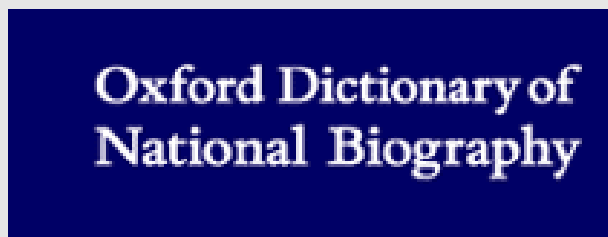


Home Page

The screenshot shows the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (DNB) home page. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Oxford DNB, What's new, Subscriber services, Contact us, and Help. Below the navigation, the page is divided into two main columns. The left column contains a blue header with the site name, followed by a message stating that users must have a current subscription to use the site. Below this, there are several links: '> What is the Oxford DNB?', '> Does my library subscribe?', and '> How do I subscribe?'. A paragraph explains that if a user does not have a subscription, they should click on a link into the dictionary from one of the DNB's public pages, use the 'go back' link to return to the page they were reading, and then click on '> Ways to log in'. A final paragraph states that if a user has been returned to this page and is seeing a message that their credentials did not match any known account, they should check what they typed (passwords are case-sensitive) and that they used the right fields. The right column features a red error message: 'The account has no valid subscription for this site.' Below this, there are three login options: 'Subscriber Login' with fields for 'User Name' and 'Password' and a 'GO' button; 'Library Card Login' with a 'Card #' field and a 'GO' button; and 'Login with Athens/Access Management Federation' with a link to 'Login with Athens/Access Management Federation'. There is also an 'Institutional login' section with a link: 'Click here if you are accessing the Oxford DNB from within a subscribing institution or library.' and a 'UK Public Library users' section with a link: 'Check whether your library's subscription allows you to log in from home.' At the bottom of the page, there is a copyright notice: '© Oxford University Press 2004-16' and the Oxford University Press logo.

Logo



URL

http://www.oxforddnb.com/

Subject

Biography-Dictionaries

Accessibility

On Subscription basis

Language

English

***Publisher***

Oxford University Press

***Brief History***

The new dictionary, now known as the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (or ODNB), was published on 23 September 2004 in 60 volumes in print and in an online edition for subscribers at the same time. Since 2005 online updates have extended the Dictionary's coverage in three annual updates, published every January, May, and September.

