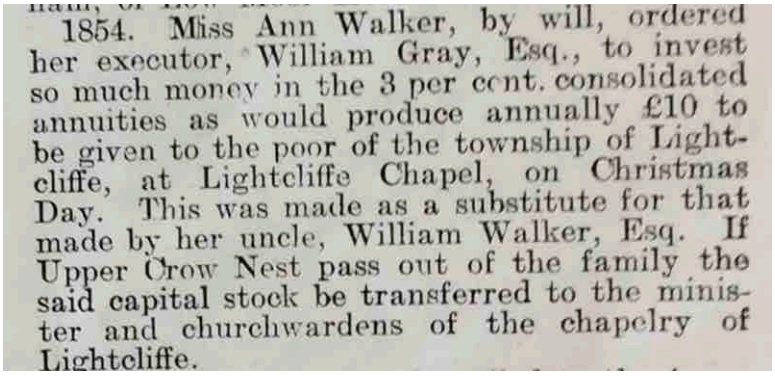
Anne evidently didn't sit in the back of a church.

Amongst those articles, you will find much about the Walker family, Ann Walker, and Anne Lister. Here are a few specific links to these:

The Walkers: You can read more about the **Walkers at Lightcliffe Churchyard** here: http://www.lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk/attachments/article/137/1.%20The%20Walkers%20of%20Crow%20Nest.pdf

Anne Lister and Ann Walker: Anne Lister and Ann Walker made St. Matthews their home church when they moved in together. This made sense, even though both families had pews at the Minster, because it underscored their landed status in the immediate area. It was also away from the prying eyes of Halifax. (But Anne Lister did have her conditions: she wanted a pew "near the front", as mentioned in her diaries.) You can read more about Anne Lister and Ann Walker at Lightcliffe Church here: http://www.lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk/attachments/article/137/3.%20Anne%20Lister.pdf

The Walker Sutherlands: Read more about Ann's sister Elizabeth and her husband, Captain Sutherland, here: http://www.lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk/attachments/article/137/4.%20The%20Sutherland%20Walkers.pdf



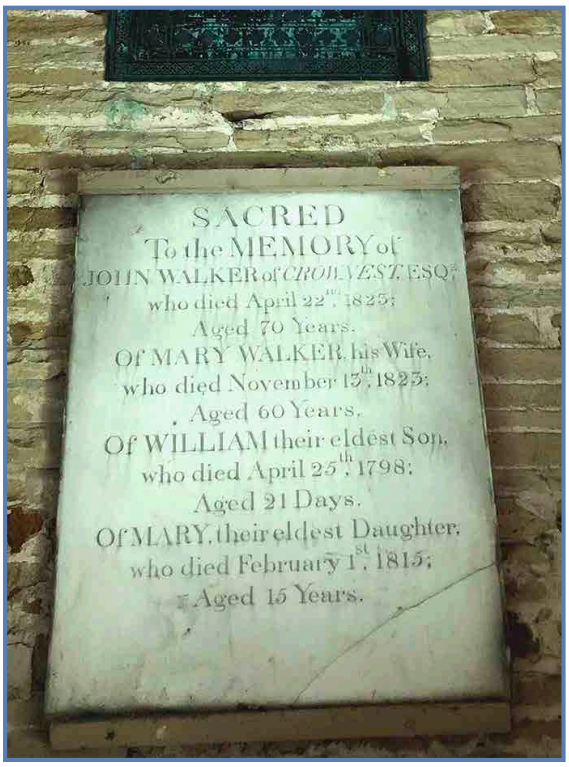
1854. Miss Ann Walker, by will, ordered her executor, William Gray, Esq., to invest so much money in the 3 per cent. consolidated annuities as would produce annually £10 to be given to the poor of the township of Lightcliffe, at Lightcliffe Chapel, on Christmas Day. This was made as a substitute for that made by her uncle, William Walker, Esq. If Upper Crow Nest pass out of the family the said capital stock be transferred to the minister and churchwardens of the chapelry of Lightcliffe.

The poor of Lightcliffe were provided for in Ann Walker's will, as detailed by Dorothy Barker in March 2018. lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk/attachments/article/137/3.%20Anne%20Lister.pdf

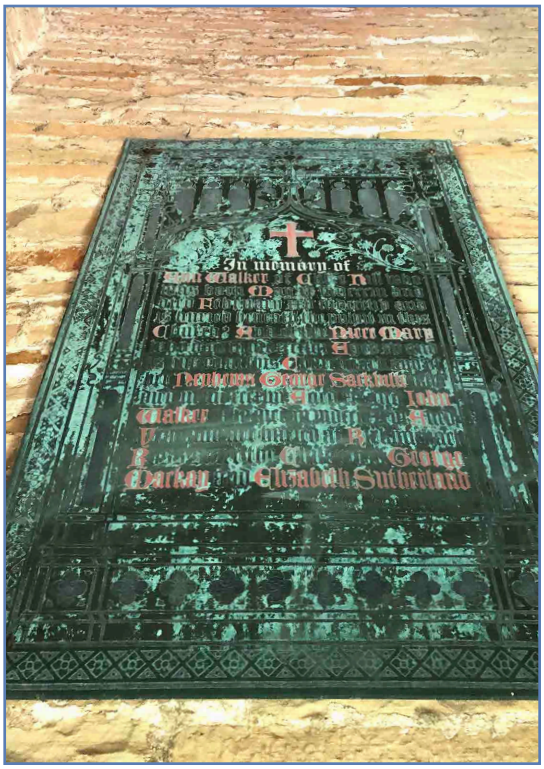
Ann Walker's Grave and Memorial Plaque

Of course, most know that there is no ledger (grave) stone for Ann Walker in the churchyard, just an odd bit of rock, her name written in magic marker, in the rough location of where she may have been buried. But there ***is*** a memorial to her, a brass plaque that once hung on the wall inside the church. That plaque, along with others memorializing the Walker family – including her brother John, who died in Naples while on his honeymoon, making Ann and Elizabeth the heirs to the family estate—hang on the inside walls of the tower, safe from the elements and souvenir hunters.

