A selection of St Fillan's Churchyard Gravestones



Old Gravestone symbols

Angel's head and wings: Symbol of the immortality of the human soul.

Compass and Set square: Masons or Member of the Freemasons

Crossed Bones, single bones and skulls: Emblems of mortality or death.

Crown, Pincers and Hammer: Member of the Guild of Hammermen - Smith.

Hourglass: The swift passage of time.

Skull: Mortality and/or penitence. A winged skull meant that the deceased ascended into heaven.

Follow the arrows on the map on the back page to visit all the gravestones listed.



Rev John Campbell was a minister of this parish for 11 years from 1845 to 1856.

He was born in the manse at North Knapdale, Argyll on 27th April 1815, died 6th September 1856, age 41.

His mother is on the adjacent gravestone.





Rev Robert Blair was the Moderator of the Church of Scotland in 1646.

Robert Blair was one of the greatest men of his time. He was born in Irvine in 1593 and was very clever, he became a professor in the University of Glasgow aged 23. He then became a minister and went to Ireland to be one of the founding members of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. He had very strong principles and said what he thought and had many differences with the Episcopal church over their style of worship and leadership, so had to leave and tried to go to America but the winds blew him back.

He settled back in Scotland as the minister of Holy Trinity Church in St Andrews. He was there for 20 years and had a tremendous influence on students and staff alike. In 1646 he was Moderator of the Church of Scotland. At one time he became chaplain to King Charles II. He criticised Archbishop Sharp of St Andrews who obtained his position by bribery. Robert Blair was then banished from St Andrews. He went to live with friends in Couston Castle by Otterston Loch, near Aberdour and it was there that he died in 1666, age 72.



Rev Thomas Lister MA was the minister of this parish from 1668 to 1689.

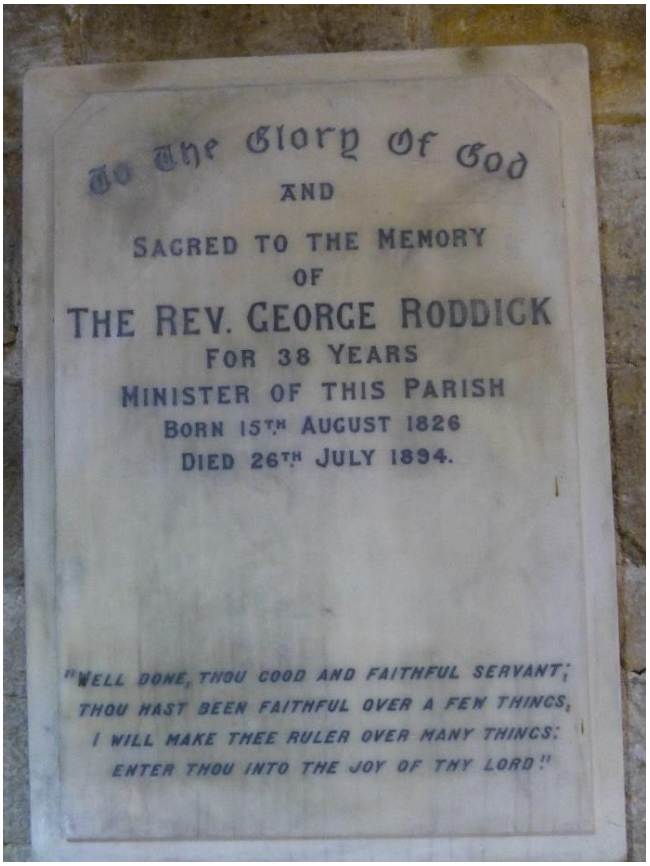
He was born around 1613, obtained an MA from St Andrews in 1656, became a schoolmaster in Leuchars in 1662, licenced as a minister in 1664, ordained to Auchtertool in 1665. In 1668 he married Margaret Lindsay in the church of Carnock and became minister at St Fillan's.

They had eleven children; (1) James born 1669, (2) Katherine born 1671, (3) William born 1673, (4) Anna born 1675, (5) Margaret born 1676, (6) *Hugh born 1678, (7) Thomas born 1680, (8) Margaret born 1682, (9) Helen born 1683, (10) Thomas born 1685, and (11) James born 1687. Margaret his wife died in July 1688, age 38.

Rev Thomas Lister died in June 1689, age 55(?).

Hugh, the 6th son, born in 1678, was a **sailor** in the ship 'Rising Sun' of the second Darien Expedition (an unsuccessful mainly Scottish attempt to establish a colony in Panama and establish a route linking the Pacific & Atlantic), he perished in the wreck of that vessel off the harbour at Charleston, South Carolina, when all aboard were lost.*





