

MAP OF KIRKYARD WITH SOME POINTS OF INTEREST



Alphabetical listing. Balfour, Mary 8. Brunton, Alexander 8. Chimera, Last 14. Clarinda 12. Coachdrivers 7. Craig, Agnes 12. Drummond, George 2. Fergusson, Robert 6. Fettes, Sir William 11. Gregory, John 5. Last Chimera 14. Maclehose, Agnes 12. Mercat Cross 15. Riccio, David 13. Royal connections 1, 3. Smith, Adam 4. Soldiers 10. Stewart, Dugald 9. Vasconcellos, Josefina de 14.

Use the numbers above to find royal connections; the last resting place of a world-famous economist; a mysterious sculpture of a three-headed monster and much, much more.

1. Royal connections.

Step back a little way from the church, look up to the top of the gable and you will see a golden stag's head with a cross between its antlers. The antlers were presented in 1946 by King George VI (the present Queen's father). The royal connections go back much further. The stag head and cross are the arms of the Burgh of Canongate which was established by King David I of Scotland in 1128 at the same time as he founded the nearby Holyrood Abbey. "Holyrood" means "Holy Cross" and the legend is that David was inspired to found the Abbey by seeing a vision of the Cross when attacked by a stag in what is now Holyrood Park. For many years the people of the Canongate worshipped in the Abbey Church but when King James VII decided to turn that church into a private Royal Chapel this parish church was built. The plaque on the church-front explains that this was paid for from a mortification made by a merchant called Thomas Moodie. "Mortification" is an old Scottish term for money left in a will for charitable purposes.

2. George Drummond (1687-1766). Father of the New Town. Until the 18th century Edinburgh was confined to the ridge running down from the Castle. The Nor Loch, a shallow, stinking lake where Princes Street Gardens are now, stopped the town spreading. Drummond's vision was to drain the loch and build a bridge to the flat land to the north, so allowing the New Town to be built.

3. The Queen's Mother's tree (and doors). By the smaller of the two trees to the left of the church a plaque explains that it was planted in 1947 by Queen Elizabeth (the wife of George VI and known after his death as Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother). Other trees around the Kirkyard were planted by other members of the Royal Family and other notable people. The Queen Mother's tree is a flowering cherry with unusual and attractive white blossom. There is a tradition that during her 1947 visit the Queen suggested to the Minister that the church doors be painted red to cheer people up in those austere post-war years. Apparently after that whenever she met anyone connected with the Canongate she would ask "are my doors still red?"

4. Adam Smith (1723-1790). Pioneer economist. Smith was educated at Glasgow and Oxford Universities, travelled around Europe and became a key figure in the Scottish Enlightenment. He is best known as the author of *The Wealth of Nations*, one of the most influential books ever written, in which he argued against the regulation of commerce and trade.

5. John Gregory (1724-1773). A quarrelsome doctor. Gregory became Professor of the Practice of Medicine at Edinburgh University when he was just 23. He was popular with his students but fell out with many of his colleagues. He once beat another Professor with his cane and was fined £100 – around £6,000 in modern values. He paid up and said he would happily pay another £100 to do it again.

6. Robert Fergusson (1750-1774). A poet who died young. Fergusson was born in the Old Town of Edinburgh and most of his poems, in lively Scots, celebrate life in "Old Reekie". Sadly he had a mental breakdown and died when he was just 24. The most famous Scottish poet, Robert Burns greatly admired Fergusson's work and paid for the memorial on his grave.

7. The Coach Drivers of Canongate (1765). A collective memorial. This marks a plot where members of the Society of Coach Drivers of Canongate were buried. These men took passengers from Edinburgh to London: a 400-mile journey taking 10 days in summer and 12 in winter. The carving shows a coach crossing a bridge – possibly the then newly-built North Bridge.

8. Mary Balfour (1778-1818) and her husband Alexander Brunton (1772-1854). A remarkable couple. Alexander was "a lad o' pairts" – a bright boy from a poor background who did well - he became Professor of Oriental Languages at Edinburgh University. As a young man he was tutor to the sons of an Orkney family called Balfour. He fell in love with his pupils' sister Mary. The Balfours did not approve and shut Mary up on one of the smaller Orkney islands. Undaunted, Alexander rowed out to the island and the couple eloped. After they married Alexander helped Mary to pursue her interest in writing. She became a pioneer female novelist. Her first novel *Self-Control* outsold the works of her contemporary Jane Austen.

