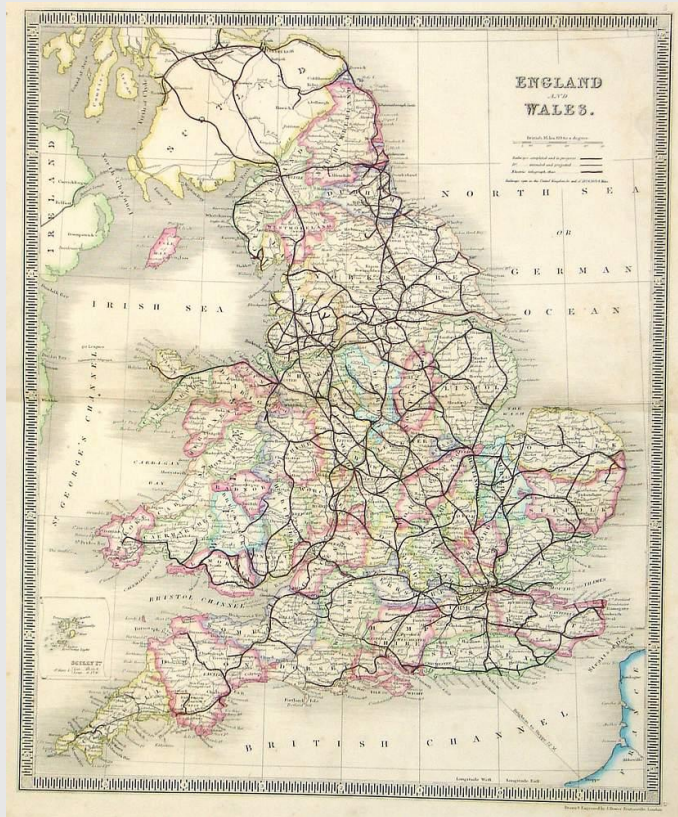




***Digital Manor: Overview of
The Journal of Mistress
Joan Martyn***

Rosamond Merridew the Historian



Virginia Woolf introduces the reader to Rosamond Merridew, a female historian in the early 20th Century.

Merridew is an unmarried 45 year old woman who has dedicated her life to searching for historical documents to write the land tenure history of Britain from the 13th to the 15th Centuries.

The Manor

In her travels, Rosamond discovers a manor in Norfolk and is invited in by the family. The man of the house gives her a tour and expounds on the family lineage. Rosamond was so fascinated by the writings of a medieval women, that she requested the “The Journal of Mistress Joan Martyn” instead of the historical documents penned by the males in the family line. Through the journal entries, Woolf transports the reader to the 15th Century.



The Journal - “Martyn’s Hall, year of our Lord 1480”

Joan’s journal covers a year of medieval life and explores several topics including:



- *A description of the manor*
- *Her father and family*
- *Marriage and expectations*
- *Romance and poetry*
- *Life not being a fairytale*

Joan, Medieval Mistress and Rosamond, The Pioneer



Mistress Joan Martyn and Rosamond Merridew lead very different lives, yet were both subjected to the limitations imposed upon them by the patriarchal ideals which existed for centuries.