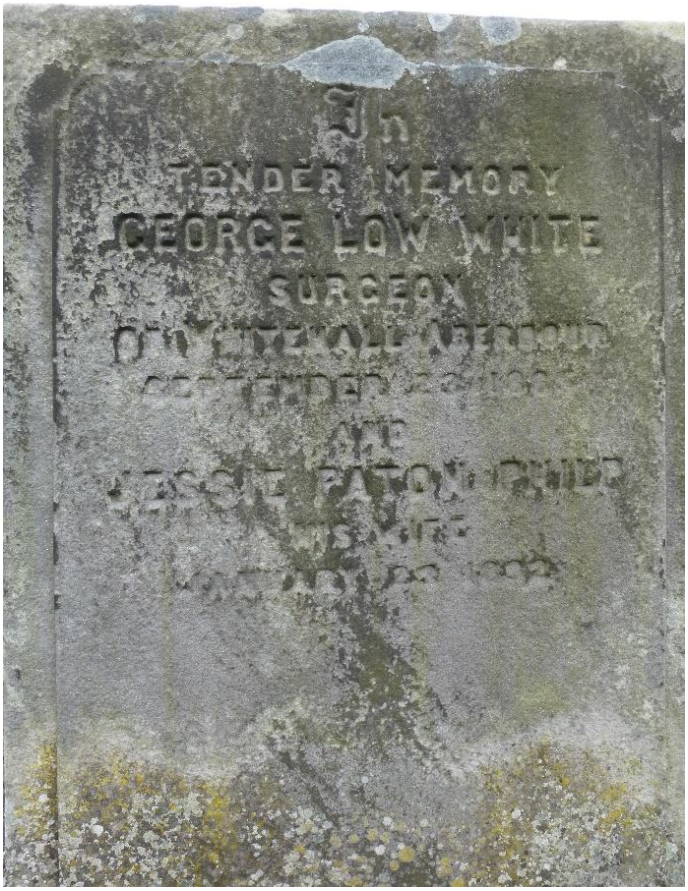
Rev George Roddick, was the minister of this parish from 1857 to 1895.

He was born on 15th August 1826 and died on 26th July 1894, age 67. His wife, Elizabeth Thomas Roddick, was born on 10th January 1826 in West Bengal, India, and died on 3rd November 1884, age 58.

On his induction he was presented with a table and chair by the congregation – the table is still in use today at the back of the church.

Later he was involved at the court of Session in the case of Heritors of Aberdour v. Roddick. They argued that he should not have let out the manse during the summer months to Edinburgh residents. The court found that as long as he performed his ecclesiastical duties and kept the manse in repair the Heritor's had no right to interfere – the case was rejected. He is commemorated in a plaque as you enter the church.

He helped (with George White) to introduce the first sewage pipes in the village.



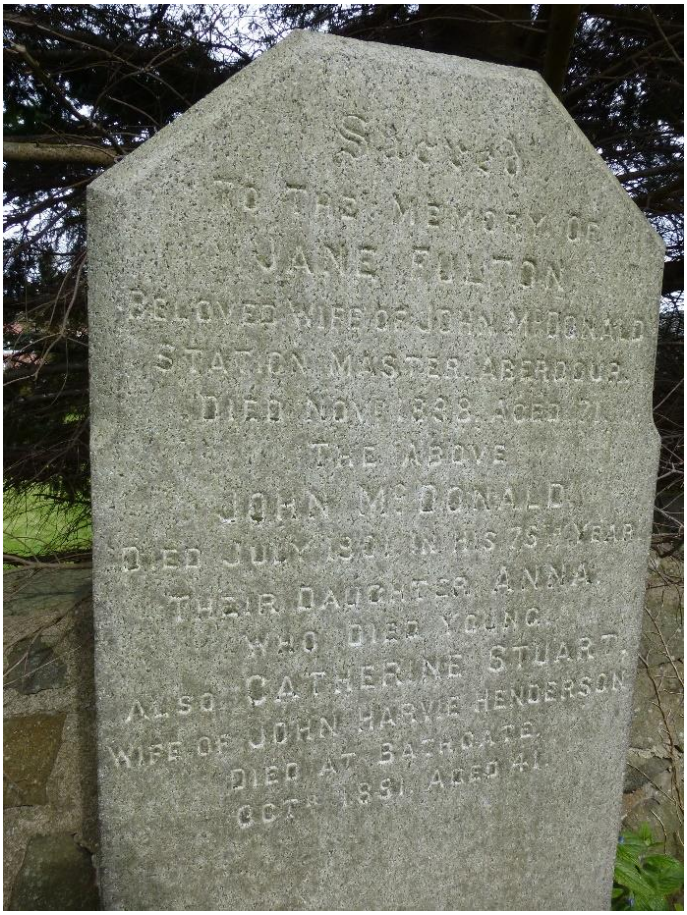
George Low White was a surgeon and lived at Whitehill (named after him) on Shore Road.

He was born on 25th May 1809 in Leith, and died at Whitehill on 23rd September 1885, age 76, his wife Jessie Paton Philp was born 25th August 1811 also in Leith and died 23rd January 1892, age 80, Highgate, London. They were married on 17 November 1839 Leith.

He was concerned with the health of the villagers and helped (with Rev George Roddick) to introduce the first sewage system in the village. The remains of the old sewage outfall can be seen at the Black Sands.







John McDonald was the Aberdour station master.