The Walker Family memorial



Ann's memorial, atop the Walker Family memorial



Here's the translation of Ann Walker's memorial:

In memory of Ann Walker of Cliffe Hill who was born May 20th 1803 and died February 25th 1854 and is buried underneath the pulpit in this church.
And of her niece, Mary who died June 6th 1845 and is buried in this churchyard.
And of her nephews George Sackville (Sutherland) who died in 1843 aged 12,
John Walker who died in 1836 aged 1 year and are buried in Kirkmichael, Rosshire,
the children of George MacKay and Elizabeth Sutherland

Ian or Dorothy can give you a description of all the Walker memorials inside the tower. They can only be viewed by special permission.

Where is Ann Walker Buried?

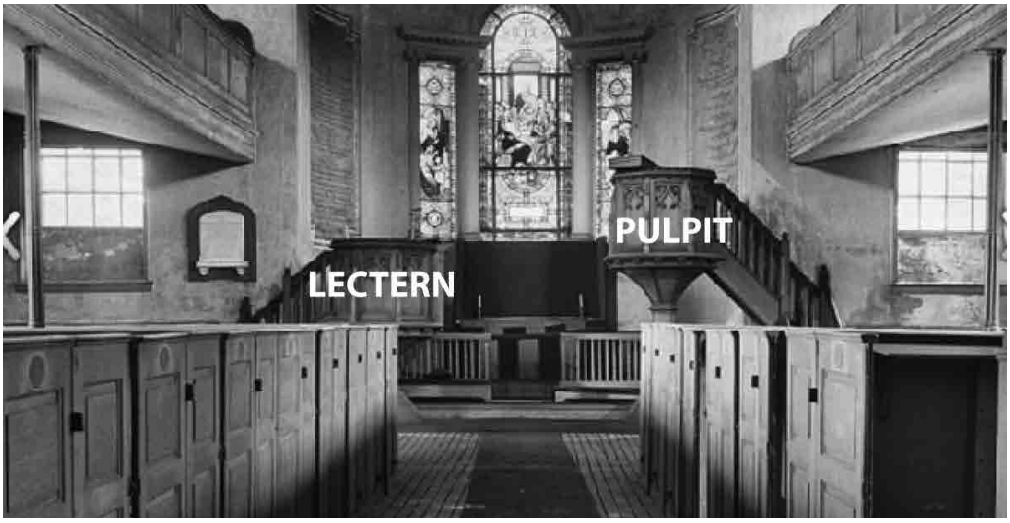
According to her plaque, Ann is buried "under the pulpit." The rough stone that marks her place is supposedly that spot. But there is a small controversy between some local experts. Where, exactly, was "under the pulpit"? The church has been gone for quite awhile, and all we have left are photos taken before it was demolished.

Like Anne Lister in the Minster, all we can do is depend on the few written references, not especially clear, that remain.

Take a look at the next two pictures, one of the church while it was still in good shape, the other as it fell apart. You can see Ann Walker's memorial plaque on the far left. KEEP IN MIND: as in the Minster, these plaques may have no relationship to where the actual crypt may be. However, Ian Philp makes the point that Ann Walker's plaque is mounted in the space once occupied by a window on the lectern side, so that's possibly one for "buried on the left as you face forward."

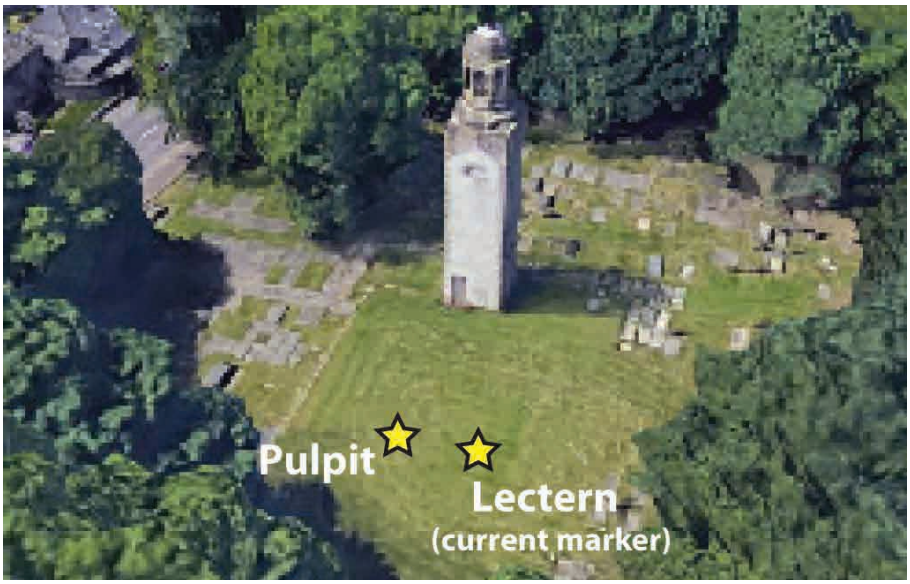
But what other factors form the basis of this little mystery? What else might need to be considered?

The church, while it was still standing. Lovely, isn't it? More on those stained glass windows in a bit.



The church, before it was finally torn down. The lectern, again, would be on the left, the pulpit on the right.

The churchyard, and the relative location of the old pulpit and lectern.



Let's complicate this a little more, shall we? The lectern and pulpit you see in these photos were not added until 1862, eight years after Ann Walker's death and internment. They were provided by her heir, Evan Charles Sutherland-Walker, who also gave the church a thorough cleaning, according to records. No records have been found – yet – that state where the original pulpit was. So, that's one for "who knows which side she's buried on."

Evan Charles also donated the stained glass windows you see in the photo. These are a memorial to the Walkers, including Ann.

These "Extracts from Horsfall Turner" (a local historian), about Lightcliffe Old Church from 1908, provide a discussion of the windows. They are provided by David Glover.

