

Dr Susan Walton

Academic Researcher

Dr Susan Walton is an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Hull in the Faculty of Arts, Education and Culture. Her research focuses on conservative women writers, scholars and missionaries of the long nineteenth century.

Degrees

MA, Medieval and Modern History, St Andrews University
PGCE, Institute of Education, London University
MA, Representations and Contexts, 1750-1830, University of York
PhD, English, University of Hull

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My Life and work

After a peripatetic childhood and schooling in America, Malaysia and, lastly, a small boarding school in Surrey, I went to St Andrews University to read History. Tutorials with Professor Norman Gash for my Special Subject during my final two years laid the foundations for my particular interest in the culture and politics of the 19th Century. With a PGCE from the Institute of Education, London University, I then began teaching at Haberdashers' Aske's Girls' School, Hatcham.

On my marriage, I moved to Hull where my husband was a founding member of the recently established Drama Department. Over the next twenty years I combined the care of our three children with history-teaching appointments at a variety of levels: secondary schools, further education colleges and latterly in the Department of Continuing Education at the University of Hull where I designed a course in Women's History.

Then, at the turn of the century, I achieved a long-held ambition to return to university as a student. I enrolled at the University of York for an interdisciplinary MA taught by Jane Rendall, John Barrell and Harriet Guest. This enabled me to move sideways by combining history with literature and led on to my study for a PhD in the English Department at Hull under the supervision of Valerie Sanders. There my research centred on the works of Charlotte M. Yonge, an author unknown to me until Virago republished some of her novels in the 1980s. My dissertation became the basis for my monograph, *Imagining Soldiers and Fathers in the Mid-Victorian Era: Charlotte Yonge's Models of Manliness* (Ashgate, 2010).

Research Interests

My focus on Charlotte Yonge has been accidental and unexpected. Wanting to understand better the attitudes and anxieties of people experiencing the economic and social transformations of the nineteenth century by interrogating literary texts, I became engrossed by Yonge's multiple writings both fictional and non-fictional. This has widened into an examination of her quiet significance as a member of the close circle of Tractarians and how she percolated their principles into unexpected sections of Victorian society.

Honorary Research Associateship

My first academic article, 'Charlotte M. Yonge and the "historic harem" of Edward Augustus Freeman', in the *Journal of Victorian Culture* in 2006 was one of the three finalists for the Interdisciplinary *Nineteenth-Century Studies* Essay Prize. In 2007 Hull University awarded me the title of Honorary Research Associate. This has enabled me to continue with a variety of interdisciplinary research projects. Among these, was a commission in 2011 to write the extensive entry for Charlotte Yonge for the *Oxford Bibliography Online* and in 2016, in preparation for Hull's City of Culture, to provide an entry for the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* for Rev. James Sibree, born in Hull but a missionary in Madagascar for over 50 years. I am very grateful to Hull University for the renewal of this honorary position every three years.

Publications

– *Imagining Soldiers and Fathers in the Mid-Victorian Era: Charlotte Yonge's Models of Manliness*. (Farnham and Burlington, Vt: Ashgate), 2010.

