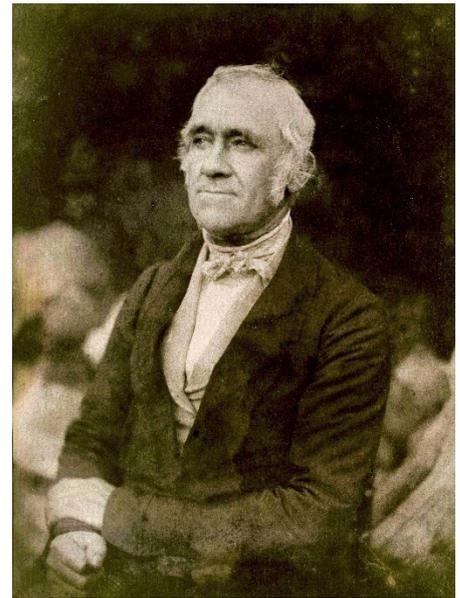


Calotypes and biographies from the 2019 exhibition

Bob Hale, YPS Archivist, 2019

Henry Baines (1793-1878)

Henry Baines was born on 15 May 1793 in a cottage over the ruins of the medieval St Leonard's Hospital in present-day Museum Street, York. From the age of twelve he was employed as a gardener, saying he first put spade in ground close by these ruins, in what became the Museum Gardens. Work took him to Halifax where he became interested in natural history. After his return to York in 1824 or early 1825, married and with a baby daughter, he joined the firm of Backhouses, nurserymen. In 1828, the Yorkshire Philosophical Society took the lease of the Manor Shore and appointed Henry to take care of the grounds. With the opening of the new Museum in the gardens in 1830 he also became its sub-curator under John Phillips, and was provided with accommodation for his family there.



He made an immediate impression. The YPS annual report for 1830 reads: "Council consider themselves fortunate in the person whom they have engaged to take charge of the grounds; a person qualified by his skill and industry, not only to cultivate the gardens with scientific diligence, but to render essential service to the museum. His activity has already obtained for the Society over 500 plants."

Largely self-taught, he published his *Flora of Yorkshire* in 1840, a vital contribution to the study of local botany. He was 51 and by then a devoted and highly valued employee of the YPS when he helped to host the British Association's meeting when it returned to York in 1844. In 1859 the YPS Council marked his 30 years' service with a specially made casket of Minster oak containing the gift of 200 guineas, twice his annual salary. He gave up the superintendence of the gardens in 1869 and, through ill-health, his duties in the museum in 1870, but the YPS continued to pay his full salary of £100 as a pension. He died on 1 April 1878 at the age of 84 and was buried in York Cemetery two days later.

Principal sources for the text: YPS archives and publications; Ancestry.com; Findmypast.co.uk

Baines Family



In 1823 while working in Halifax Henry Baines married Rebecca Bartle, and the couple went on to have five daughters, born between 1824 and 1835. Ellen, the eldest, was born in Halifax when Henry was working there. The four youngest, who appear in this calotype were all born in York, the first two in Micklegate, where the family first lived before Henry was employed by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society. The two youngest, Fanny and Maria, were born in the basement of the Yorkshire Museum where, from its opening in 1830, the family were housed by YPS. At the time of the 1844 British Association meeting Mary was 19, Ann (Anne or Annie) 16, Fanny (extreme right) 11, and Maria 8.

Both Mary and Anne later married at their parish church of St Olave's adjoining the Museum Gardens. Mary married Matthew Henry Walls in 1848. They moved to Bradford where he became secretary of the Mechanics Institute. In 1855 Anne married Thomas Joseph Banks, a landscape artist from Tadcaster.

The Baines family's three rooms in the museum basement were damp, and a year before the 1844 meeting a large bequest enabled YPS to build Manor Cottage, just to the rear of the Museum, for Henry and his family to live much more comfortably, rent-free and with free coal and gas-light. When in 1870 Henry retired due to ill-health, he was allowed to remain in the cottage with Rebecca and Fanny and Maria, neither of whom had married. Maria died in 1877. When Henry passed away the following year Fanny and her elderly mother moved into the newly-built Lodge on Museum Street, and Fanny was employed as gate-keeper. Rebecca died in 1882, aged 76. Fanny lived there until her own death, aged 83, in 1916.

