

Marsha P. Johnson

1945 - 1992

Marsha P. Johnson, also known as Black Marsha, was born in New Jersey in the USA and assigned male at birth. She began wearing dresses at the age of 5 and as a young adult moved to New York City where she worked as a drag queen and sex worker. She also became involved in the Stonewall rebellion in 1969 which helped spark the queer liberation movements of the 1970s. She was an activist for gay and trans rights, co-founding the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR). She advocated for AIDS patients, and was herself HIV positive in 1990. Her cause of death remains unknown.



Source: New York Times

Further reading: *Stonewall*, by David Carter

Oscar Wilde

1854 - 1900

Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin, Ireland. He studied classics at Trinity College Dublin and Magdalene College,



Oxford between 1871 and 1879. In the 1880-90s, he became a popular playwright, author, and critic. He married his wife Constance in 1883, and began to have sex with men in 1886. In 1895, he was convicted of gross indecency under the Labouchere Amendment, resulting in his imprisonment and a serious blow to his reputation. His imprisonment was harmful to his health, and he died three years after his release as a result of an ear disease contracted in prison.

James Barry

<1800 - 1865

Born in England in a disputed year, James Barry began presenting as male at the age of ten.



He attended university

in Edinburgh and graduated in 1812, recorded as the youngest person to graduate there as a doctor of medicine.

He joined the British army in 1818, and served in colonial forces in South Africa, Jamaica, Crimea, and Canada. Noted as a skilled surgeon, in 1826 he performed an early caesarean section where both the birthing parent and child survived.

However, he also developed a reputation for his temper, even participating in a duel in 1818. He retired to England in 1859.

Source: Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Further reading: *James M. Barry*, by Patricia Duncker

Warning: both sources refer to Barry with she/her pronouns.

Ladies of Llangollen

1739 - 1829 (Butler)

1755 - 1831 (Ponsonby)

Born into aristocratic families, Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby moved together to Wales in 1778. For Butler, in her



thirties and unmarried, the move may have been motivated by her family's pressure to move off the family estate. Similarly, Ponsonby may have wished to avoid living with family. They ultimately settled in Llangollen, where they drew the fascinations of travellers and aristocrats alike, even receiving a pension from George III. Neither married, and both they and their maid, Mary Carryll, were buried in Llangollen.

Source: Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Further reading: *The Ladies of Llangollen*, by Fiona Brideoake

Anne Lister

1791 - 1840

Born to a landowning family in Halifax, Yorkshire, Anne Lister moved in 1815 to Shibden Hall to live with family and run the estate, on which she maintained coal mines and quarries. In addition to running Shibden Hall, she travelled extensively around Europe and became quite learned through her own study. She had many female lovers, including Ann Walker, an heiress whom she courted and married (though not legally) in 1834. Her sexual and romantic pursuits are recorded in her diaries. She stayed with Ann Walker until her death.



Sources: Oxford Dictionary of National Biography,
Borthwick Institute of Archives: "The Story of Anne Lister"
Further reading: *Female Masculinity*, by Jack Halberstam
(see index)

Freddie Mercury

1946 - 1991

Born in Zanzibar (modern Tanzania), Mercury moved to England for A-levels. In 1970, he formed Queen



with Brian May and Roger Taylor, whom he met in uni. They were joined in 1971 by John Deacon. Around this time, he met Mary Austin, whom he dated for seven years. Queen found global success in the 70's and 80's, during which time Mercury maintained a flamboyant image but refrained from coming out. Later in life, he had a long-term relationship with a man named Jim Hutton, who stayed with him until his death of AIDS in 1991.

Sources: Oxford Dictionary of National Biography,
BBC: "Who was the real Freddie Mercury?"

Further reading: *Freddie Mercury*, by Lesley-Ann Jones

Cecil Bellfield Clarke

1894 - 1970

Born in Barbados, Clarke moved to England in 1914 where he studied medicine at Cambridge, becoming qualified as a surgeon in 1920. He then practised in London for many years, living in one house until his death with his partner, Edward 'Pat' Walter. An acquaintance of W. E. B. DuBois, in the 1930s and 40s, Clarke was a founding member of the League of Coloured Peoples (LCP) and helped plan and fund conferences to further Pan-African causes and Black. Later in life, he was on the Council of the British Medical Association, and a medical adviser to the Ghanaian government.



Alan Turing

1912 - 1954

Turing attended Cambridge between 1931 and 1934, becoming a fellow after earning a first-class

From this time, he began theorising a 'universal Turing machine', a precursor to modern digital computers. From 1938-45, he worked with the British government to decipher Axis codes, making significant contributions to cracking the Enigma code. Throughout his life, he had many sexual relationships with other men, which he treated with relative openness. In 1952, he was convicted for homosexuality, and forced to accept oestrogen injections or be imprisoned.