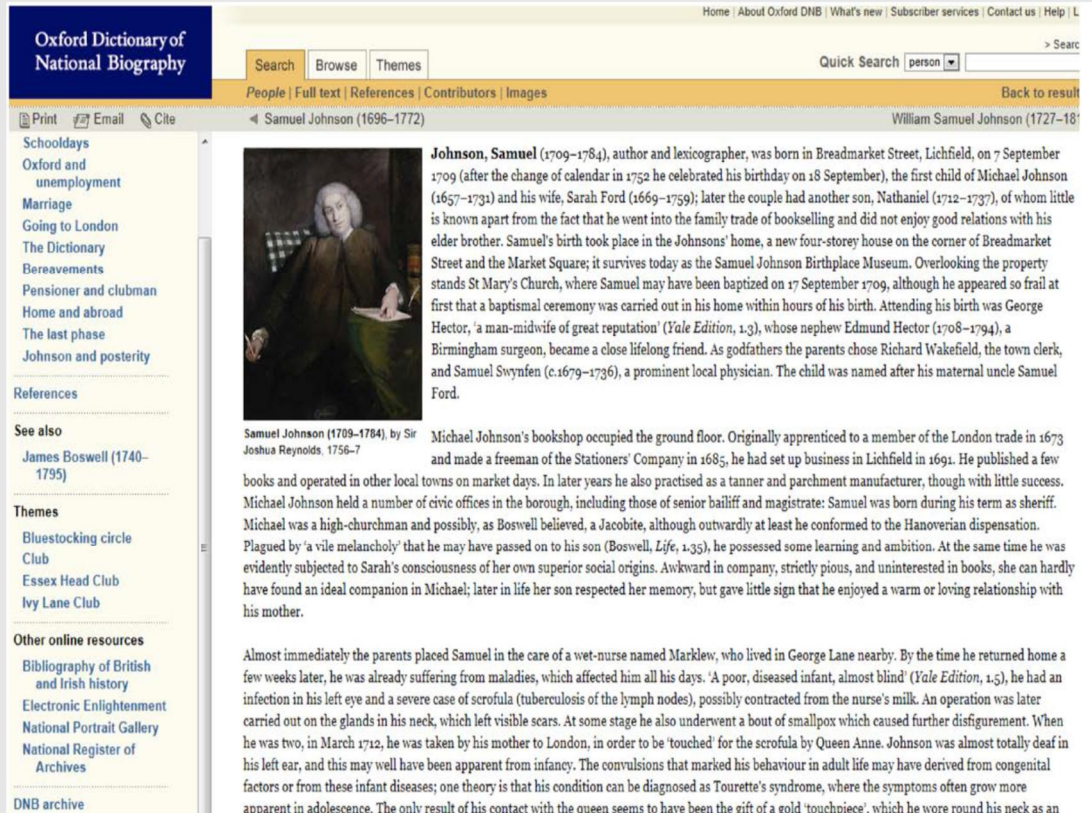
***Scope and Coverage***

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography is the national record of men and women who've shaped British life from the Romans to the 21st century. Naturally, it includes all of the greatest figures from the past. But it also contains thousands of men and women with close ties to particular counties, towns, and villages whose regional importance means they now appear in the national biography. As well as more than 58,000 biographies, the Oxford DNB includes over 11,500 portraits curated by the National Portrait Gallery.

## Kind of Information

Entries seek to provide a concise and balanced account of a person's life, date and place of birth and death, work, and historical significance, marriage. The average word length for an entry is c.1000 words.

Oxford DNB entries vary in length depending on the person under discussion. At their longest (e.g. Churchill, Shakespeare or Elizabeth I) entries run to c.35, 000 words, in addition to detailed list of sources. In contrast, some of the shortest entries (e.g. for very obscure medieval subjects) can be as little as 50 words.



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Print Email Cite

Samuel Johnson (1696-1772)

William Samuel Johnson (1727-1817)

**Johnson, Samuel** (1709-1784), author and lexicographer, was born in Breadmarket Street, Lichfield, on 7 September 1709 (after the change of calendar in 1752 he celebrated his birthday on 18 September), the first child of Michael Johnson (1657-1731) and his wife, Sarah Ford (1669-1759); later the couple had another son, Nathaniel (1712-1737), of whom little is known apart from the fact that he went into the family trade of bookselling and did not enjoy good relations with his elder brother. Samuel's birth took place in the Johnsons' home, a new four-storey house on the corner of Breadmarket Street and the Market Square; it survives today as the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum. Overlooking the property stands St Mary's Church, where Samuel may have been baptized on 17 September 1709, although he appeared so frail at first that a baptismal ceremony was carried out in his home within hours of his birth. Attending his birth was George Hector, 'a man-midwife of great reputation' (*Yale Edition*, 1.3), whose nephew Edmund Hector (1708-1794), a Birmingham surgeon, became a close lifelong friend. As godfathers the parents chose Richard Wakefield, the town clerk, and Samuel Swynfen (c.1679-1736), a prominent local physician. The child was named after his maternal uncle Samuel Ford.

Michael Johnson's bookshop occupied the ground floor. Originally apprenticed to a member of the London trade in 1673 and made a freeman of the Stationers' Company in 1685, he had set up business in Lichfield in 1691. He published a few books and operated in other local towns on market days. In later years he also practised as a tanner and parchment manufacturer, though with little success. Michael Johnson held a number of civic offices in the borough, including those of senior bailiff and magistrate: Samuel was born during his term as sheriff. Michael was a high-churchman and possibly, as Boswell believed, a Jacobite, although outwardly at least he conformed to the Hanoverian dispensation. Plagued by 'a vile melancholy' that he may have passed on to his son (Boswell, *Life*, 1.35), he possessed some learning and ambition. At the same time he was evidently subjected to Sarah's consciousness of her own superior social origins. Awkward in company, strictly pious, and uninterested in books, she can hardly have found an ideal companion in Michael; later in life her son respected her memory, but gave little sign that he enjoyed a warm or loving relationship with his mother.

Almost immediately the parents placed Samuel in the care of a wet-nurse named Marklew, who lived in George Lane nearby. By the time he returned home a few weeks later, he was already suffering from maladies, which affected him all his days. 'A poor, diseased infant, almost blind' (*Yale Edition*, 1.5), he had an infection in his left eye and a severe case of scrofula (tuberculosis of the lymph nodes), possibly contracted from the nurse's milk. An operation was later carried out on the glands in his neck, which left visible scars. At some stage he also underwent a bout of smallpox which caused further disfigurement. When he was two, in March 1712, he was taken by his mother to London, in order to be 'touched' for the scrofula by Queen Anne. Johnson was almost totally deaf in his left ear, and this may well have been apparent from infancy. The convulsions that marked his behaviour in adult life may have derived from congenital factors or from these infant diseases; one theory is that his condition can be diagnosed as Tourette's syndrome, where the symptoms often grow more apparent in adolescence. The only result of his contact with the queen seems to have been the gift of a gold 'touchpiece', which he wore round his neck as an

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784), by Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1756-7

See also James Boswell (1740-1795)

Themes Bluestocking circle Club Essex Head Club Ivy Lane Club

Other online resources Bibliography of British and Irish history Electronic Enlightenment National Portrait Gallery National Register of Archives DNB archive

## Special Features

- ❖ A number of search options are available.