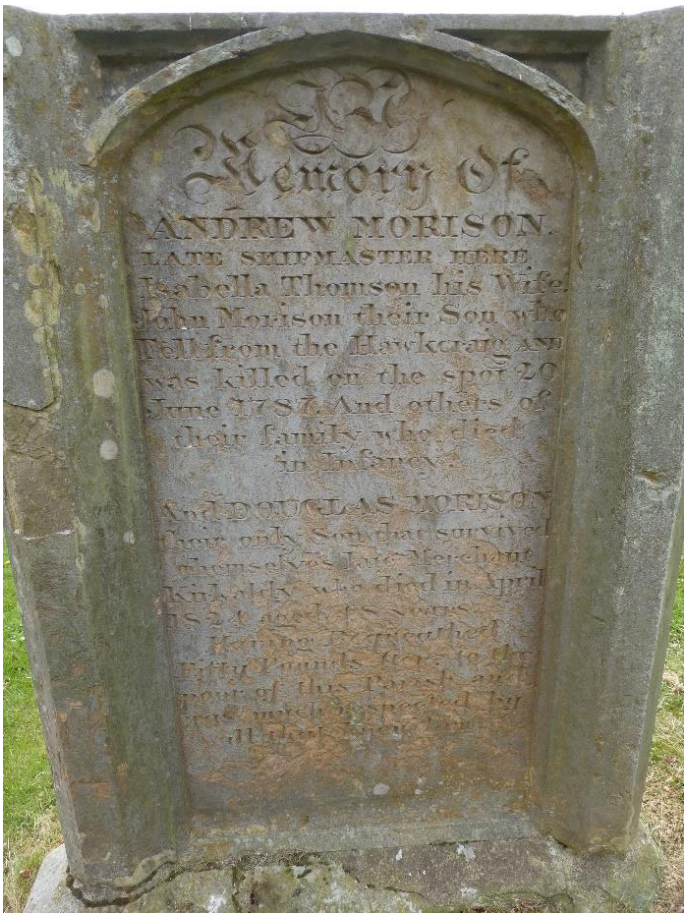
He died July 1901, age 74. His wife, Jane Fulerton, died November 1888, age 71.

The railway came to Aberdour in 1890 and John McDonald was the first station master, he lived in the station house at 1 High Street.



Janet Greig of Mossgreen, Dalgety parish, was a midwife.

Born 12th September 1793, died 14th April 1862, age 68.



John Morison fell from the Hawkcraig cliffs and was killed on the spot on 20th June 1787.

He was the son of Andrew Morison, **shipmaster** and Isabella Thomson.

Douglas Morison their only son that survived was a merchant in Kirkcaldy who died in April 1824, age 48 years. He bequeathed £50 to poor of the parish. and was much respected by all that knew him.

Their other children all died in infancy.



Hawkcraig is today a popular place for climbers. This is the first recorded death as a result of climbing at Hawkcraig.

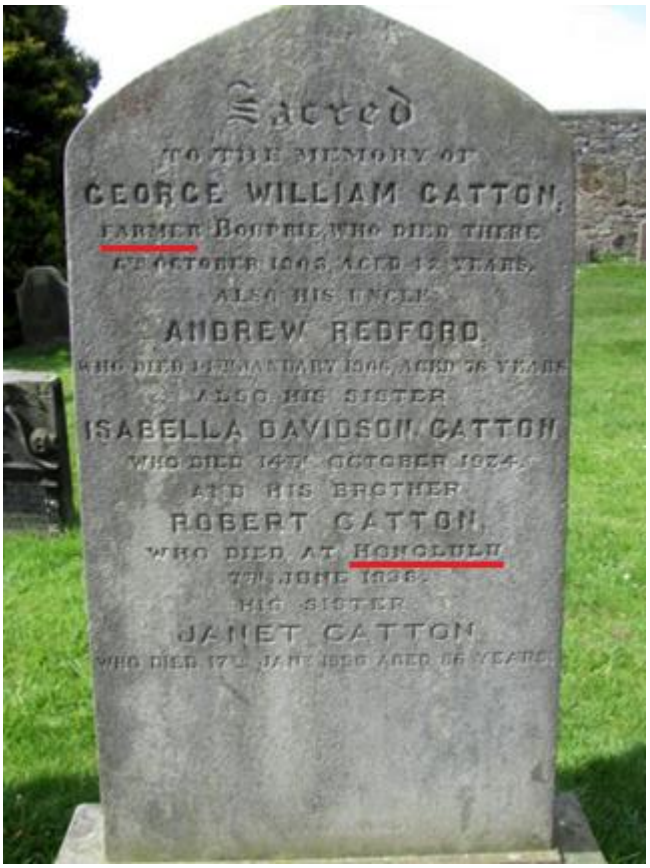


Robert Davidson was a farmer.

He died at Cullaloe in 1798, his wife Jean Watt died in Kirkcaldy on 5th April 1839, age 82.

Their son Thomas Davidson was a surgeon with the **Honourable East India Company Service.**

He died in Kirkcaldy on 1st June 1859, age 67.