The Lodge on Museum Street is now the YPS headquarters; Manor Cottage is York Museums Trust offices. In 2018 a blue plaque to Henry Baines, creator of the Museum Gardens, was put up on Manor Cottage.

Principal sources for the text: YPS archives and publications; Ancestry.com; Findmypast.co.uk

Henry Thomas De La Beche , KCB, FRS, FGS, (1796-1855)

Henry De La Beche was born in London on 10 February 1796, the son of a cavalry officer whose name was originally Beach but who had changed it to claim a link to the ancient De La Beche family of Berkshire. His father died when Henry was five. He was educated in the west country, and after a failed attempt to pursue a military career he settled in Lyme Regis in 1812, where he developed an interest in meteorology and geology. There he met Mary Anning, daughter of a family dealing in the sale of fossils, and together they searched the cliffs for remains of extinct reptiles. Five years later, at the age of 21, De La Beche became a member of the Geological Society of London, and in December 1822, the very first month of its existence, he was invited to accept honorary membership of the YPS. Fellowship of the Royal Society followed in 1823.



He spent much of the late 1820s abroad after his marriage broke down, gathering material on the geology of the Mediterranean coast, and in 1831 he published a highly successful *Manual of Geology*. He then obtained a government appointment as geologist to the Ordnance Survey, becoming its first Director in 1835. Although Roderick Murchison caused a major controversy by doubting the competence of De La Beche's earlier work on Devon he was later vindicated, and his 1839 Report on the geology of Cornwall, Devon and West Somerset gained widespread acceptance and cemented his position. He proved to be a brilliant administrator, increasing his staff – John Phillips was taken on as palaeontologist – and in 1845 securing the Geological Survey's move from the Ordnance to become an independent body within the Office of Woods and Forests.

De La Beche was staunchly anti-religion, trusting in close scientific observation and analysis. Knighted in 1842, he would be made Companion of the Bath in 1848. He was a member of Council of the British Association on its return to York in 1844. He died in London on 13 April 1855, and was buried in Kensal Green cemetery.

Principal source for the text: Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online

William Etty RA (1787-1849)

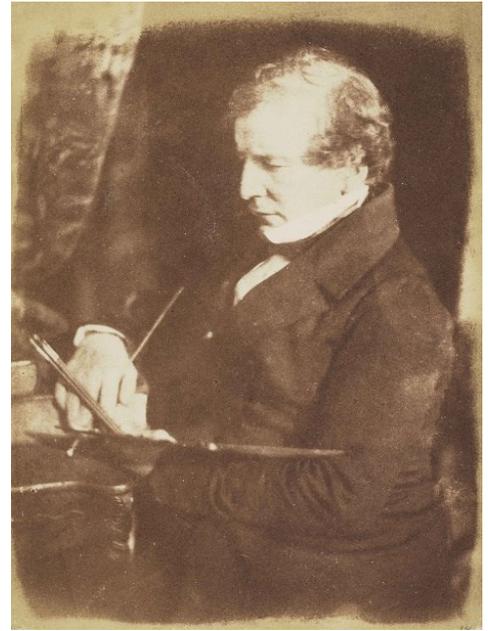
William Etty was born in Peasegate, York, on 10 March 1787, the son of a baker, Matthew Etty, and his wife Esther. Following an unhappy seven years' apprenticeship with a printer in Hull he moved to London, where he stayed with an uncle, and enrolled in the Royal Academy Schools with a keen desire to become an artist. His uncle paid for him to study for a year with Sir Thomas Lawrence, but it was John Opie's lectures on Titian and Rubens that inspired him to paint the female nude. He would become one of the most famous, or notorious, artists of the 19th century.

His first painting to make a splash in the annual Royal Academy summer exhibition was in 1821, Cleopatra's arrival in Cicilia (now at Lady Lever Art Gallery, Port Sunlight). He was accorded widespread praise here and in similar classical scenes that followed, invariably featuring many nudes, for his ability to paint realistic flesh tones. Not all who saw them approved, however, and he faced accusations of gross indecency. Either way, both critical and commercial success resulted. He moved into an apartment in Buckingham Street, near the Strand, where his niece Betsy joined him as his housekeeper, and there they remained for the rest of his working life. In February 1828 he was elected one of the forty Royal Academicians. He defeated John Constable in the ballot by 18 votes to 5.