The east window, crescent form, made in Edinburgh, is in three compartments, the centre appropriately representing the Lord's Supper. Beneath, on the glass:

In Memoriam

G.M.S E.S.

obiit 1847 obiit 1844

E.C.A.S.W., 1862

These initials stand for George MacKay Sutherland, Elizabeth Sutherland and Evan Charles Sutherland-Walker. His parents, who died as stated.

The narrower window on the north side gives Christ blessing the children, with the words –

W.S.W. natus ea renatus, 1861

This was an infant of Mr. [Evan Charles] Sutherland-Walker

The window on the south side represents the Good Samaritan, and is inscribed

A.W. obiit 1854

A.W. indicates Miss Ann Walker

However, the story regarding Ann Walker's location continues to develop, with new information being added regularly by Ian Philp. He is preparing an article on this subject right now. I have seen the draft and it is excellent. The article includes a color illustration of the stained glass windows donated by Evan Charles Sutherland-Walker, and further backup information on Ms. Walker's grave. It will appear on the Lightcliffe Churchyard web page.

So: where do you think Ann Walker is buried? Under the small, rough stone, or maybe 10 feet to the right, as you stand with your back to the tower? At the end of the day, does it really matter? Ann Walker, like Anne Lister, was buried within the walls of the church, a memorial all on its own.

If you donate (again: see donation button, here: http://www.lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk/) you will be added to Dorothy Barker's very fine email updates, and will receive a link to Ian's article on Ann Walker's burial location when the article is completed.

I get these emails regularly. They are fascinating.

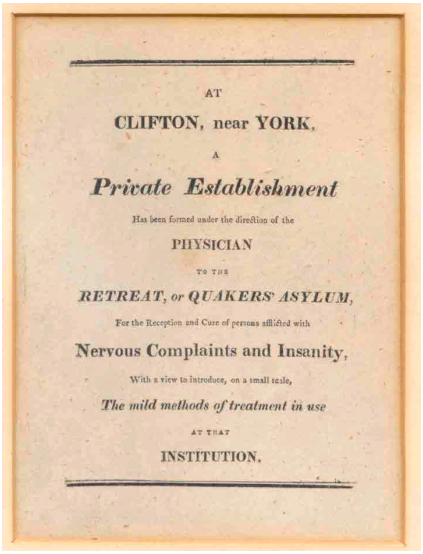
Other *Gentleman Jack* People Buried at Lightcliffe

Also buried at the churchyard are many of the people that populate *Gentleman Jack*. Samuel Washington, land agent to the Walker family of Crow Nest and then land agent /steward for Anne Lister of Shibden Hall, is buried here, along with his family. So are some of the Cordingleys. Samuel Sowden is also here, but he is not the bully you meet in GJ, and his son Thomas did not feed him to the pigs. Samuel did not have a son named Thomas. Sally Wainwright evidently picked the name of a Lister tenant and paired it with an event that actually did take place – a son fed a father to the pigs but got off because there was no corpus delecti (body). (Kids, do not try this at home…). James Hinscliffe, the local coal merchant Anne Lister negotiated with is also buried here. There are many Howorths in the churchyard. This family included the moss hut builders and the barometer-makers. Ian or Dorothy can point out more folks to you—it seems that they are constantly finding connections as family information becomes available. Did I mention donating to this fine organization? Please do.

Oh, and let us not forget Captain Sutherland…

Captain Sutherland, Elizabeth Walker's husband, is buried here. Note that his marker says "George MacKay Sutherland of Shibden Hall." This is because Captain Sutherland moved into Shibden Hall after he arranged

Ann Walker's removal and committal to an asylum. Instead of living out her days in Anne Lister's ancestral home, she stayed at the asylum for several years before returning to Cliffe Hill. She died there in 1854, from what may have been a stroke. Her death certificate reads: "Effusion of the brain. Congestion."


AT
CLIFTON, near YORK,
A
Private Establishment
Has been formed under the direction of the
PHYSICIAN
TO THE
RETREAT, or QUAKERS' ASYLUM,
For the Reception and Cure of persons afflicted with
Nervous Complaints and Insanity,
With a view to introduce, on a small scale,
The mild methods of treatment in use
AT THAT
INSTITUTION.

The asylum she was sent to – her will is here now.

But what of the Captain? How did this once-poor army captain wind up in the Lister's ancestral home? The following is just my opinion. Others may feel differently, and it is their right to do so.

George Mackay Sutherland, born into a large, impoverished Highland family, joined the army at age 14. He eventually purchased the rank of captain. He met Elizabeth Walker at a social event in Halifax. They married in 1828. She was a great catch, given the £32,000 marriage settlement. (That works out to £3.45 million at today's rate.) But his pockets were soon to grow fuller. Elizabeth also had an income from the Walker estate, left to her by her father, as did Ann.

Their father's will granted each of the sisters a life interest in the income from the estate. This particular sum was not to be controlled by anyone but the Walker daughters. They could loan or spend any money they wished, but it was to stay in their control. One might believe that Father Walker wanted to look out for his daughters, even with marriage, given that once they were married, anything they owned became the husband's. Upon divorce or death, unless a settlement was worked out, the wife could actually be left penniless. (This was why Mariana Lawton was so concerned about Charles leaving her something in his will.) But Captain Sutherland (and his attorney) convinced Elizabeth to turn that income over to him. Obviously, she must have agreed, and one can only conjecture as to why.

Ah, but the Captain's good fortune was not over yet. Elizabeth's brother John, the heir to the Walker estate, died in 1830, leaving Ann and Elizabeth the heirs to the entire fortune, including 800 acres of land populated by homes, farms, pubs and more. Captain Sutherland was now a very wealthy man, indeed.

