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## CALLING ALL FRIENDS OF EDINBURGH'S HISTORIC GRAVEYARDS!

The Edinburgh Graveyards Project is looking at new ways to care for the City's most important burial grounds and to increase community involvement with these sites. Please let us know your views and experience of these graveyards by filling out a short online questionnaire at:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/MMCT9WP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MMCT9WP)

### PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

If you would like further information on the graveyards, to find out how to get more involved yourself or for us to let you know how we are progressing over the next few months please include your contact details on your completed questionnaire or email [graveyards@ewht.org.uk](mailto:graveyards@ewht.org.uk)

### THE EDINBURGH GRAVEYARDS PROJECT

- CANONGATE KIRKYARD
- ST. CUTHBERT'S KIRKYARD
- GREYFRIARS KIRKYARD
- CALTON NEW BURIAL GROUND
- CALTON OLD BURIAL GROUND

**Front cover:** Erected by Captain John Gray to his parents Elizabeth Wilkie and Thomas Gray, this stone has excellent examples of *memento mori* carvings, the symbols include a skull, crossed bones, coffin, scythe and the gravedigger's spade, all of which were intended to remind passers-by of their own mortality.

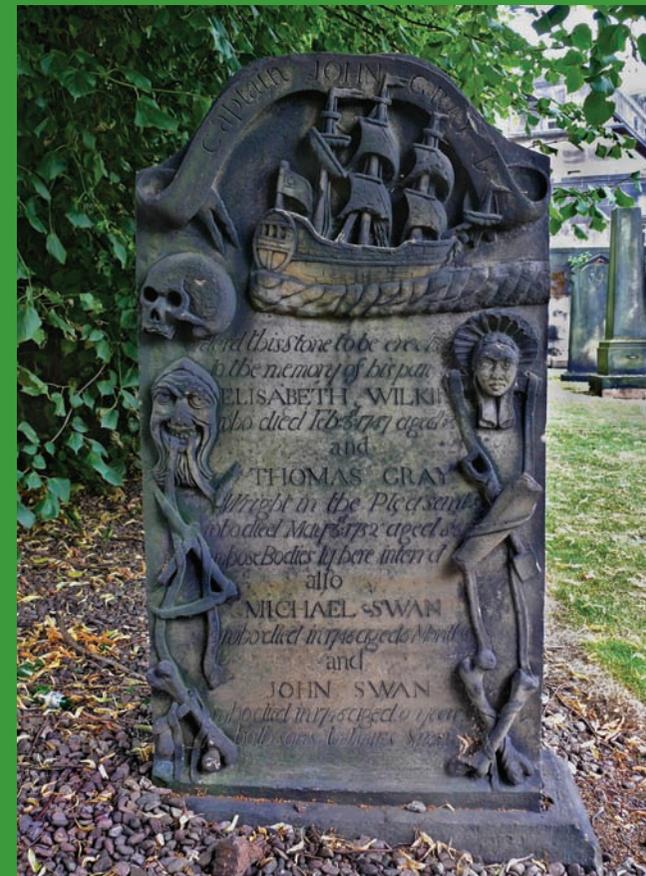
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EDINBURGH WORLD HERITAGE

# THE EDINBURGH GRAVEYARDS PROJECT

## FIND HIDDEN TREASURES IN FIVE OF EDINBURGH'S WORLD HERITAGE GRAVEYARDS



Our inner-city graveyards are doorways into a richly evocative world full of hidden treasures that tell us about the people who lived here and how the City developed.

We invite you to explore these wonderful places, to take a break from the hustle and bustle of city life and enjoy the peaceful views.

# EXPLORE EDINBURGH'S HERITAGE

The kirkyards of St. Cuthbert's, Canongate and Greyfriars and the burial grounds of Calton Old and Calton New are all found within the urban landscape of the Edinburgh World Heritage Site. Their layout and design, and the stones, monuments and other built features they contain, capture an unparalleled record of Edinburgh's transition from a 15th century medieval burgh to a European Enlightenment city in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The contrast between the medieval Old Town and Georgian New Town is one of Edinburgh's most distinctive features and the five graveyards are an important aspect of this cityscape.

## ST. CUTHBERT'S KIRKYARD

The graveyard of the 'Kirk below the Castle' is intrinsic to the story of Christianity in Scotland as one of Scotland's oldest sites of religious worship. Despite its busy city centre location the site feels secluded and secret. An early area of the churchyard known as the 'Knowe' has an interesting collection of 18th century headstones, many displaying the names and trades of the characters who forged the Georgian city.



1. The Rev. David Dickson giving comfort to the poor of his parish by Alexander Handyside Ritchie. Rev Dickson was the minister at St Cuthbert's church for nearly 40 years, having assumed the post in 1803 at the age of 23.



2. This stone to Samuel Gilmour (d. 1801) is unusual because it is carved in the same style as nearby earlier 17th century headstones, using traditional emblems of mortality and immortality.

## CANONGATE KIRKYARD

The graveyard of the 'Royal Kirk' was established in 1687 but still retains an impression of how the Canongate may have originally looked when it was first developed. The site extends behind the Kirk from where there are excellent views north to Calton Hill.



3. The poet Robert Fergusson was buried in Canongate Kirkyard in 1774, initially as a pauper in an unmarked grave. Visiting Edinburgh in 1787 Robert Burns paid for a stone to be erected over Fergusson's grave and also composed the verse inscribed upon the tombstone.



## GREYFRIARS KIRKYARD



5. The 'Martyrs' Monument' of 1706 commemorates the Covenanters killed during decades of official repression. The National Covenant, resisting the imposition of a new liturgy upon the Scottish Reformed Church, was signed in Greyfriars Kirk in 1638.

6. The mausoleum of the architect William Adam was designed by his son John Adam in 1753. A carved sarcophagus features a beautiful relief carving of Hopetoun House, to the West of Edinburgh, one of William Adam's most notable projects.



## CALTON OLD BURIAL GROUND



7. The circular tomb of the historian and philosopher David Hume (1711-76), erected in 1777. Designed by Robert Adam its site was carefully selected to be visible from all over the city. In his will Hume requested that the inscription should record 'only my Name and the Year of my Birth and Death, leaving it to Posterity to add the Rest.'

8. The obelisk was paid for by subscription and erected in 1844 to the 'Political Martyrs' transported in 1793 for agitating for parliamentary reform.



Calton Old burial ground was established by the Incorporated Trades of Calton in 1718 and was later divided in two by the construction of Waterloo Place in 1817. As well as well known monuments to the philosopher David Hume and to the Scottish-American soldiers of the American Civil War, much of interest can be found in the southern part of the burial ground including headstones that commemorate cobblers and their families.

## CALTON NEW BURIAL GROUND

Calton New was opened in 1817, as the New Town approached completion and was also founded by the Incorporated Trades of Calton. It has distinctive terraces that offer commanding views down the Waverley Valley. Residents of Calton New include personalities who contributed to the development of the British Empire, through its naval and technical accomplishments, as well as the University of



9. Calton New provides one of the best views in the city, a panorama stretching from the Firth to the distant castle, and giving particularly good prospects of Holyroodhouse, the parliament buildings, and Arthur's Seat.

Edinburgh. The watchtower at Calton New was built to guard against 'resurrection men' – the grimly humorous term for body snatchers in the early nineteenth century.