Hearing of this recognition, the Yorkshire Philosophical Society followed suit, granting Etty honorary membership. Few artists and writers received this accolade, or were elected ordinary members, in a society that was scientifically Philosophical but never Literary. But Etty had never lost interest in his native York, and was prominent, along with leading figures of the newly formed YPS, in campaigns to preserve the bar walls against demolition, and to gather 'antiquities' into the society's collections.

In addition to history paintings Etty also painted portraits and still lifes. One of his finest works is an 1832 portrait of York surgeon James Atkinson, one of the three founders of the YPS (York Art Gallery). It was shown in the gallery's major retrospective of Etty's work in 2011-12, staged 100 years after a similar retrospective to accompany the unveiling of his statue in Exhibition Square in 1911. As tastes changed in the late 19th century public and critical interest in Etty had declined, a situation that changed little in the 20th, although in York his statue served as a constant reminder to residents of their most famous local artist. His preoccupation with nudes continues to divide opinion, but his name is once again widely known and respected. There are substantial holdings of his works both in York and at Tate Britain.

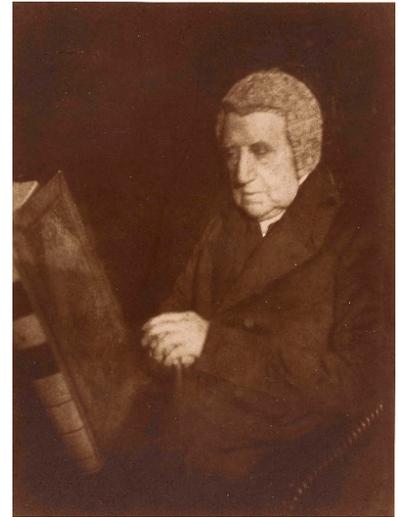
A shy, withdrawn character, he retired to York in poor health in 1848, dying on 13 November the following year in the house he had bought in Coney Street, from which he could view the river. He was buried, not in the Minster as he had hoped, but in St Olave's churchyard. His tomb can be seen from the Museum Gardens, through the ruins of St Mary's Abbey.



Principal sources for the text: Oxford Dictionary of National Biography; Wikipedia

Edward Harcourt, Archbishop of York (1757 – 1847)

Edward Venables-Vernon – who inherited the Harcourt family estates in Oxfordshire in 1830 and took the surname Harcourt instead of his own – had become Bishop of Carlisle in 1791 at the young age of 34, and Archbishop of York aged 50 in 1807. He was born in Sudbury, Derbyshire, on 10 October 1757, the second son of the first Baron Vernon and his third wife Martha, a sister of the first Earl Harcourt, and was educated at Westminster School and Oxford. Married in 1784 to Lady Anne Leveson-Gower, he now had an almost inexhaustible store of influential family connections. He and his wife had 16 children, 11 boys and 5 girls, all but two of whom survived to maturity. Their fourth son, William Vernon Harcourt, was invited by the three founder members of the YPS in December 1822 to join them in establishing the Society, and became its President and leading light. His father, the archbishop, joined the YPS in the same month, and was a patron from 1824. He laid the foundation stone of the Yorkshire Museum in October 1827. He served as Archbishop of York for forty years, and gave generously of his time and money, including large contributions for the restoration of York Minster after the two fires of 1829 and 1840.



He was a frequent visitor at Windsor to advise Queen Charlotte during the final years of George III's reign, and preached at the coronations in Westminster Abbey of George IV, William IV and Queen Victoria.

Although Edward Harcourt's main residence was Nuneham Park, Oxfordshire, from 1831 he continued to visit his archbishop's palace at Bishopthorpe on a regular basis. By the time of the 1844 meeting, he was an elderly widower, and the president of the British Association in his address saluted "the venerable Archbishop of this province, who bears the honours of his high station in a green and vigorous old age, and whose munificent patronage and support we must ever be ready to acknowledge." This calotype was made at Bishopthorpe on 4 October when Hill and Adamson's apparatus was taken to the palace after the meeting. Three years later, aged 90, Harcourt died of a chill there on 5 November 1847, having fallen from a bridge into a pond. He was buried at the church of Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire.

Principal sources for the text: Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online; Yorkshire Philosophical Society archives; British Association for the Advancement of Science, Report of the 1844 meeting; Hugh Murray, Photographs and photographers of York, the early years 1844-1879 (1986).