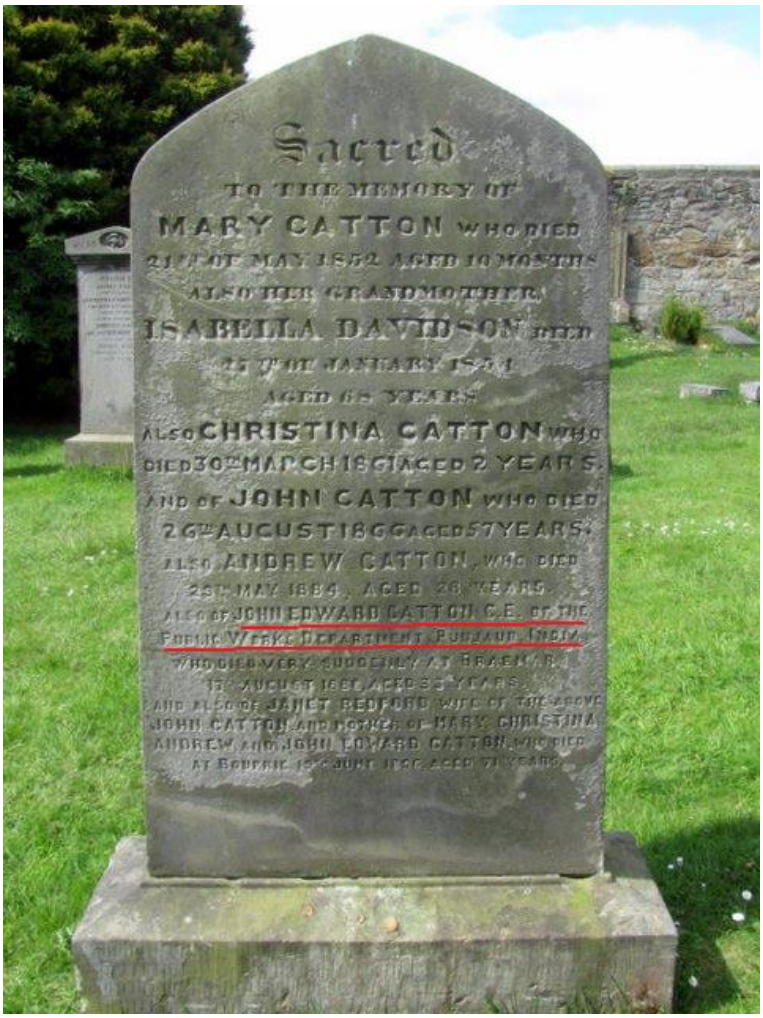
George William Catton was a farmer.

He died at Bouprie on 6th October 1903, age 42.

His brother Robert Catton was born on 7th October 1847 in Aberdour and emigrated to **Hawaii** in 1878.

He married Brereton Lewis Streat, (born 25 Nov 1848 in Grenada?), on 23 Apr 1878 in Grenada, British Windward Islands.

He died in **Honolulu** on 7th June 1938, age 90. She also died in Honolulu on 28th December 1944, age 96.



John Edward Catton was a civil engineer in the Punjab.

He was born at Aberdour in July 1853, and educated at Dollar Academy, where he distinguished himself in mathematics. After leaving school, he became a pupil in the office of the Chief Engineer of the North British Railway, also attending the lectures at Edinburgh University. In September 1872 he entered the Royal Indian Engineering College, at Cooper's Hill, Surrey. Here the distinction he had acquired at Dollar was continued, being one of the most promising students of his year, completing the course in two rather than the normal three years. He was appointed an Assistant Engineer in the Indian Public Works Department and arrived in Bombay in November 1874, and was posted to the Punjab Irrigation Branch as Resident Engineer in charge of the Western Jumna Canal. His career progressed and he was posted to the office of the Chief Engineer as Under Secretary to the Punjab Government. He left India on furlough in April 1885. While on furlough he supervised the practical training of the students at the Cooper's Hill College and was so engaged when he died suddenly at Braemar, on 17th August 1886, age 33.



James Taylor was a shipmaster.

He died on 13th October 1804, age 71.

His grandson **James Taylor** was a **surgeon**. He died on 19th March 1876, age 65 or 85.

James Russel was a coffee planter of South Coorg, India. He died in Aberdour on 15th August 1879, age 60.



Captain David Thomson Calley served in the First World War in the Merchant Navy.

He was born in Leith in 1872. He died on 06th April 1927, age 55, his wife Margaret Reid died on 23rd June 1947.

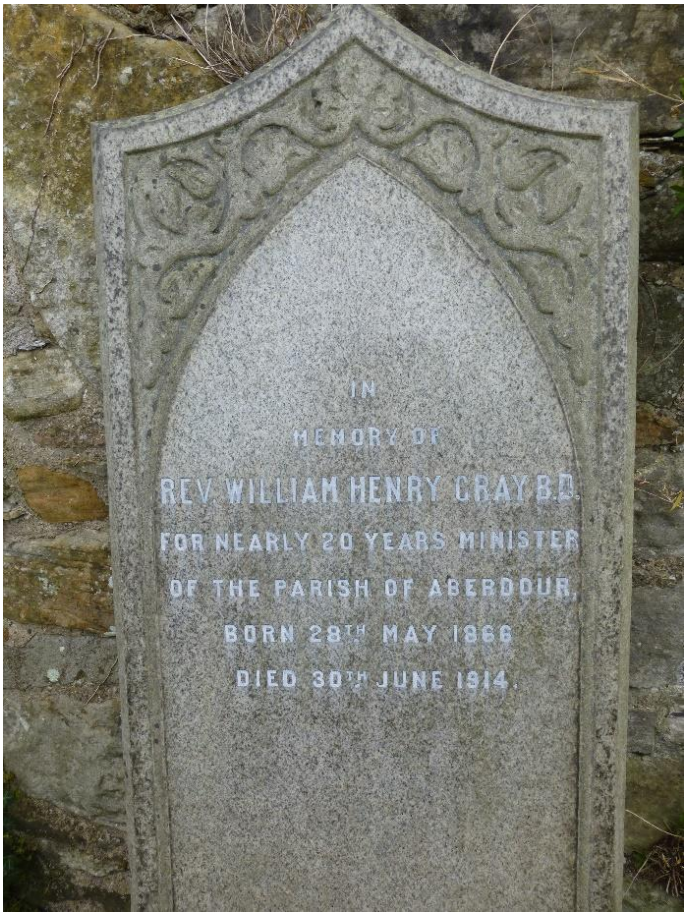


James Currie was as mariner.

