



## York's First Photographs - Victorian Visionaries YPS Exhibition Panels and Locations

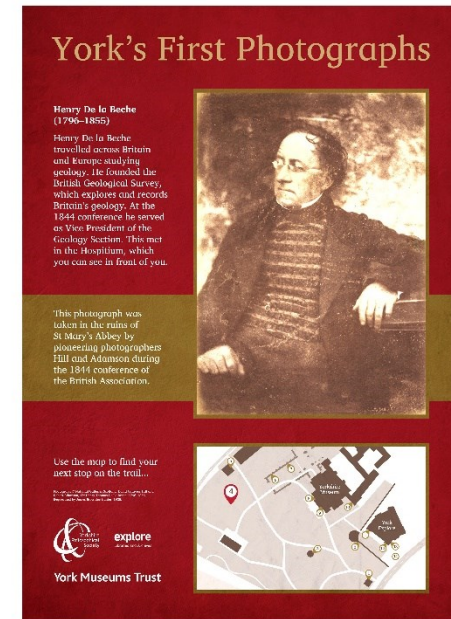
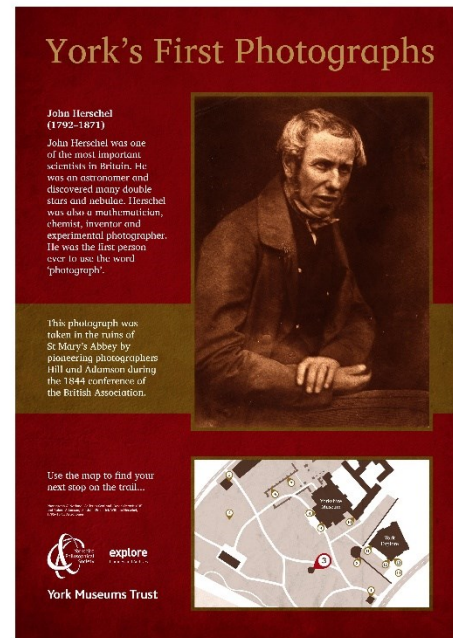
In September-October 2019, the YPS staged an exhibition of photographs which had been taken in York 175 years previously, at the 1844 conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. These very early photographs, called calotypes, were taken by two Scottish photographers, David Octavius Hill and Robert Adamson who became recognised as among the most important early photographers.

The exhibition displayed a selection of the photographs they took in York, printed on waterproof panels and mounted in different locations in Museum Gardens.

The following pages show these panels in their chosen locations.



## The Lodge, a tree overlooking the Hospitium, and the Observatory



An information board, describing the exhibition and the location of the panels, was mounted on the YPS Lodge

Henry Thomas De La Beche was a distinguished geologist. At the 1844 conference he served as Vice President of the Geology Section. It was not possible to put his photograph on the Hospitium, where they held their meetings, so so it was mounted it on a near-by tree. The Observatory seemed appropriate for the photograph of Sir John Herschel. An astronomer, who discovered many double stars and nebulae, he was also a mathematician, chemist, inventor, and experimental photographer



# The Roman Wall and Manor Cottage

Henry Baines was responsible for Museum Gardens, and obtained many rare and unusual plants for them.

Two photographs of him were included, one mounted on the Roman wall, overlooking the spot which he himself had identified as the place he first put spade into ground as a twelve-year old gardener. The second, showing him surrounded by his family, was positioned on Manor Cottage, built by YPS to provide them with better conditions than in their earlier accommodation in the museum basement.



## York's First Photographs

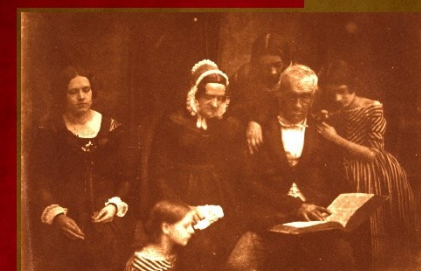
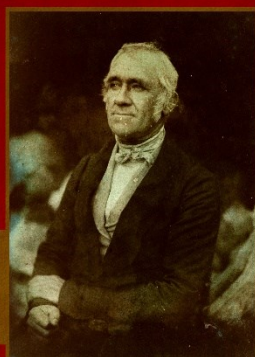
Henry Baines  
(1795-1878)

As well as working in the Museum, Henry Baines was responsible for these gardens, and obtained many rare and unusual plants for them. Born in a cottage over the ruins of the medieval St Leonard's Hospital, he began work as a gardener at the age of twelve.