Mrs Harcourt



In October 1844, at the end of the BAAS conference, Hill and Adamson moved their equipment to the Archbishop's Palace at Bishopthorpe, and took photographs of his family. There are a number of photographs entitled "Mrs Harcourt", one of which we used in our exhibition. Research suggests that this portrait represents **Mrs Anne Holwell Danby Harcourt**, one of the Archbishop's daughters-in-law, the wife of Capt Octavius Vernon Harcourt.

Anne Holwell was born at Exeter on 1 January 1796. She married William Danby Esq. of Swinton Park near Masham, North Yorkshire, on 5 January 1822 as his second wife, his first having died the previous year. Anne was 44 years younger than him, and they were together only eleven years before he died, leaving no children. William

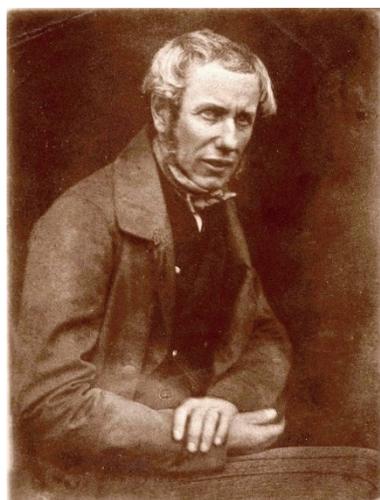
Danby, son of a clergyman, Eton and Cambridge educated, was a writer on moral philosophy and collector of antiquities. Within four months of the foundation of the YPS in 1823 he was elected a member, and in 1824 was made a vice-president. He made numerous large donations of specimens from his own collections, and contributed a total of £120 to the Yorkshire Museum building fund, a sum worth many thousands of pounds today. He saw it built and opened before he died at the age of 81 in December 1833. Mrs Danby subscribed as a member in his place until 1837.

On 22 February 1838, Anne Holwell Danby remarried, to Capt (later Admiral) Octavius Vernon Harcourt. They had no children, but she was a firm believer in providing education for other people's. Masham National (Church of England) School had been erected in 1834 entirely at her expense. Twenty years later, as there was already a grammar school for boys, she built and endowed a free school for twelve girls, with room for another twelve whose fathers could afford to pay. She later built an infants' school in Swinton in 1875. In 1853 she endowed six 'substantial' almshouses in the town, to which her husband added a further four in 1858, each of the ten residents receiving five shillings a week. Admiral Harcourt died in 1863. Anne continued to live at Swinton Park thereafter, and in the 1871 census, when she had two visitors staying with her, she was attended by 17 servants. (Swinton Park is now a hotel. William Danby's Druids' Temple can still be visited just west of Ilton nearby.)

Upon Anne's death on 26 June 1879, a lengthy account of her funeral at Masham church appeared in the Harrogate Advertiser of 5 July. A long cortege of carriages was followed by a procession of servants from the estate and children from her charity school. Other schoolchildren from Swinton and Masham lined the route. She was buried beside her first husband William, and close by the grave of her second, Admiral Octavius. "In the presence of so large an assemblage of persons as is rarely to be seen in Masham," reported the Advertiser, "the mortal remains of Mrs Danby Vernon Harcourt were on Thursday laid to rest in the ancient burying place of the Danbys, at the east end of the south aisle of Masham Church, with all those tokens of respectful attention which befitted her great age and the revered position she had so long held amongst her tenantry and neighbours."

Principal sources for the text: Yorkshire Philosophical Society archives; Burke's Peerage; Directories, Yorkshire N & E Ridings, York Explore library; Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online; Wikipedia; British Newspaper Archive: Harrogate Advertiser, 5 July 1879; Ancestry.com; Findmypast.co.uk.

Sir John Fredrick William Herschel, FRS, FRAS, FGS (1792-1871)



Sir John Frederick William Herschel was an English polymath, mathematician, astronomer, chemist, inventor, and experimental photographer, who also did valuable botanical work. He was born in Slough, Buckinghamshire on 7 March 1792, the only child of the internationally known astronomer William Herschel, who in 1781 had discovered Uranus. Graduating in 1813 from St John's College, Cambridge, as an already published mathematician, he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society that same year at the age of 21. To mathematics he added the study of astronomy three years later under his father, and when William died in 1822, John continued his work. Three times President of the Royal Astronomical Society, which he had helped to found in 1820, he made a particular study of double