He died on 29th October 1799, age 25.

His son William Currie was a joiner.

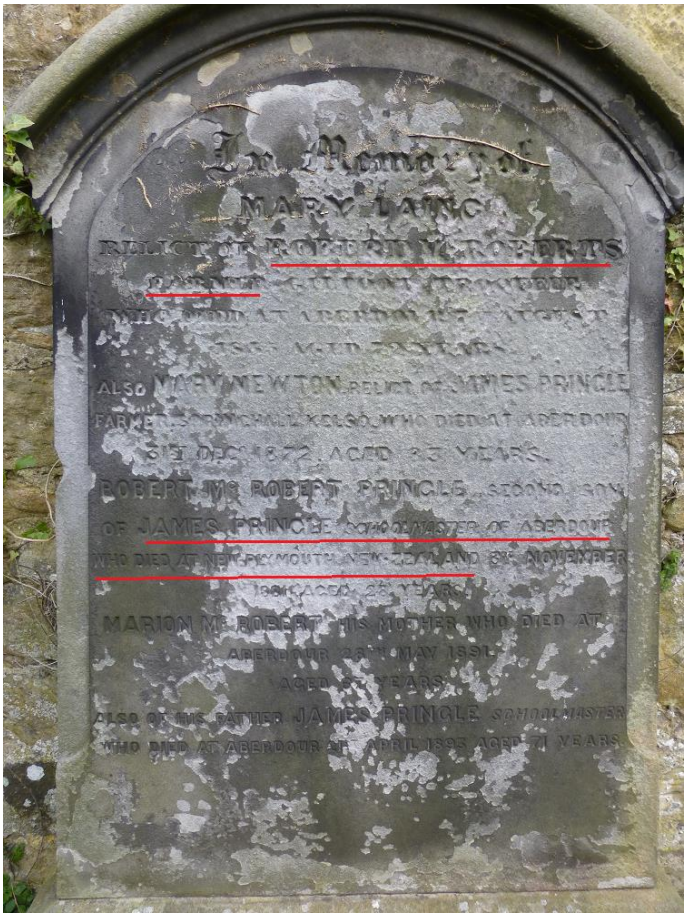
He died on 1st August 1839, age 40.



Rev William Henry Gray was the minister of this parish from 1895 to 1914.

Born 28th May 1866, died 30th June 1914, age 48. He is commemorated by a Brass memorial in church.





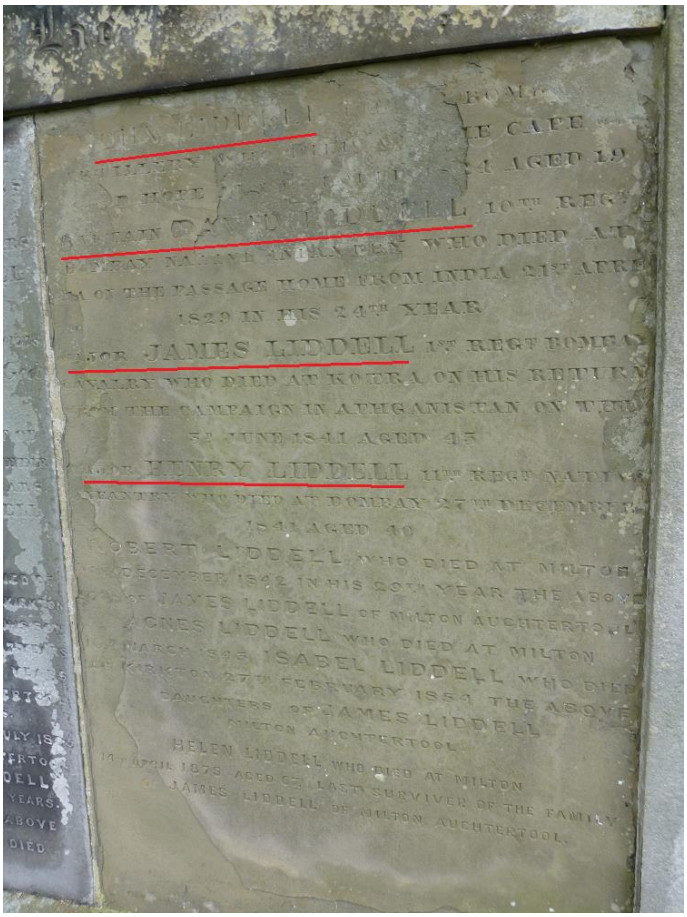
Robert M. Roberts and James Pringle were farmers in Aberdour and Kelso.

James Pringle was a schoolmaster in Aberdour.

He died on 21st April 1892, age 71. His wife Marion Roberts died here on 28th June 1891, age 67. He was also the secretary of the Aberdour Horticultural Society and Session Clerk and Registrar for the Parish.

Their 2nd son Robert McRobert Pringle. died in **New Plymouth, New Zealand** on 3rd November 1881, age 28.





Four Liddell brothers served in the Bombay Army.