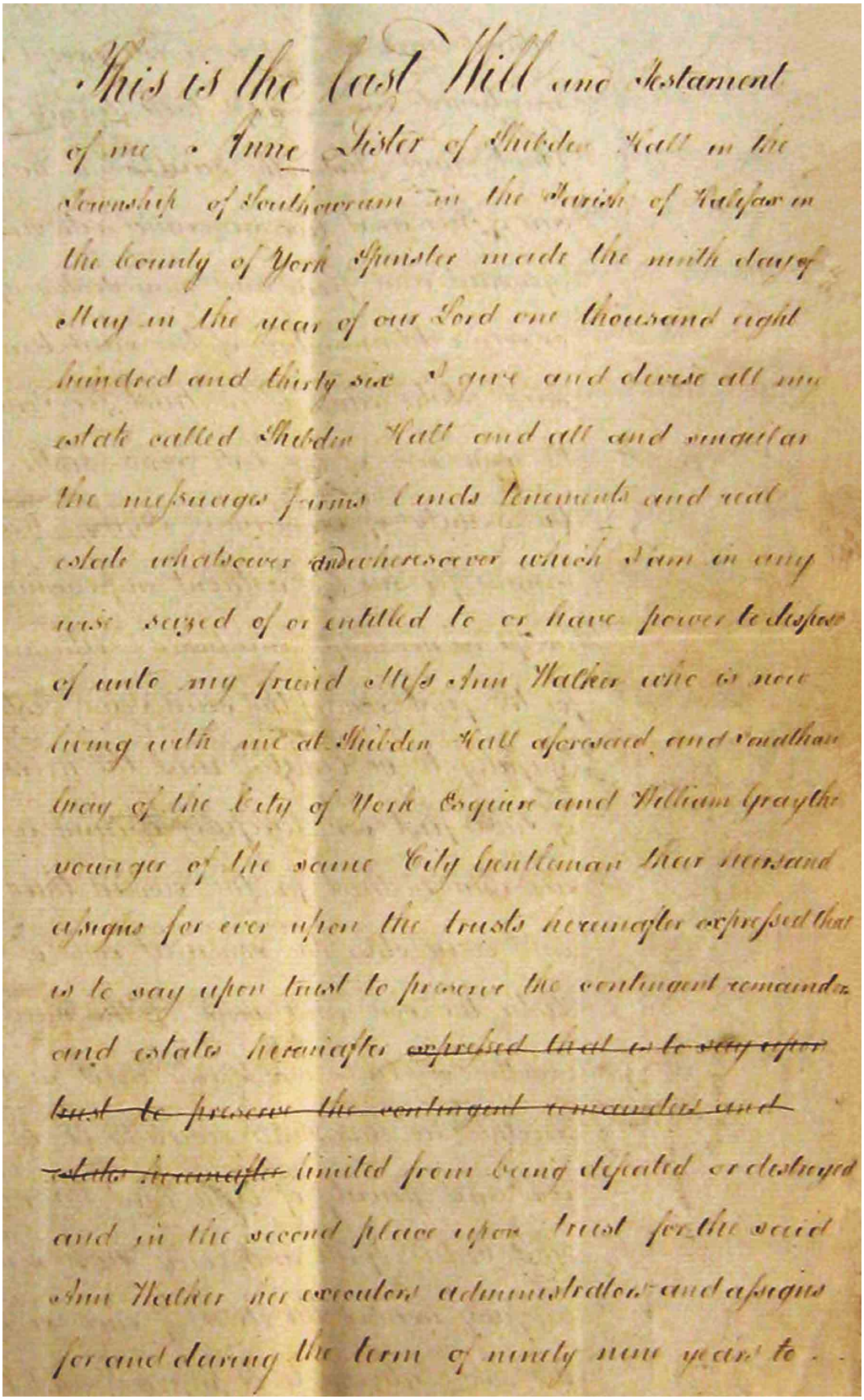
The two daughters—or, rather, Ann and the Captain—now had their portions of the land and holdings to look after. Ann handled hers through her estate manager, Samuel Washington, who also ran Anne Lister's estate. The Captain had his hand on his holdings. He was known to be a difficult landlord, with several tenant disputes that wound up in the hands of his lawyer. He kept that lawyer busy, especially when Ann Walker decided that she would like to undertake some land swaps with him, in order to put the plots that ran contiguous with the Shibden estate under her control, while giving the Captain land of equal value.

He and his attorney did not make this process easy. And, he began a rather rude conflict with both Ann Walker and Anne Lister, now living together at Shibden. He launched a nasty public attack on Anne Lister, implying that she had somehow either stolen or messed with the deeds, and arguing that said deeds should not be at Shibden, even though it was Ann Walker's right to have them there while organizing the process. (May I just add this: they were her deeds. Why shouldn't she have them?)

As we know, Ann Walker and Anne Lister eventually changed their wills to leave a life tenancy to one another upon their deaths. This is exactly what it sounds like: for as long as the survivor was alive, she had the rights to the properties and incomes derived from those properties. But said properties reverted to the heirs recorded in their wills upon <u>their</u> deaths. Shortly after Ann returned from Russia with Anne's body, she changed her will, leaving her estate to George Sackville Sutherland, the Captain's oldest son.

Now began a dark period, a prolonged harangue regarding the mental capabilities of Ann Walker, with the Captain leading the charge. (This, even though Ann had, on her own, handled the six-month return of Anne to Halifax Minster, rather than burying her in Russia as her brother had been buried in Italy.) Over the next few years this included a series of letters from Elizabeth, up in Scotland, voicing her concern as well. This, even though Ann was, in fact, running both estates. One might wonder as to the Captain's influence on these letters; there was now an additional pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. And, Captain Sutherland had now engaged Attorney Parker—the same attorney once used by Anne Lister—to keep an eye on Ann Walker.

The whole thing came to a head in 1843.Two events laid the path. In one, a local claimed that he was due money from Ann Walker, even though she claimed that she had never received the services he was billing her for. In the other, Ann became very vocal about a plan by the new railway to run tracks across Shibden property (a thought Anne Lister had opposed, earlier.) Ann stated her opinions in public, both in person and in commentary printed in the *Halifax Guardian*.