Academic Articles and Book Chapters

- "'Hard cash is a necessary consideration': Money and Class in Charlotte M. Yonge's Novels of Contemporary Family Life", in *Charlotte Mary Yonge: Writing the Victorian Age*, eds Clare Walker Gore, Clemence Schultze, Julia Courtney, Palgrave Macmillan 2022, (105-122).
- 'Hursley Park and the Heathcotes', *Journal of the Charlotte M. Yonge Fellowship*, 14 (2020): 56–70.
- 'Model military men: Charlotte Yonge and the "martial ardour" of "a soldier's daughter"' in *Martial Masculinities: Experiencing and Imagining the Military in the Long Nineteenth Century*, eds Michael Brown, Anna Maria Barry and Joanne Begiato (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2019), 161–77.
- 'Sibree, James (1836-1929)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oct. 2016, an entry commissioned as part of the celebration of Hull's Year as City of Culture 2017.
- 'Charlotte Yonge and the Aftermath of Waterloo: Military Men in Reality and Imagination', *Journal of the Charlotte M. Yonge Fellowship* 12 (2017): 49-62.
- 'Charlotte Yonge' in Victorian Literature, *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, Oxford University Press, New York. <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199799558/obo-9780199799558-0070.xml> Revised and updated April 2017.
- "'Spinning the Webs": Education and Distance Learning through Charlotte Yonge's Monthly Packet', *Victorian Periodicals Review*, 49:2 (2016): 278-304.
- 'Suitable Work for Women? Florence Claxton's Illustrations for *The Clever Woman of the Family* by Charlotte Yonge', in *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies* 11:2 (2015).
- "'I am but a Stranger Everywhere": Missionary Themes in Charlotte Yonge's *New Ground* and *My Young Alcides*', in *Victorian Settler Narratives: Emigrants, Cosmopolitans and Returnees in Nineteenth-Century Literature*, ed. Tamara S. Wagner (London: Pickering & Chatto, 2011): 141–51. <http://www.pickeringchatto.com/titles/1399-9781848931077-victorian-settler-narratives>
- 'Industrial Sightseeing and Frances Trollope's *Michael Armstrong: The Factory Boy*' in *Women's Writing*. Special Issue: *Frances Trollope*, 18:2 (2011): 273–92.
- 'Charlotte Yonge: Marketing the Missionary Story', *Women's Writing*, 17.3 (2010): 236-54. Special Issue: *Charlotte Yonge*. Subsequently published in book form: Tamara S. Wagner ed. *Charlotte Yonge: Rereading Domestic Religious Fiction* (London: Routledge, 2011). <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415690201/>
- 'Conflicting Images of the Lives of Factory Children', *Victorian Childhoods*, Leeds Working Papers, Vol. 11, Mar. 2010: 189-200.

- ‘Correction to a date in a letter from E. A. Freeman to Edith Perronet Thompson’, *Notes and Queries*, 55.4 n.s. (2008): 435-7.
- ‘From Squalid Impropriety to Manly Respectability: the Revival of the Beard and Martial Values in England in the 1850s’, *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, 30.3 (2008): 229-245.
- ‘Charlotte M. Yonge and the “historic harem” of Edward Augustus Freeman’, *Journal of Victorian Culture*, 11.2 (2006): 226-255.

Book Reviews and Short Articles

- ‘Burton Agnes Hall’, in *The Historian*, 158 (Summer 2023): 60-63.
- Ann Wee, *A Tiger Remembers: The Way We Were in Singapore* (Singapore: Ridge Books, 2017), in *Women’s History*, 12.2 (Spring 2019), 28-9.
- ‘Fast Life and High Life’, *Charlotte M. Yonge Review*, 36 (Spring 2013), 6.
- ‘The Young Stepmother’, *Charlotte M. Yonge Review* 34 (Spring 2012), 7-8.
- Gavin Budge, *Charlotte M. Yonge: Religion, Feminism and Realism in the Victorian Novel* (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2007) in *The Byron Journal* 38/2 (2010), 193-5.
- ‘Pregnant Silences or “When do you expect your mother?”’, *Charlotte M. Yonge Review*, 30 (Spring 2010), 1-2.
- ‘Heartsease and the fallen writing desk of Emilia Wyndham’, *Charlotte M. Yonge Review*, 26 (Spring 2008), 6-7.
- ‘Tractarians and the “Condition of England”, a review of Simon Skinner, *Tractarians and the “Condition of England”: The Social and Political Thought of the Oxford Movement* (Oxford: OUP, 2004), 24 (Spring 2007), 2.
- Dinah Birch and Francis O’Gorman, eds, *Ruskin and Gender* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2002), in *Journal of Gender Studies*, 13.2 (2004), 181-3.