The Bombay Army was established in 1668 and was controlled by the East India Company until 1858. It was incorporated into the Indian Army in 1895.

Lieutenant John Liddell of the Bombay artillery died at the Cape of Good Hope on 14th October 1824, age 19.

Captain David Liddell of the 10th Regiment Bombay native infantry died at sea on passage home on 21st April 1829, age 23.

Major James Liddell of the 1st Regiment Bombay cavalry died at Kotra on return from the Afghan campaign on 5th June 1841, age 43.

Major Henry Liddell of the 11th Regiment native Infantry died at Bombay on 27th December 1841, age 40.

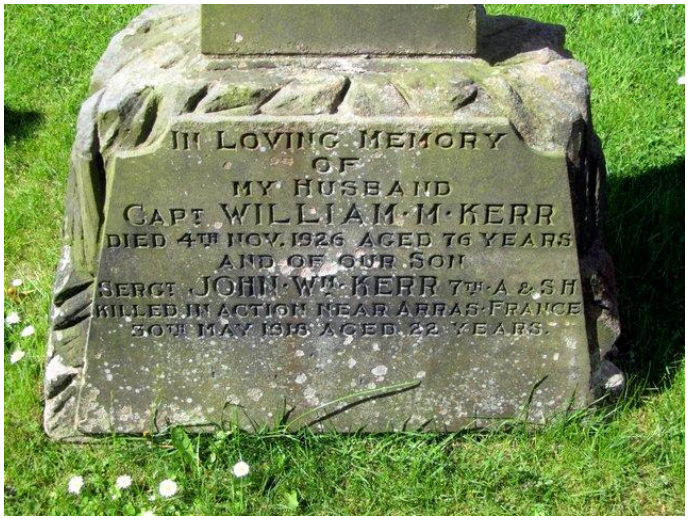




Sergeant John William Kerr was killed in action in the First World War.

He was born on 15th December 1885 in Viewforth cottage (Seaside Place?), Aberdour to Captain William Kerr and Isabella Kerr (nee Clark).

They later lived at Manse Street, then Oakridge (Seaside Place), Aberdour, then moved to Brechin where he worked as a bank accountant, there he joined the Argyll and Southern Highlanders in December 1915.



He was admitted to a dressing station with an inflamed left knee in January 1917, and was wounded with a gunshot wound to the right hand in April 1917. He was killed in action on 30th May 1918, age 22 at Arras, France.





Rev Robert Johnstone was the minister of this parish from 1914 to 1944. He was responsible for the restoration of St Fillan's.

Robert Johnstone was born on 24th April 1872 and educated at St Andrews University. He became minister at Aberdour in 1914 and was called up. He served as an army chaplain 1916-17 in France. On his return he was responsible for restoring the ruined St Fillan's church which was completed in 1926, then converted the church on the High Street into the church hall.

He was also responsible in 1940 for uniting St Fillan's, St Come's and Dalgety churches.

He died on died 5 April 1944, age 71.







