

# DUNDEE WOMEN'S TRAIL

**21** BELLA KEYZER

1922 - 1992

During World War Two, women took over the jobs of the men who were fighting abroad, and Bella found her vocation as a welder in Caledon Shipyard. She was paid off four years later, but as soon as the Equal Opportunities Act was passed in 1975, she was back. She was a loyal Labour Party member, and in 1992 Dundee District Council, as it was then, gave her an award for promoting women's equality.

**22** ETHEL MOORHEAD

1869 - 1955

Ethel studied art in Paris and exhibited in prestigious galleries. In 1911 she joined the suffragettes and became their most boisterous member, smashing windows, attempting arson and refusing to bow to male authority. In Paris in the 1920s, she founded and edited one of the most highly regarded art journals of the time.

**23** GRISSELL JAFFRAY

? - 1669

A respectable citizen married to a city burgess, in her latter years she was accused of 'the horrid crime of witchcraft', strangled, then burned at the stake - see the mosaic commemorating the event. We do not know what she is alleged to have done; the records were destroyed.

Right: Painting of Emma Caird by David Foggie.  
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Front: Louise Mary Scott and friend c.1930.  
Back: Whistling Girl c.1910.  
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**24** JANET KEILLER

1737 - 1813

She and her husband ran a cake and sweetie shop. One day, faced with a consignment of unwanted bitter oranges, she boiled them up to make the first chip marmalade. When the menfolk died, she and her daughter-in-law Margaret ran the business - very successfully.

**25** EMMA CAIRD (OR MARRYAT)

1849 - 1927

Daughter of a mega-rich mill owner, she was a bright spark in her youth. In old age, she was better known as 'the greatest benefactress Dundee has ever seen', as she gave away the cash inherited from her half-brother, James Caird, and her husband, to many causes, including the completion of the Caird and Marryat Halls.



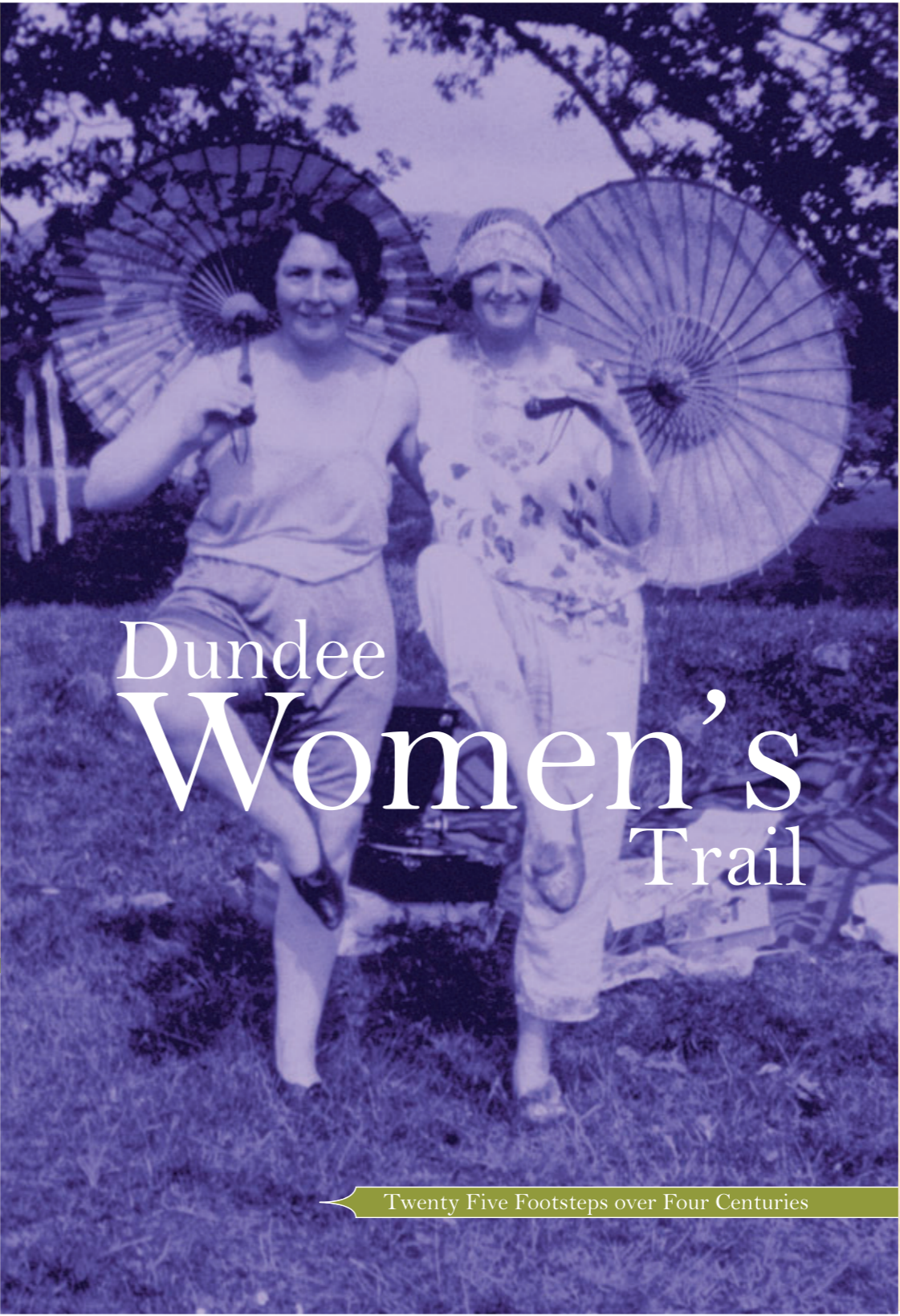
Dundee Women's Trail is co-ordinated by Jean Annand, Kate Armstrong, Moira Foster, Mary Henderson and Edith Hamilton.