## Quick Search Now

Search for biography of person

Search for words in text

[>Search Tips](#)

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### Advanced search options

**People** - Places, dates, fields of interest

**Full Text** - Words and phrases within the articles

**References** - Bibliography, archives, iconography

**Contributors** - The Oxford DNB's 12,500 contributors

**Images** - 10,000 images by artist, date

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**Browse** - People, contributors, or get a life at random

**Themes** - Feature articles and reference lists


Themes are appeared by option and members on themes are linked to full biographies of the site. Theme context is there to place people in historical context. Themes come in three forms:

- reference lists—records of office or post-holders (e.g. British prime ministers, viceroys of India, or Oscar winners in the ODNB).
- reference groups—concise essays on well-known historical clubs, gangs, and assemblies showing how people came together and what they achieved collectively (e.g. the Gunpowder plotters, the Chartists, or the Angry Young Men).
- feature essays—personal perspectives by specialist authors on some well-known historical events (e.g. Roman Britain, the Great Fire of London, or appeasement).

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Themes home | List all themes




**Reference groups**  
Each May and September we publish essays on well-known historical groups that make connections between individuals in the Oxford DNB.


Nearly 300 essays are now available. Recent additions include the [Yorkshire Association](#), the [Primrose League](#), [Spasmodic School](#), and the [Magic Circle](#). Who were they? How did they work together? What did they achieve?

> [Full list of reference groups to January 2014](#)

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**Reference lists include**  
[Health ministers](#)



**Features include**  
[Lives of the law](#)

- ❖ Oxford biography of Index shows listing of people.
- ❖ Month-wise recent update is also available in this site. New biographies and themes are updated every January, May, and September.
- ❖ Navigate of article text with subheadings and that is appeared left side of each article.
- ❖ Information of article portrait is also available by clicking on the portrait attaching with article.
- ❖ Links to the pages of external resources showing the biography of same persons.
- ❖ Related biography, references are also available with each article.

**Arrangement Pattern** Entries are arranged alphabetically by surname, by birth date order and also by death date order.

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People | Full text | References | Contributors | Images

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Print Email

Reorder results

- Alphabetical order
- Birth date order
- Death date order
- Reverse Order

Search within these results

Female  Families/groups

Male

Alive  Year:

Any  Place:

Fields of Interest

Any

Illustrated only

Search > Back to original search

Results per page: 20

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Your search returned 23 subject(s) with entries in the *Oxford DNB*. 1 - 20 shown in alphabetical order, ascending

Searching for subjects: field of interest: Politics - women - resided between 1875 and 1900 in / at Manchester

Ashton, Margaret (1856–1937), local politician and philanthropist [↗](#)

Baines [*née* Hunt], Sarah Jane [Jennie] (1866–1951), suffragette and social reformer

Barton [*née* Stockton], Eleanor (1872/3–1960), socialist and co-operative movement activist

Becker, Lydia Ernestine (1827–1890), suffragist leader

Booth, Eva Selina Gore- (1870–1926), suffragist and poet

Brailsford [*née* Malloch], Jane Esdon (1874–1937), suffragette

Bulley [*married name* Brooke], (Agnes) Amy (1852–1939), promoter of women's education and women's trade unionism

Chew, Ada Nield (1870–1945), labour organizer and suffragist

Davison, Emily Wilding (1872–1913), suffragette [↗](#)

Dickenson [*née* Welsh], Sarah (1868–1954), trade unionist and suffragist

Drummond [*née* Gibson; *other married name* Simpson], Flora McKinnon (1878–1949), suffragette [↗](#)

Greig, Teresa Mary Billington- (1876–1964), suffragette and political theorist [↗](#)

Marsden, Dora (1882–1960), suffragette and philosopher

Maxwell, Lilly [Lily] (c. 1800–1876), suffragist

Mitchell [*née* Webster], Hannah Maria (1872–1956), socialist and suffragette [↗](#)

Pankhurst, Dame Christabel Harriette (1880–1958), suffragette [↗](#)

Pankhurst [*née* Goulden], Emmeline (1858–1928), suffragette leader [↗](#)

Roper, Esther Gertrude (1868–1938), suffragist [↗](#)

Sieff, Rebecca Dora (1890–1966), feminist and Zionist

Simcox, Edith Jemima (1844–1901), anthropologist and political activist

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## Remarks

The online version has an advanced search facility, allowing a search for people by area of interest, religion and "Places, Dates, Life Events". It covers biographical sketches of Britain notable figures.

## Comparable Tools

- Dictionary of Irish Biography (<http://dib.cambridge.org/>)
- Australian Dictionary of Biography (<http://adb.anu.edu.au/>)
- Dictionary of Canadian Biography (<http://www.biographi.ca/en/index.php>)
- American National Biography Online (<http://anb.org/login.html?url=%2Farticles%2Fhome.html&ip=112.133.231.175&nocookie=0>)

## Date of Access

2016, October 26