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 wheresoever which I am in any wise 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 aforesaid and Jonathan Gray of the City of York Esquire and William Graythe younger of the same City Gentleman their heirs and assigns for ever upon the trusts hereinafter expressed that is to say upon trust to preserve the contingent remainders and estate hereinafter ~~expressed trust is to say upon trust to preserve the contingent remainders and estate hereinafter~~ limited from being defeated or destroyed and in the second place upon trust for the said Ann Walker her executors administrators and assigns for and during the term of ninety nine years to

Anne Lister's will

As promised, Anne left Ann a life interest.

https://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/holdings/guides/research-guides/lgbt/anne-lister/will/

An emergency was ginned up when Ann made plans to travel to London by rail. Hands were thrown in the air, the Captain, his wife and Parker wondering what kind of scene Ann might make on the train. The Captain and Elizabeth came to Halifax, ostensibly to assess the situation. But the Captain had already arranged the forcible removal of Ann Walker from Shibden, and her committal to an asylum.

This occurred on September 9, 1843. Those familiar with this know of the accounts of how they found the room she lived in—the "bloody rags", the candle burned down, the papers strewn about. But these descriptions came from the very people who might benefit from her removal, so how do we know what really happened? Or who might have been paid to make it so?

In any case, we do know a few things: In November of 1843, Ann Walker was declared a "lunatic", and as such, had no legal right to write a new will. The Sutherlands would now control all of the Walker estate once Ann finally obliged them by dying. A year later, Elizabeth died—and *Captain Sutherland moved himself and his family into Shibden Hall*. Even with all of the properties under his control from Elizabeth's side, he chose Shibden Hall? Was he exerting his ego on this matter?

He had no legal right to do so. Under Anne Lister's will, in force until Ann Walker died, Ann Walker was the one with life tenancy, certainly not the Captain. One might expect that Anne Lister may not have been very happy about all of this. If you'd like to believe she exacted her revenge, please do. Mary, Captain Sutherland's oldest daughter, died at Shibden Hall shortly after moving in. The Captain died there two years later.

But perhaps you might be one who says "wasn't the captain working within his legal rights as a man in the 19th century? What might have he been expected to do regarding his sister-in-law's condition? And might not Anne Lister also have been judged as taking advantage of Ann Walker?"

That is not my opinion, but you are welcome to yours.

Epilogue:

The legal wrangling over Ann Walker's right to Shibden Hall and Anne Lister's estate went on right up to Ann's death in 1854. At that point, per her will, the Walker estate now went to Evan Charles Sutherland, the Captain and Elizabeth's son. Poor George Sackville Sutherland had died. Per Ann's stipulation, Evan Charles did add Walker to his name, becoming Evan Charles Sutherland-Walker. He stayed in the Halifax area for several years. The Walkers as a whole were known for being generous with the underprivileged, and Charles did follow in their footsteps on at least one occasion, building a school near Lightcliffe. It still stands, in use, 150 years later. He also renovated St. Matthews (Lightcliffe) Church, adding the memorials mentioned earlier, including the stained glass windows.

But he had a change of heart in 1867. He managed to get an Act of Parliament to allow him break the entails of the will, and auctioned off the entire holdings of the Walker estate, all 800 acres of it, including Lidgate, Cliffe Hill and Crow Nest. He moved to Scotland, buying Skibo Caslte, knocking it down and building a grand edifice to himself at a substantial cost. He had the "Walker" officially removed from his name in 1883. He followed in his father's footsteps in terms of his reputation as a landlord, tying up many of his tenants in legal wranglings, all of which he lost. Eventually, he bankrupted himself and was forced from the castle. He died in 1913, near penniless, in a small flat in Kensington. (Skibo was later purchased by Andrew Carnegie)

That was the end of the Walker estate, all of it. Crow Nest was later requisitioned for WW2 and torn down in the 60s. It's a golf course now. Cliffe Hill and Lidgate have been divided up into residential units. And the Captain rests at Lightcliffe Churchyard. Feel free to stop by and pay your respects.

Read more about the Sutherland-Walkers here:
http://www.lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk/attachments/article/137/4.%20The%20Sutherland%20Walkers.pdf

OTHER WALKER SITES IN THE AREA

Again, if you've chosen to tour with David, he will be able to point all of this out to you. PLEASE keep in mind that what is left standing are PRIVATE RESIDENCES. Please do not disturb! (See the earlier visual for the relative locations.)

Cliff Hill

Cliffe Hill: The house still stands but has been divided up. David was invited inside the house recently and viewed the plaster portraits that hang in the stairway, one of which is often said to be Ann Walker. But according to David, this is probably not true. What he can show you on a normal day are the gates to Cliffe Hill and the gatehouse. He will also give you the history of Titus Salt, who lived in the home after it was sold by Evan Charles Sutherland-Walker. Again, reach out to David at *david375@btinternet.com*

Crow Nest

Special note: There is a walking tour of the Cliffe Hill (grounds only) coming up on Sunday, September 15th, led by a member of the Friends of Lightcliffe Churchyard, under the auspices of Calderdale Heritage Walks. You can read about the various walks offered by Calderdale Heritage Walks at https://www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk/summer.html

Crow Nest: Crow Nest, as mentioned, is gone. There is a path that goes back to the property which I did walk with David. What is left is the gates, forlorn in their continuing deconstruction.

Lidgate House

Lidgate House: (also spelled as "Lydgate") Lidgate is where Ann Walker lived while she and Anne Lister were courting. She did NOT live at Crow Nest or Cliffe Hill at that time. Lidgate was a smaller property, but still part of the Walker's 800-acre estate. The house still stands, though it has been divided up. The property surrounding it was also split up into building lots and exists today as Lydgate Park.

Again, these are all private residences. Please respect their privacy.

MALCOLM BULL'S CALDERDALE COMPANION

By the way, if viewing old photos of these places is something you'd like to do, be sure to check out **Malcolm Bull's** EXCELLENT **"Calderdale Companion."** where two of these photos originated. This gentleman has compiled an amazing amount of information about the area, including old photos and plenty of genealogy and history. You can visit the site here: http://www.calderdalecompanion.co.uk/
The Lidgate photo is from: http://www.lightcliffehistory.org.uk/gallery/category/13-lightcliffe?start=100

Back In Halifax

I've already commented on my fondness for this town, but let me say it again: wonderful people here, and TONS of history – and not just Anne Lister's. But let's started where she was baptized and buried.