www.dundee womenstrail.org.uk



Design: Su Nicoll @ Zoo Design



Twenty Five Footsteps over Four Centuries

# women

Many have made history worldwide.

Dundee Women's Trail celebrates just a few amazing women whose lives touched this city. Those we mark along this Trail are testimony to Dundee's reputation for strong women.

The 25 women commemorated by bronze plaques in the city include artists, trades unionists, social reformers, suffragettes, a shipyard welder and a marine engineer.

Take a walk through the streets they knew and glimpse the lives they led.



Women working on ship propeller c.1940.  
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**1** AGNES HUSBAND

1852 – 1929  
One of Dundee's first female councillors, she worked long and conscientiously on behalf of the poor and petitioned for better education. As a member of the suffrage movement, she spoke, wrote and campaigned with gusto. At the age of 74, she was awarded the Freedom of the City.

**2** MARIOTE KER

16th Century  
She was made a burghess of the City of Dundee at the request of King James V. It was to be 360 years before another female burghess was appointed.

**3** AN ANONYMOUS MAIDSERVANT

1872  
A group of domestic servants came together in a valiant attempt to form a trade union and press for better working conditions. Our heroine was kept anonymous: if her employer had found her out, she would have been sacked.

**4** FANNY WRIGHT

1795 – 1852  
Daughter of an ardent Republican, Fanny grew up an outspoken free-thinker. She went to the USA, where she became famous as a writer and lecturer, who controversially scorned religion and campaigned for women's rights, free love and the emancipation of slaves - well ahead of her time.

**5** MARGARET FENWICK

1919 – 1992  
Margaret was a redoubtable millworker and trade unionist from the age of 15. At the same time as bringing up four children, she became the first female General Secretary of a British trade union, where she did much to improve health and safety, and pay. She continued to work as a JP on industrial tribunals well into her sixties and was awarded an MBE in 1973.

**6** ALICE MOORHEAD 1868 – 1910

EMILY THOMSON c.1864 – 1955  
Two of only 101 women doctors practising in Britain at the time, they set up in the Nethergate and then Tay Square. Dynamic Emily (Dundee's first woman driver) helped found a Women's Hospital, while Alice tended their poorer patients.