This photograph was taken in the ruins of St Mary's Abbey by pioneering photographers Hill and Adamson during the 1844 conference of the British Association.

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This photograph was taken in the ruins of St Mary's Abbey by pioneering photographers Hill and Adamson during the 1844 conference of the British Association.

## York's First Photographs

The Baines family

Henry Baines was responsible for these gardens. He is shown here with his wife Rebecca, and four of their five daughters. For many years the family lived in the museum basement. In 1845 they moved to this new building, Manor Cottage.



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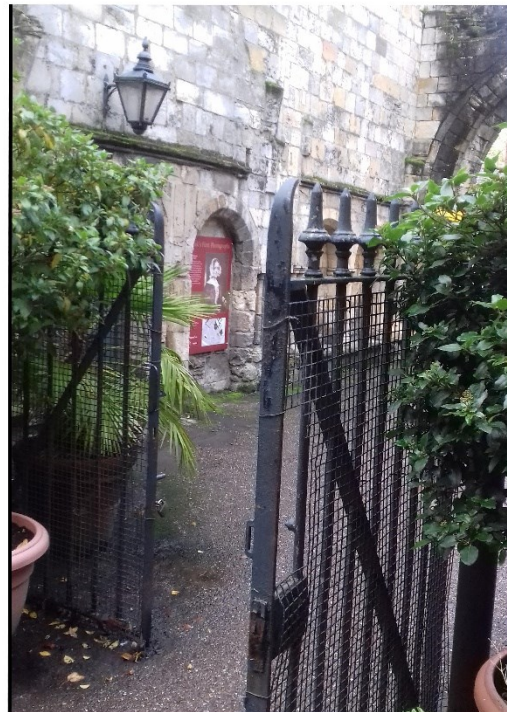
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# The Yorkshire Museum and St Mary's Lodge




## York's First Photographs


**Edward Harcourt**  
(1757-1847)

Edward Harcourt was the Archbishop of York. Even at 87, he remained one of the most influential men in York and had many aristocratic connections. He laid the foundation stone for the Yorkshire Museum in 1827, and was a life member of the British Association.

This photograph was taken at the Archbishop of York's Palace in Bishopthorpe, by pioneering photographers Hill and Adamson following the 1844 conference of the British Association.

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## York's First Photographs


**John Johnstone**  
(1799-1860)

John Johnstone was a wealthy landowner and Member of Parliament. He provided the stone to build the Yorkshire Museum and the Scarborough Rienda. He gave a home and employment to the impoverished 'Father of English Geology', William Smith. At the 1844 conference, he served as a Vice-President of the Statistics Section.

This photograph was taken in the ruins of St Mary's Abbey by pioneering photographers Hill and Adamson during the 1844 conference of the British Association.

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## York's First Photographs

**Anne Harcourt**  
(1796-1879)

Anne Harcourt was the first female member of the Yorkshire Philological Society. She devoted tens of thousands of pounds to the Yorkshire Museum. Anne was up and endowed a free school for girls in Masham near her Swinton Park house. In Masham she also founded six almshouses for men and women.

This photograph was taken at the Archbishop of York's Palace in Bishopthorpe, by pioneering photographers Hill and Adamson following the 1844 conference of the British Association.