stars and nebulae. He was a member of a British Association Committee “for revising the Nomenclature of the Stars” formed in 1840 that gave its report at the 1844 meeting in York. He then developed an extensive knowledge of and interest in chemistry, mechanics, optical science, acoustics and electricity, and in 1830 published the highly influential Preliminary Discourse on the Study of Natural Philosophy. He was knighted by William IV in 1831. His Treatise on Astronomy of 1833 was followed by four years spent with his wife and their first three children at the Cape of Good Hope in Southern Africa, to observe the celestial objects of the southern skies. Whilst there he also took the opportunity to explore the flora, fauna and geology of the region, which is thought to have had a certain influence on the thinking of Darwin. He was greeted with acclamation on his return in 1838, by which time he had three more children (he and his wife Margaret would eventually have twelve), and given a baronetcy at Queen Victoria’s coronation.

From 1839 he undertook important experiments in the new science of photochemistry, seeking ways to progress further on the initiatives of Daguerre and Fox Talbot, and introducing the terms ‘positive’, ‘negative’, ‘snap-shot’, and ‘photograph’. He was President of the BA in 1845 and by 1850 was the most eminent scientist in Britain. From 1850 to 1855 he was also Master of the Royal Mint, a position once held by Isaac Newton, but which took a toll on his health. His Treatise on Astronomy was updated as Outlines of Astronomy in 1871, showing the evolution of his and others’ ideas in the interim, and went through eleven editions. Despite severe rheumatism and bronchitis in his later years he continued to write prolifically. When he died in 1871 he was buried next to Newton in Westminster Abbey.

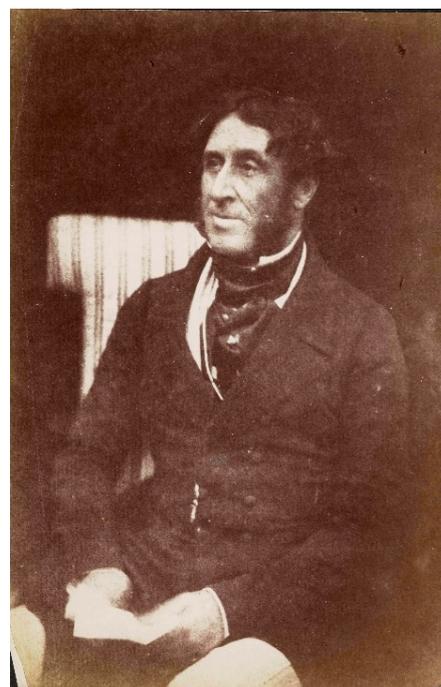
Principal source for the text: Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online.

Sir John Vanden-Bempde Johnstone, MP, FGS (1799-1869)

Sir John Johnstone of Hackness Hall, near Scarborough, was born on 28 August 1799 and elected to YPS in December 1823. Young, energetic and progressive-minded, he was immediately appointed vice-president 1824-26 and again 1843-46. His family’s York town house was 20 Bootham (now number 51, part of Bootham School), built by his father Sir Richard c.1804. Sir John became MP for Yorkshire 1830-32, and then for Scarborough 1832-37 and from 1841 until his death.

He married Louisa Augusta Venables Vernon, 2nd daughter of the Archbishop of York, thus becoming the brother-in-law of William Vernon Harcourt, first president of YPS and co-founder of the British Association in York in 1831. When the BA returned to York for the 1844 meeting he served as a vice-president of the Statistics Section.

In the President’s address to that 1844 meeting, Sir John was gratefully commended as the man “who so generously protected the old age of the Father of English Geology”. This referred to Johnstone’s kindness in 1828 giving a roof and employment as his land steward to William ‘Strata’ Smith, who was out of work and homeless. He most probably first met him within two months of joining YPS, when Smith delivered a course of lectures in February 1824, bringing with him his nephew John Phillips.