9. Dugald Stewart (1753-1828.) A much-loved teacher. This mausoleum with its curved roof is the burial place of Dugald Stewart who was one of the last great Scottish Enlightenment thinkers. He began his career as Professor of Mathematics at Edinburgh University and went on to hold the chair of Moral Philosophy for over 30 years. An eloquent and influential lecturer and author, he attracted students from England, mainland Europe and America.

10. Soldiers' Monument (1880). Edinburgh Castle lies within the parish of Canongate and for many years soldiers who died while serving at the castle were buried in this part of the kirkyard which is known as the soldiers' enclosure. This pink granite column was put up as a memorial to them in 1880. It was paid for by a Mr William Ford who ran a local factory making glass. The Ford family tomb nearby is made of the same pink granite.

11. Sir William Fettes (1750-1836). Founder of a famous school. In this impressive mausoleum is buried Sir William Fettes who began his business life as a tea and wine merchant and later branched out into many other things. He was twice the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and established Fettes College a private school in Edinburgh whose pupils included former Prime Minister Tony Blair and (fictionally) James Bond - 007. This school's grand gothic building is said to have been one of the inspirations for Hogwarts School in the *Harry Potter* novels.

12. Agnes Macle hose - Clarinda – (1759-1841). Burns' inspiration. Agnes (known as Nancy) Craig married a Glasgow lawyer called James Macle hose but the marriage was unhappy and she moved to Edinburgh. Here, in 1787, she met the poet Robert Burns. They became friends and wrote to each other using the pen-names Sylvander and Clarinda. Their final parting inspired one of Burns' loveliest lyrics which begins: "Ae fond kiss, and then we sever; Ae fareweel that lasts for ever".

13. David Riccio (1533-66). A royal servant brutally murdered. David Riccio (or Rizzio) came from Italy to Scotland on a diplomatic mission. He was a good musician and caught the eye of Mary Queen of Scots who persuaded him to stay and work for her. It looked as though he was set for a glittering career but it all ended suddenly and violently. The Queen's husband, Lord Darnley, became jealous of him. On the night of 9 February 1566 Darnley and a group of armed men attacked Riccio as he was dining with the Queen at Holyroodhouse, dragged him from the room and stabbed him to death. He would have been buried near Holyrood Abbey but tradition has it that his body was later moved here.

14. The Last Chimera. A mysterious sculpture. This is the work of Josefina de Vasconcellos whose father was Brazilian and mother English. Josefina was born in 1904 and lived until 2005. At one time she was the oldest living sculptor in the world. She completed this work in 1950 and it was shown at the Festival of Britain in London in 1951. Later Josefina gifted it to the Canongate Kirk which had previously bought two smaller pieces of her work – these can be seen inside the kirk. This sculpture shows a chimera – a creature from Greek mythology combining a lion, a goat and a snake – with a bird and its chicks between its front paws and a boy stabbing it in the neck. It symbolises Christ (the boy) protecting the church (the bird and its chicks) against ignorance and superstition (the chimera).

15. The Mercat Cross. Symbol of civic rights. Being designated a Burgh – as Canongate was by King David I in 1128 – gave a community rights to do with trading and how it was governed. Three things symbolised Burgh status – a parish kirk, a tollbooth (which acted as the seat of local government, a tax collection centre and a prison) and a mercat cross around which markets were held. The Canongate Tollbooth is next door to the kirk and now houses the People's Story Museum. The Mercat Cross was not always where it is now. It originally stood in the middle of the road opposite the Tollbooth. Then in the 18th century it was moved to the corner of the Tollbooth and then in the 19th century to the pavement close to the entrance to the kirkyard. It finally moved to its present position in the 1950s. The Mercat Cross as we see it now does not date back to the founding of the Burgh. The shaft probably dates from the 16th century but the other parts were added later.