HALIFAX MINSTER

What a WONDERFUL place! There has been a church at this spot in Halifax for about 900 years. The Minster, formerly a Parish Church until November 23, 2009, was completed by about 1438.
Hours / Access: The Minster is open between **10am and 4pm** throughout the summer months (BST) and between **10am and 2pm Monday to Friday** and **10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday**, through the winter (GMT). Access to the building may be restricted because of events taking place within. You can check on the schedule by contacting the office. Call **01422 355436** between **9:30am and 2:30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**.
Speak to **Annnabel Bolton**, the office manager.

Visiting:

Interior of Halifax Minster: the baptismal font where Anne Lister was baptized.

First and foremost, if you simply go into the Minster and have a look around on your own, you will see Anne Lister's broken ledger stone, but you will miss SO many more connections to Anne; the Listers in general; people that you've read about in the diaries that are also buried here; people you haven't read about but are also connected to AL; connections to Ann Walker; and of course, the story of why and where Anne Lister is buried where most informed people believe she *is* buried.

Once again, I highly recommend David Glover as a guide to all things Anne Lister in the Minster. There are tons of wonderful stories in here, and connections to things you will see (or have seen) in Shibden Hall.

I'm guessing that by now there may be other guided Anne Lister tours available in the Minster, but you may want to reach out and ask that question before you show up.

I have heard that a new ledger stone is being cut for Anne Lister. You should be able to check on this during your visit. David, a steward of the Minster, should have this info.

Two other things about the Minster:

1. I know that many people have asked "Why don't we know the exact location of AL's grave; or, "Why aren't AL and AW buried together"; or "Why don't they…(fill in the blank)". I'd just like to say this: the Minster has been renovated or worked on a few times in its 900-plus years of existence. There's no real guarantee that anyone is buried exactly where the ledger stones say they are, because things were moved. But that isn't the point. The entire Minster, as a whole, is a memorial—not a graveyard—and one that very few people (relatively speaking) were allowed to be buried in. I think this can be a little difficult for Americans to appreciate, because it isn't a custom common to our places of worship.

The people connected with the Minster believe pretty firmly that they know where Anne is buried. This is partially based on notes that the last master of Shibden Hall, John Lister, made during his lifetime. As you will hear when you tour, owing to the size of the lead coffin that held Miss Lister's remains on her journey back from Russia, the wooden coffin made in Halifax to hold it made the whole lot larger than would fit in the existing family crypt. A spot was located elsewhere in the Minster, and that was where Anne Lister was laid to rest.

I will leave the rest of the story to your guide.

2. The Minster requires extensive and ongoing upkeep. If you are truly concerned about this historic place, and Anne Lister's place in it, leave a donation. Miss Lister would like that.

THE LIBRARY, THE DIARIES AND THE CALDERDALE ARCHIVES

Halifax Library is a state-of-the-art facility, and a must for all Anne Lister tours. It is here that you can view the **diaries**, as well as one of her travel journals, a few letters and a recipe or two for home health aids. All of these are under glass in a cabinet on the second floor. Just take the steps up (and admire that fabulous window on the landing, a remainder of the church that once stood here) and walk straight ahead.

WEST YORKSHIRE ARCHIVE SERVICE

The West Yorkshire Archive Service collects and looks after the unique documentary heritage of this historic region. There are five district offices: Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield. Anne Lister's voluminous collection of diaries, journals and all SORTS of effluvia of her life (including her many passports, such as the ones used by the Ann(e)s on the tragic trip to Russia) are kept in the Calderdale Archives, which are located on the lower level of the library.

Opening hours for the archives are limited. They are currently open:

Tuesday 9:30am – 5pm; Thursday 9:30am – 5pm; Friday Temporarily closed.

Appointments:

Please contact WYAS by telephone **0113 535 0151** or by email calderdale@wyjs.org.uk prior to planning a visit. Staff will advise you regarding availability and permissions, and on whether to reserve a table or a microfiche reader, depending on which records you wish to consult.

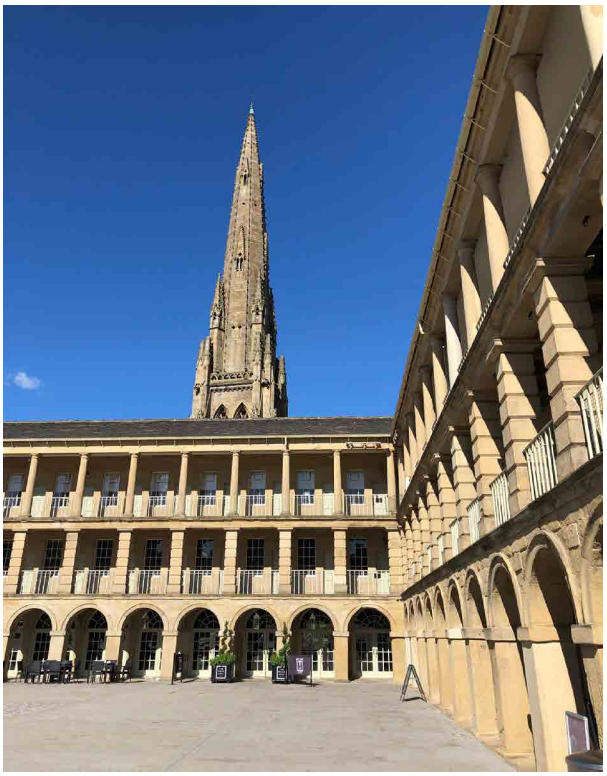
You can read about WYAS here:
https://www.wyjs.org.uk/archive-service/

PIECE HALL

While you're visiting the library, do take a walk around the historic Piece Hall, located nearby. Originally built in 1779 to offer local wool merchants a place to display their wares – thereby building trade for the area – the Piece Hall now houses several nice restaurants and many businesses, including the Book Corner, an independent bookseller that has done several Anne Lister events.

As it has since it first opened, the Piece Hall also serves as a location for many special events. There is a nice museum on site, which will give you a solid background on Halifax in general and the wool trade in particular. Anne Lister mentions the Piece Hall in her diaries, as it was the location of many political speeches and protests.