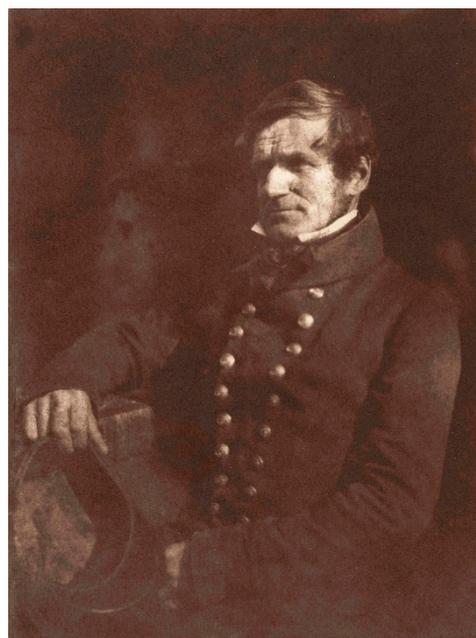


Phillips made such an impression himself that he was appointed first Keeper of the Yorkshire Museum which opened in 1830. It was Sir John Johnstone who provided the stone for this Museum. As president and benefactor of the Scarborough Philosophical Society he also donated stone from his estate for the town's Rotunda Museum, the world's first purpose-built geological museum, opened 1829 to house Smith's collection of fossils. He died as a result of a hunting accident in February 1869.

Principal sources for the text: Yorkshire Philosophical Society archives and publications; Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments (England), York, vol IV (1975); The History of Parliament online.

Charles William Peach (1800-1886)

Charles William Peach was a coastguard officer who became a distinguished amateur naturalist and geologist. He was born on 30 September 1800 at Wansford, on the Great North Road in Northamptonshire. He worked for his father, also Charles William, a farmer and innkeeper, for several years before entering the mounted coastguard service, firstly in Norfolk, then successively in Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. The fact that he had continued his schooling to the age of fifteen was perhaps a clue to his potential for further learning, though largely self-taught. His occupation gave him plenty of opportunity to indulge an enthusiastic interest in marine science, and he discovered new molluscs, sea urchins, starfish, sponges and a spectacular holothurian – or sea cucumber – with twenty tentacles. He established links with numerous natural history societies, as eager to inform them of findings of local interest as he was to make them known in London.

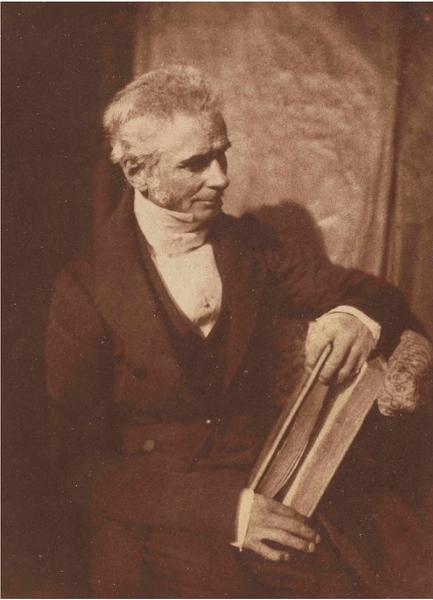


Peach published numerous articles, and attended BA meetings including 1844 in York, where he presented a paper on marine zoology. Although he had had no formal training his work met with general approbation from acknowledged experts, one clear instance being that the 1844 BA Report resolved 'that a Committee be appointed, consisting of Prof. Owen, Prof. Forbes, Sir C. Lemon, and Mr. Couch, for the purpose of aiding Mr. Peach in his researches into the Marine Zoology of Cornwall, with the sum of £10 at their disposal'. Another boost soon afterwards was the celebrated Oxford geologist William Buckland's anonymous recommendation that he be upgraded to a post in Her Majesty's Customs at Fowey.

In 1853 he moved to Scotland to be customs comptroller at Wick, where he made an important fossil discovery in limestone on the northern coast near Durness. He maintained a wide circle of scientific and literary friends, including the famous Scottish palaeontologist and writer Hugh Miller. He enjoyed a lengthy retirement in Edinburgh, where he died on 28 February 1886.

Principal sources for the text: Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online; British Association for the Advancement of Science, Report of the 1844 meeting.

Rev Dr William Scoresby, DD (1789-1857)



William Scoresby, sea captain, Arctic scientist and later Church of England clergyman, was born in Cropton, near Pickering, one of five surviving children (six more died in infancy). His father, William senior, unhappy with farming, moved his family to Whitby some 20 miles away soon after William's birth, and went to sea. He sailed to the Arctic on whaling ships in summer and on coastal voyages in winter. William junior made his first voyage to the Arctic with his father when only ten years old. In 1802 his father was given command as part-owner of a new ship, the Resolution. Every summer bar one from 1803 to 1823 William sailed out of Whitby to Greenland and the whale fishing grounds, first as his father's apprentice, then taking over as master of the Resolution from the age of 21. Meanwhile, in 1806 he enrolled at Edinburgh University where he spent several winters studying chemistry, mathematics and natural philosophy. He