**7** MARY ANN BAXTER

1801 – 1884  
A very rich lady and a deeply religious person, Miss Baxter supported missionary work abroad and good works in Dundee. At the age of 80, she founded University College, the forerunner of the University of Dundee, to promote the education of both sexes.

**8** WILLIAMINA FLEMING

1857 – 1911  
Aged 20, she went to the USA where she secured employment with the Director of Harvard Observatory. He saw her potential and she was soon working on his permanent staff, eventually becoming Head of Department. Williamina Fleming classified 10,351 stars and was honoured worldwide as the leading woman astronomer of her day.

**9** LILA CLUNAS

1876 – 1968  
An elementary school teacher with a sharp brain and a sharp tongue, Miss Clunas was one of Dundee's foremost suffragettes. She heckled, joined meetings and deputations, and wrote to the press, always making sure working class women were involved. After World War II, she was elected to the Council, where she served until she was 88.

**10** MARGARET FAIRLIE

1891 – 1963  
This Professor of Midwifery and Gynaecology was known by her awed colleagues as "Madam". She pioneered the use of radium for cancer treatment, helped Emily Thomson to start the Women's Hospital and developed the forerunner of today's cervical smear tests.



**11** REBECCA STRONG

1843 – 1944  
She transformed nursing conditions and training at Dundee Royal Infirmary and set the standard for the future development of excellence in nursing.

**12** JEAN THOMSON

1881 – 1940+  
She can be claimed as Scotland's first police woman. In 1919, after working with the Volunteer Women's Patrols, she was appointed as a 'police sister' for 4 hours a day. In fact, she worked full time - patrolling, interviewing and escorting women and girls and writing reports.

**13** MARY ALCOCK

1789 – 1869  
A first-rate business woman, she soon made so much money that she was "fear'd the Lord would turn against her". She therefore retired and turned her attention to raising lawsuits against all who offended her. She was often to be seen hobbling round the courts with armfuls of legal papers.

**14** VICTORIA DRUMMOND

1894 – 1978  
Born at Megginch Castle, near Perth, she amazed her family by making her career as a marine engineer, training at what is now the University of Abertay Dundee. She sailed the world on cargo ships and tramp steamers and, more than once, she saved her ship from sinking.

**15** KATHARINE READ

1723 – 1778  
Katharine painted in pastels. Her family were Jacobite supporters and moved from Dundee after 1745. In London, she became as well known (and as well paid) as Gainsborough or Joshua Reynolds. She was appointed 'Painter to the Queen' and later painted in India.

**16** FLORENCE HORSBRUGH

1889 – 1969  
First woman MP for Dundee, first Conservative woman cabinet minister, first woman Privy Councillor ... and more besides. She worked on trade agreements, education, the beginnings of the National Health Service and international affairs. She was made a Baroness in 1959.

**17** MARY LILY WALKER

1863 – 1913  
As a young woman she became conscious of the appalling living conditions of the poor. She wrote detailed official reports on health and housing, founded Grey Lodge Settlement as part of the University Settlement movement and transformed Dundee with baby clinics, health visitors, school dinners, children's convalescent holidays and clubs for all (including after-school groups). All this in less than 15 years.

**18** MARY BROOKSBANK

1897 – 1978  
Mother of seven, Mary was a millworker and life-long socialist and Communist, several times imprisoned for her campaigning activities. She was also a musician and poet whose songs are still sung today.

**19** MARY SLESSOR

1848 – 1915  
Born into a poor family, this young millworker set off to Calabar (Nigeria) as a missionary. She defied local conventions, and moved further and further into the jungle, seeing herself as "the feet of God". She made friends with chieftains, worked with British administrators, and was known as the uncrowned queen whose word was law.

**20** MARY BUICK (OR BUIK)

1777 – 1854  
A ropemaker's daughter, she married a fisherman from Cellardyke in Fife, who was pressed into the navy. She followed him aboard - and gave birth to their first child during the Battle of Copenhagen. They transferred to HMS Victory and, after Nelson's death at the Battle of Trafalgar, Mary helped to embalm his body.