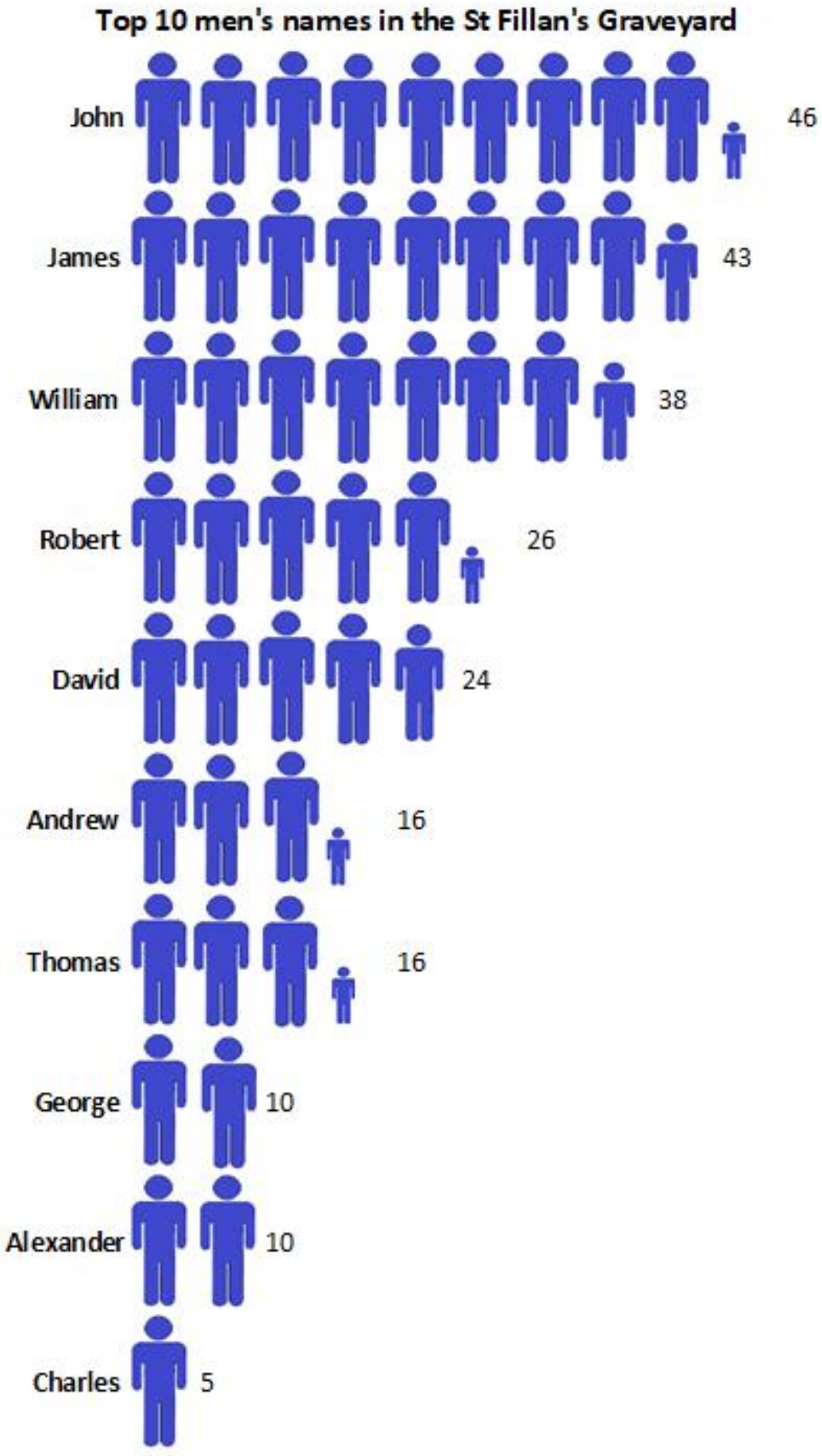


The family of Dugald Livingstone were researching their family history and decided to refurbish the grave.

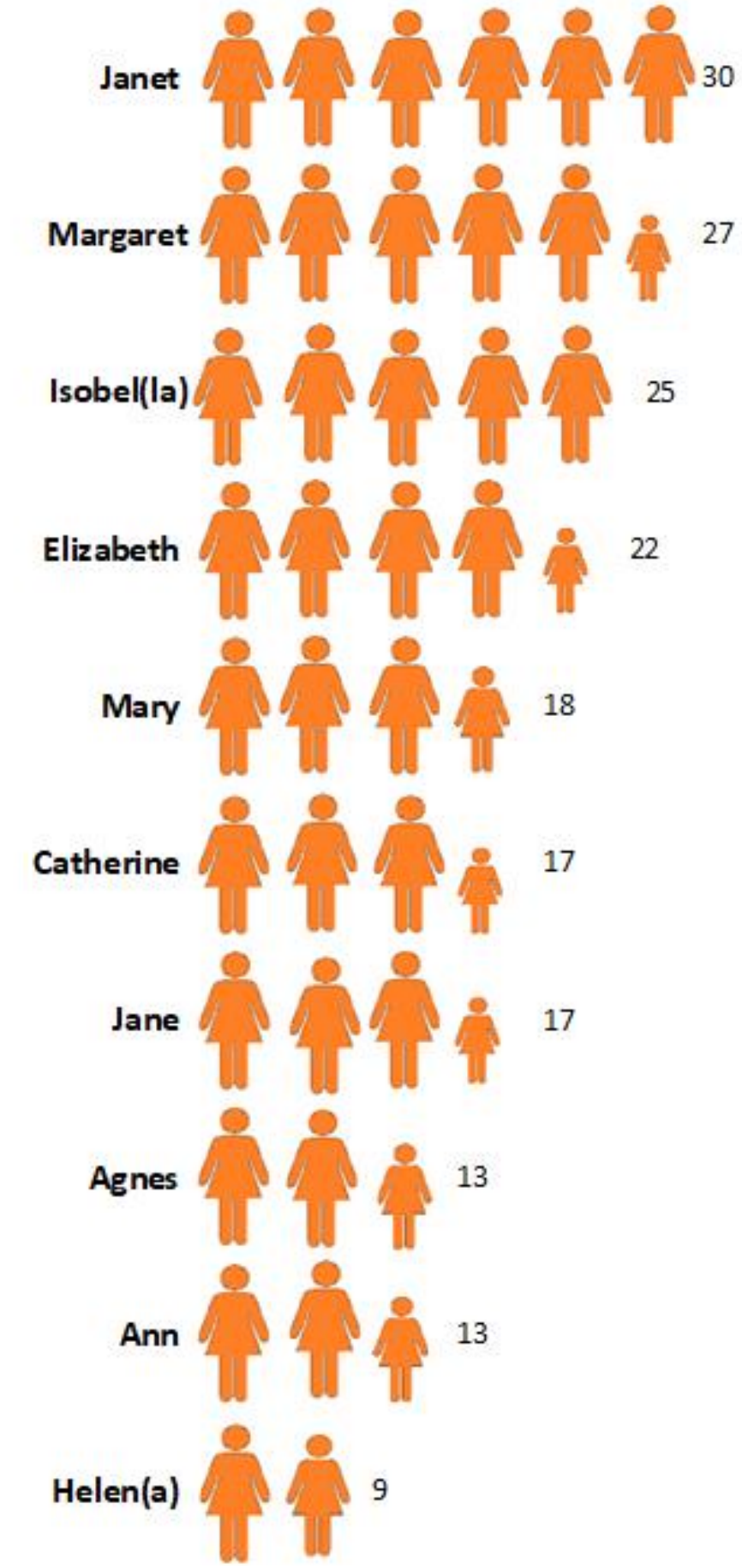
Dugald Colquhoun Livingstone was born on 4th November 1848 near Aberfoyle, he married Annie Huband Gale in Aberfoyle on 17th November 1891 she was from Wiltshire. They moved to Bankhead farm, near Puddledub in 1901, he died 18th February 1917.