You can read about the Piece Hall here:
https://www.thepiecehall.co.uk/



Piece Hall

BANKFIELD MUSEUM

This is not an Anne Lister site per se but it is a wonderful Halifax asset. It resides in a Victorian mansion, the former home of local mill owner, philanthropist and MP, Colonel Edward Akroyd. For a period of time this summer, Bankfield was exhibiting the costumes and some of the props from *Gentleman Jack*. There are several permanent exhibits. I have to say, the exhibit on Halifax during World War Two was one of the best I've seen, anywhere. (I am a WW1 & 2 aficionado.) The exhibit displays many, many artifacts that take you right to the heart of the local experience of that horrible conflict.

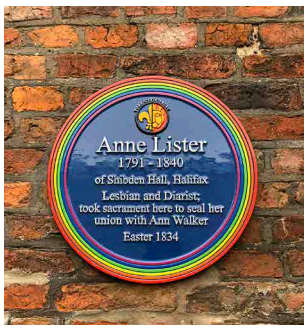
Read about Bankfield Museum here: https://museums.calderdale.gov.uk/visit/bankfield-museum

OTHER ANNE LISTER SITES IN HALIFAX

Halifax was Anne's hometown, and there is much to see in the area, including the home she lived in as a child; the schools she studied in before (and after) attending the Manor School in York; the Literary and Philosophical Society headquarters; Christopher Rawson's home, Hope Hall; the Rawson's bank; the two places Eliza Raine lived when she moved to Halifax for a period of time; the "new church", where Marian Lister's beau John Abbott is buried (he never married, neither did she); and the home of the house where Miss Francis ("Frank") Pickford, an older lesbian Anne Lister became friendly with, stayed when she visited Halifax for a period of time in 1823.

All of these are best seen on a walking tour, and as I've said all along, David Glover is the man to guide that walk. He will spin all of this together for you in a fascinating way. MUCH better experience than walking around staring at buildings!

ONE LAST WORD ABOUT HALIFAX HERITAGE: The powers that be in Halifax are very aware of the interest generated by *Gentleman Jack* and Anne Lister, and have presented several very worthy events, from local walks to the Anne Lister Weekend held in June of 2019. Hopefully they will continue this great work.



Laura Johansen, the Cultural Development Director for Halifax, is a wonderful asset in all of this, and I thank her for her assistance with my many questions.

YORK: GOING TO THE CHAPEL, AND THEY'RE GONNA GET MARRIED

Traveling to York from Halifax couldn't be simpler. Catch one of the MANY daily trains and you'll be there in about an hour and a half. If you leave at a reasonable hour in the morning, you'll be able to see the Anne Lister sites and still be back in the afternoon. But you'd be cheating yourself of a nice visit in a wonderful city, full of history. York is fascinating, even without Anne Lister's connection to it.

And do NOT miss the **York Minster**! You'll pass it on the way to **Goodramgate**, so it isn't the least bit out of the way. Completely stunning, and, as English churches often are, filled with history. Take the guided tour if you have time. You won't be disappointed.

Goodramgate

Holy Trinity Church (Goodramgate) is a pleasant fifteen minute walk from the York train station, but yes, if the weather isn't great, there are taxis at the station. The church is quite compact. Yes, you can sit in the same pew used during the final part of *Gentleman Jack*, and/or kneel at the altar. It certainly isn't difficult to think of those two brave women contemplating the sacrament they were about to share. Bless them both. *Holy Trinity's hours:*
May to September: Daily 11am - 3:30pm
October to April: Weds - Sat 11am - 3pm

OTHER SIGHTS TO SEE IN YORK:

The Manor School: Where Anne met Eliza Raine and Isabella Norcliffe. The buildings to see are around the King's Manor, part of which was the Manor School when Anne attended.
https://www.york.ac.uk/about/campus/landmarks/kings-manor/

Petergate: This is the street most closely associated with Anne Lister in York. It is where she lodged with the Duffins. The Belcombes lived on this street, and the Norcliffes had their town house here. Petergate leads right to the York Minster.
https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/9650857.petergate-a-street-full-of-history/

The Assembly Rooms: Though Anne eschewed the Halifax Assembly Rooms, she did attend events here in York.
http://www.yorkconservationtrust.org/blakestreet-assemblyrooms.html

The Black Swan Inn: Dating from the 1400's, this is the inn where Anne Lister and Ann Walker stayed when visiting Dr. Belcombe. Like many locations in *Gentleman Jack*, not the same as what you see in the program, but have a bite to eat, or a drink in the pub. It looks as if it hasn't been touched for centuries.
https://www.blackswanyork.com/

OTHER WORTHY SIGHTS TO SEE:

This entire region is gorgeous, and if you do get to the countryside you will not be disappointed. Don't forget you're in Bronte country. (Emily Bronte spent a few months teaching at a school quite near Lightcliffe, yes,

while the Ann(e)s were about: 1835.) Haworth and the parsonage is roughly 12 miles away. (Note to Americans: English road distances and travel times should always be calculated as if you were trying to drive through a major city at rush hour. 12 miles is 26 minutes. I once had a guide ask me if I minded driving long distances, while I was planning a driving trip through the UK. I said, "How long is long?" She said, "Maybe 200 miles." I laughed. But when I drove that particular 200 miles, it took me nearly six hours. True story. The roads are narrow and wind around, but oh, how gorgeous the views! Also worth a stop: Hebden Bridge. Quaint little town between Haworth and Halifax. (Why do I suddenly hear Eliza Doolittle practicing pronunciation??)

IN CLOSING: It should be very clear that this guide is a love letter to Halifax and its residents. I would like to acknowledge the special help of the following people in supplying me with specific historical information, within which I have woven my own opinions and comments. I hope that you have the great good fortune to meet every one of them in your trip to Halifax. There are also a few other special folks who assisted me with this guide.