had learned from his father the commercial benefits derived from acute and systematic observation of sea, ice and wind. In Edinburgh his tutors encouraged further polar research each summer, and he gained the friendship and support of Prof Robert Jameson and Sir Joseph Banks. Between 1813 and 1817 he made many of his most important discoveries in Arctic geography, meteorology, and oceanography, and the resulting scientific papers led in 1819 to his election as Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. By microscopic examination of sea water samples he deduced that there was "a dependent chain of existence" for creatures of the sea, the first recognition of a food "chain", an idea not fully developed for another 100 years. His unparalleled two-volume Account of the Arctic Regions, which included an account of this experiment, was published in 1820. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in London in 1824 and in the same year was granted honorary membership of YPS. He was a founder member of the BA in York in 1831, and prominent at the 1844 meeting.

The shock news on his return from the Arctic in 1822 that his wife had died was of lasting effect. He gave up the sea after a final voyage the following year. Always a man of strong religious convictions, he decided to enter the church. He was ordained deacon in 1825 and served for two years as curate of Bessingby, near Bridlington. From 1827 to 1832 he was a chaplain to seamen in Liverpool, where he married again, and he took another chaplaincy in Exeter from 1832 to 1837. There he engaged in research into magnetism. His final appointment, as vicar of Bradford from 1838, was onerous in the extreme, and cost him his health. He was distressed by the appalling conditions in this crowded industrial parish, and after efforts to bring improvements to children's schooling and workers' homes and factories gained little support he resigned the living in 1846. His second wife also dying, he moved to Torquay, the home town of his third wife, where he devoted his time to further research and writing, and where he died on 21 March 1857.

Scoresby wrote prolifically, publishing more than one hundred works, not only on polar exploration but also on religion and social reform. He invented and constructed several pieces of apparatus for his scientific experiments and was an active lecturer to learned and popular audiences alike. On his death he left his instruments, books, and papers to the Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society, of which he had also been a founder member in 1822.

Principal sources for the text: Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online; Richard Morris, Yorkshire, a lyrical history of England's greatest county (2018).

Thomas Simpson, MD (1788-1863)

Dr Thomas Simpson, physician, son of Mr John Simpson, surgeon, was born in Knaresborough and baptised at the parish church there on 22 May 1788. He took his degree in medicine at Edinburgh University. It is not known when he came to York, but he was elected to the YPS in 1825. A founder member of York Medical Society in 1832, he served as its president in 1834 and again in 1847. He was a life member of the BA and a vice-president of its Medical Science Section at the 1844 York meeting. Fellow YPS members were prominent in his life: he lived at Gray's Court, a neighbour of the family of William Gray (later YPS treasurer, and Lord Mayor of York at the time of the BA meeting in 1844) and of a number of other physicians, including Henry Belcombe and the William Matterns, father and son. He remained unmarried, attended by a housekeeper and two, sometimes three other servants. He died on 28 February 1863, aged 74. His funeral cortege was joined by a dozen carriages taking his friends and members of the medical profession to York cemetery where he was buried on 6 March. His will, with estate valued at almost £25,000, was proved by three more YPS members (the doctors George Shann and William Dalla Husband, and solicitor Henry John Ware).



Principal sources for the text: YPS archives; York Medical Society; British Newspaper Archive: York Herald, 7 March 1863; Ancestry.com; Findmypast.co.uk.

Image Credits

The portraits in the above article are all calotypes taken by David Octavius Hill (1802-1870) & Robert Adamson (1821-1848) and licensed from the National Galleries of Scotland. The respective titles are:-

'Henry Baines. Curator of the York Museum'

'The Family of Mr Baines, curator of York Museum' [Group 16]'

'Sir Henry Thomas De La Beche, 1796 – 1855'

'William Etty 1787-1849 Artist'

'Edward Vernon Harcourt, Archbishop of York, 1757 – 1847'

'Mrs-Harcourt-1'

'Sir John Vanden-Bempde-Johnstone, 1799 – 1869. Son-in-law of the Archbishop of York'

'Charles William Peach, 1800 – 1886. Coastguard; naturalist and geologist'

'Rev. Dr William Scoresby, 1789 – 1857. Whaler, Scientist and Arctic explorer [b]'

'Dr Simpson [a]'