Papers at Conferences

- “‘A good schoolbook is a very profitable article till it is superseded, as it is sure to be in these days of progress’: how Charlotte Yonge adapted her writing of history textbooks in line with educational developments’. ‘Victorian Transformations’, May 2023, Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies and the *Charlotte M. Yonge Fellowship*.
- “‘Vagabonds, artists, strolling players’? Can the craft of acting be a respectable profession?’. *Charlotte M. Yonge Fellowship*, Nov. 2019.
- ‘Missionaries as ‘Citizen Scientists’: the useful sleuthing of Rev. James Sibree (1836-1929) in Madagascar’. *British Association of Victorian Studies*, Lincoln, August 2017.
- ‘Whatever’s the matter with Charlotte? The presence of C. M. Yonge in the shadows rather than the mainstream of recovered ‘popular’ fiction’. *Victorian Popular Fiction Association*, London, July 2016.
- ‘Rev. James Sibree,’ for ‘New Hull Lives in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*: A Celebration,’ University of Hull, 26 April 2017 <https://culturenet.co.uk/events/new-hull-lives-in-the-oxford-dictionary-of-national-biography-a-celebration>
- ‘Going Public: the Transformation of a Thesis into a Book – and other Publications’. Victorian Studies Professionalization Day, May 26, 2015, at University of York.
- ‘Women in military families: Charlotte Yonge and the “martial ardour” of “a soldier’s daughter”’. ‘Military Masculinities in the Long Nineteenth Century’, 20-21 May 2015, at University of Hull.
- ‘Continuity and Change over Forty Years: Charlotte Yonge’s editorship of *The Monthly Packet* 1851–91’. *Research Society for Victorian Periodicals*, July 2013, Salford.
- ‘“Hard cash is a necessary consideration”: Charlotte Yonge’s exploration of money and class in *The Pillars of the House* (1873)’. *Victorian Popular Fiction Association*, London, July 2012.
- ‘Nineteenth-century consciousness-raising: how Charlotte Yonge’s *Monthly Packet* formed and informed the minds of middle-class women at home’. *British Association of Victorian Studies*, Glasgow, Sept. 2010.

- ‘The eventful and significant life of Charlotte Yonge’. ‘Celebrating *Women’s Writing*’, Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge, 19 June 2010.
- ‘Pregnant Silences; or “When do you expect your mother?”’: ‘Victorian Feeling: Touch, Bodies, Emotions’, *British Association of Victorian Studies*, University of Leicester, Sept. 2008.
- ‘The Working Life of an Illustration from Mrs Trollope’s *Michael Armstrong*’, ‘Heritage and the Victorians’, University of Liverpool at Hawarden, June 2008.
- ‘*The Monthly Packet*: Charlotte Yonge and Literary Apprenticeships’: ‘Women’s Literary Networks’, Oxford Brookes University at Institute of Advanced Study, London, March 2008.
- ‘Edward Coleridge and the Revival of Anglican Interest in Overseas Mission Work’. *British Association of Victorian Studies*, University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, 2005.
- ‘“The self-controlled vivacity of high spiritual existence”: Charlotte M. Yonge’s manly father-figures’: ‘Shaping Belief: Culture, Politics and Religion in Nineteenth-Century Writing’, University of Liverpool at Hawarden, 2005.
- ‘“Happy [bearded] Warriors”? The Revival of the Beard in England in 1853-1854’: ‘Masculinity as Masquerade’, University of Swansea, Gregynog Hall, Powys, April 2005.
- ‘Charlotte Yonge and the “historical harem” of Edward Augustus Freeman’: *Women’s History Network*, University of Hull, Sept. 2004.

Lectures

- ‘James Sibree 1836-1929. Missionary to Madagascar for 50 years; also architect, naturalist, ornithologist, folk-lorist, geologist and author’. ‘New Hull Lives in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography’ Celebration Event, 26 April 2017, for University of Hull’s Open Campus Culture Café. <https://culturenet.co.uk/events/new-hull-lives-in-the-oxford-dictionary-of-national-biography-a-celebration>
- ‘“Spinning the Webs”: the “Spiders’ Club” for Distance Learning in the later 19th Century’, part of Nineteenth-Century Literature Series for University of Hull’s Open Campus Culture Café, 17 Oct. 2015.
- ‘Charlotte Yonge and the Aftermath of Waterloo: Military Men in Reality and Imagination’, to Charlotte M Yonge Fellowship for celebration of the bi-centenary of the Battle of Waterloo at Woolwich Arsenal, London 24 April 2015.
- ‘Charlotte Yonge and the Rebranding of Nineteenth-Century Missionary Work’ at Hull Theological Society, 11 Feb. 2015.
- ‘Children in Victorian Factories: Challenging the Images’, at Hull Historical Association, Jan. 2013.

2008-13: Co-Editor of *Journal of the Charlotte M. Yonge Fellowship*. I organised a Symposium on *The Pillars of the House* for the Charlotte M. Yonge Fellowship, Nov. 27, 2010, at the University Women’s Club, S. Audley Street, London and co-edited the subsequent Special Issue of *The Journal of the Charlotte M. Yonge Fellowship*.