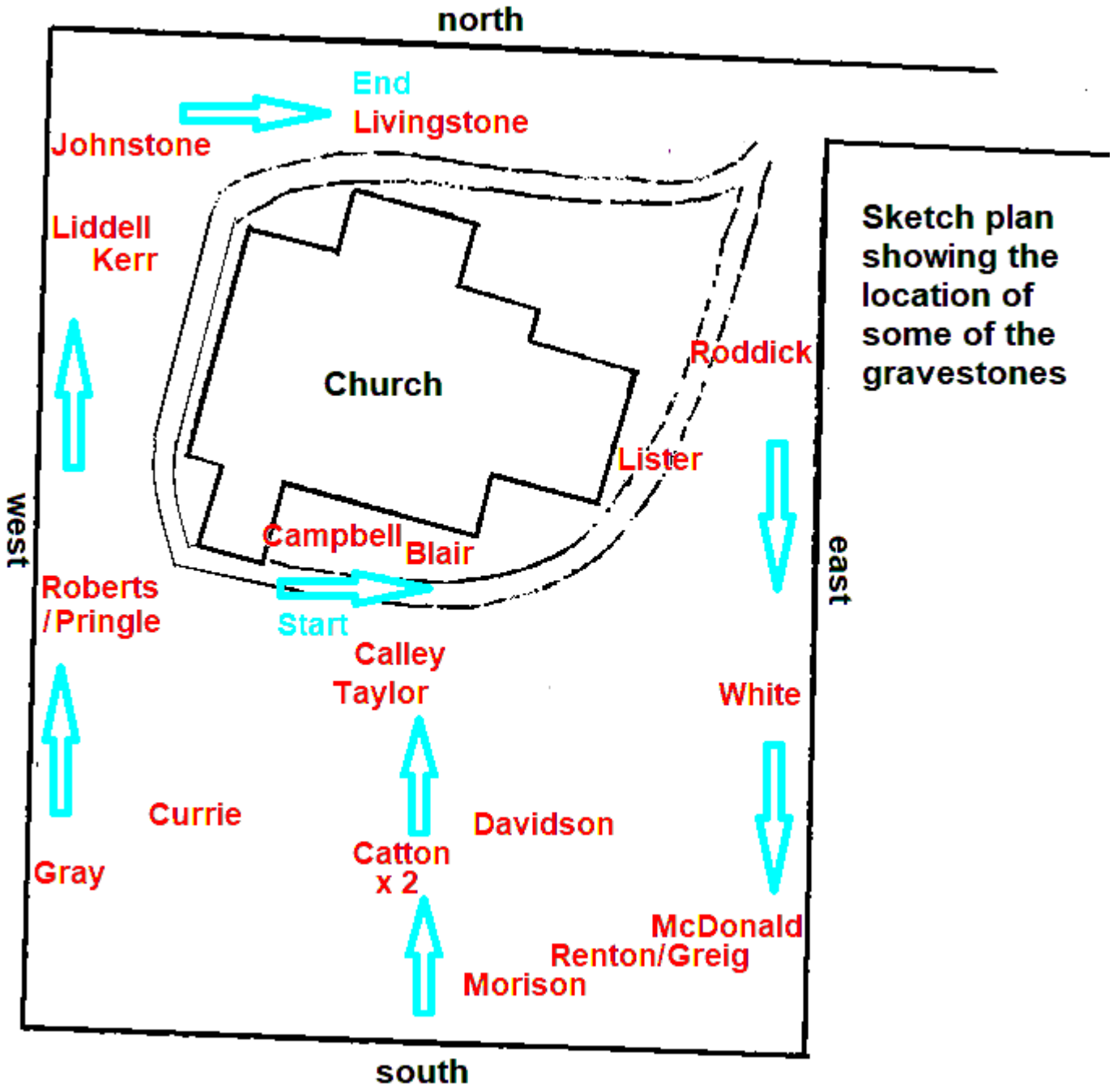
They had 5 children, Victor & Dugald are buried in a grave in the new cemetery in Aberdour with their mother Annie, the other son Donald is in the new cemetery with his wife.

Dugald's grandson also Dugald Livingstone, also farmed Bankhead farm until he retired and sold it, had always said they should get the gravestone releaded and never did, he passed away on 24th December 2023. When sorting out Dugald's gravestone in Burntisland cemetery, his daughter said they should do the grave at St Fillan's which is why it was cleaned up. They hadn't known it was marble and got a surprise. The gravestone cost about £18 when it was first erected. It is only Dugald that is in the grave, when they opened it for Annie to go in, there was a problem, they think the other gravestones were too close.


Top 10 men's names in the St Fillan's Graveyard
John
46
James
43
William
38
Robert
26
David
24
Andrew
16
Thomas
16
George
10
Alexander
10
Charles
5

Top 10 women's names in the St Fillan's Graveyard





Most of the information and images are from www.findagrave.com and "Aberdour Deaths" in www.aberdourculture.org.uk.

Information on other St Fillan's graves can be found at https://stfillanschurch.org.uk/graveyard-records/.