David Glover, for his ongoing education of this obsessively curious Yank

Ian Philp and Dorothy Barker, of Lightcliffe Churchyard, for their patient explanations and wonderful emails full of **the** most interesting facts and stories

Sarah Brueton, wickedly smart and ever so helpful resident of Halifax, excellent historical resource on the Reform Movement, labor unions and child welfare, and wonderful pen-pal

Jason Ward, architectural detective and wonderfully good chap

Nancy Curran, Shibden Hall guide extraordinaire and all-around terrific human being

Caitlin Heaton, innkeeper of the Shibden Mill Inn, for her good humor and fabulous hospitality

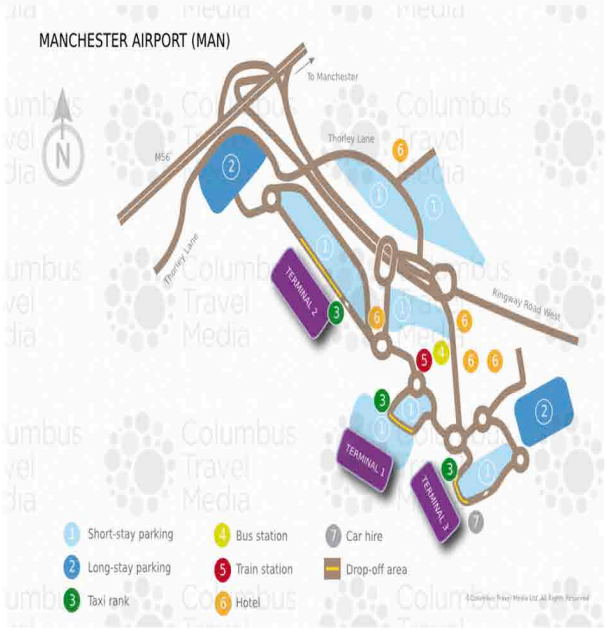
Laura Johansen, Cultural Development Manager, Halifax Culture Hub / Calderdale Cultural Destinations for her tireless work in promoting the history of Anne Lister and Ann Walker

Leanne Mertzman and **Mary Schwartz** of the Shibden After Dark podcasts, for picking up the torch and carrying it forward

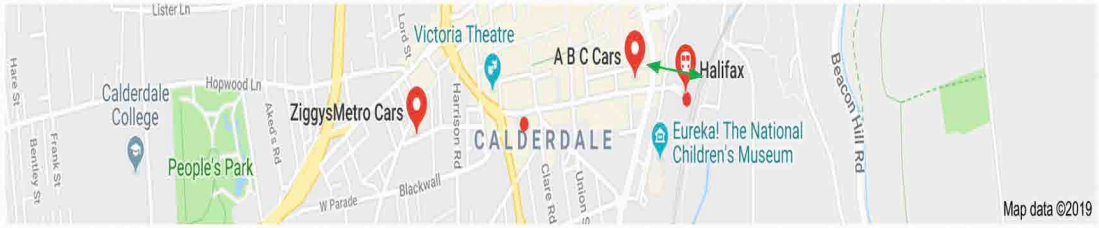
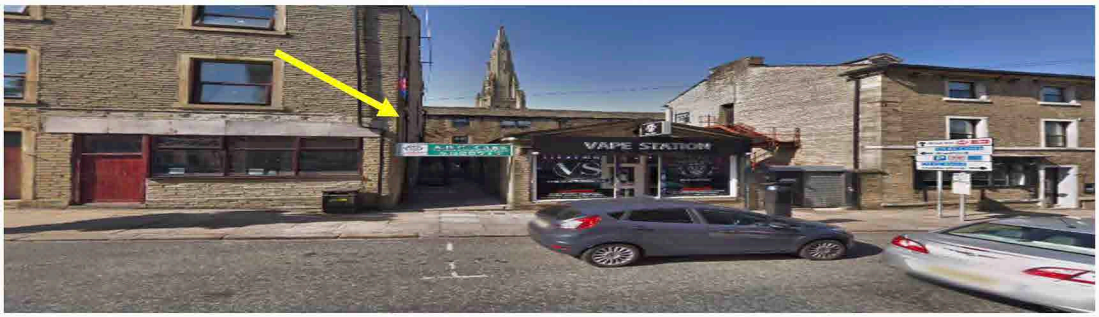
Roxanne Panero, my dear friend and ace graphic designer, who has made my words come to life

I hope you find this information useful and entertaining. I've put it together for informational purposes only and hold no responsibility for things such as the hours facilities are open, the climatic conditions, the challenge that can be Halifax hills, decisions you may make regarding your visit or whether or not someone should go dig up the Minster or the churchyard to "find" Ann or Anne (No. They should not. Rest in Peace means exactly what it says. But that's just my opinion, like the rest of the document.) Enjoy your trip!

Travel directions to Halifax from Manchester Airport by Debra Faulmino:



There are no direct trains from Manchester Airport to Halifax. Transferring between trains can be a close call...I had three minutes to go from one platform to the next. Fortunately, the second train was two minutes late, therefore the train was pulling in as I got to the bottom of stairs. I've included a link to the train schedule so you can time your transfers and not be harried. https://www.thetrainline.com/train-times/manchester-airport-to-halifax

Note: I did not use **Trainline** to purchase my tickets as they were pricy. I booked an all day pass using the site **Rome2Rio**. Total price $25 first class, but there is a lower fare if you do not want first class. if you see a seat with a reserve ticket you can sit there but, may have to give up the seat to someone who purchased a first class seat. Make sure to purchase an **All Day Anytime Pass** in case of flight delays. The ticket can be used anytime in the advent you miss your booked train. My flight was delayed two hours. The train ride was pleasant, clean and safe. One the second leg you will be treated to a view of the Pennines as you leave Lancashire county and enter Yorkshire County...the view is breathtakingly beautiful.

Once I was off the train I had a 3 minute walk to ABC taxi. The walk to taxi is straight ahead on the right (approximately 1 1/2 short blocks). There is a convenience store as you exit train platform and they can point you in the right direction. Very easy. Do not use the white taxi outside of the train station...they are expensive! I stayed at the Shibden Mill Inn and the fare was 5pounds.