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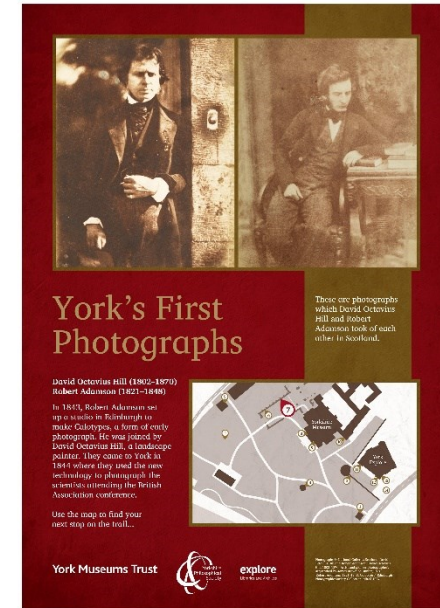
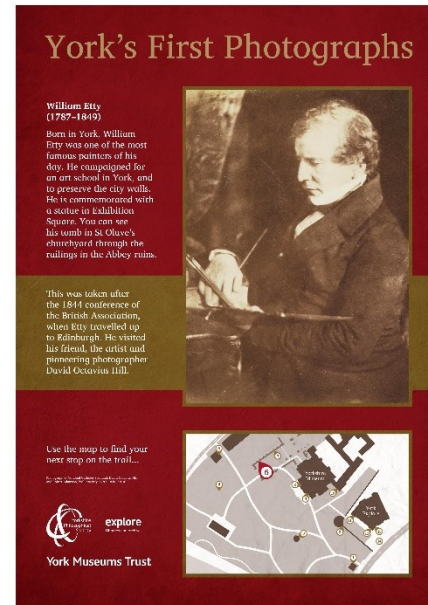


Two panels were mounted on either side of the main door on the museum, that of Edward Harcourt, Archbishop of York, YPS founder member and father of the first President, and his son-in-law, Sir John Johnstone. The museum was chosen for these, as the Archbishop laid its foundation stone, and Sir John donated the stone from which it was built.

Mrs Harcourt, daughter-in-law of the Archbishop, first woman member of YPS, and local benefactress, was positioned on St Mary's Lodge, which she had probably visited when John Philips and his sister were in residence.



# St Mary's Abbey



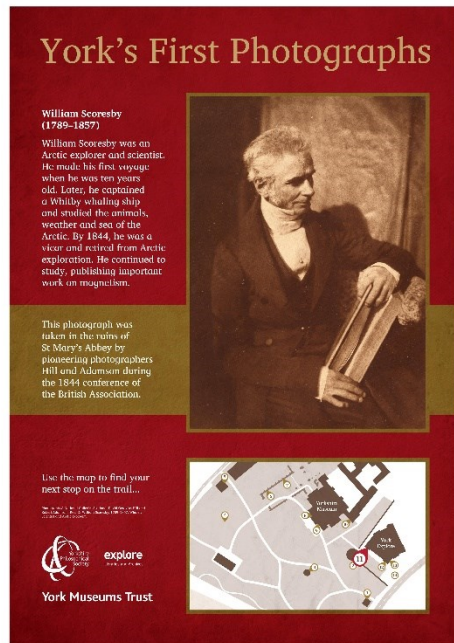
Born in York, William Etty was one of the most famous painters of his day. His photograph was mounted on the ruins of St. Mary's Abbey, next to the railings through which his tomb can be viewed.

The photographers, David Octavius Hill and Robert Adamson, had used the Abbey ruins as an open-air studio, so their panel was also mounted on the ruins, in a spot which they themselves had photographed.





# The Library Lawn



Three panels were positioned in the area known as the Library Lawn. From the left, the first is the Reverend Dr Scoresby, whaling captain and Arctic scientist turned clergyman, then Charles Peach, mounted coastguard and amateur naturalist and geologist. Both of these gentlemen had gone to great trouble to get themselves an education, and we felt sure would approve of being mounted on a library

Lastly, facing the ruins of St Leonard's Hospital, an important medical foundation dating from Anglo-Saxon times, we placed Dr Thomas Simpson, a surgeon who lived and practised in York. Simpson was a founder member of the York Medical Society, and served as Vice President of the Medical Science section at the 1844 conference

