

Historical Trans Men in Scotland

Dr James Barry 1795-1865

University of Edinburgh Medical Graduate in 1812

It was impossible for trans men to medically masculinise their bodies at this time, so he had to rely on male clothing and confidence.

He started living as a man in his early teens, when he started his medical training, continuing to live as a man for the rest of his life.

It was only discovered he was female bodied when he died.

He tried to improve sanitary conditions and stop patients' needless suffering wherever he worked.



He challenged men to duels if they mocked his high voice, features or how professional he seemed.

Although he acted professionally and had a good bedside manner, he could be tactless and argumentative with others.

He performed one of the first successful caesarean sections.



- Born in London in 1795.
- Joined Edinburgh University in 1809 as a literary and medical student.
- Qualified with a medical doctorate in 1812, the first female bodied person in Britain to do so.
- 1813 became a Hospital Assistant for the British Army.
- By 1831 he had travelled the world and been promoted to Inspector General, H.M. Army Hospitals, the highest position available for an army doctor.
- Died in Corfu, July 1865.

