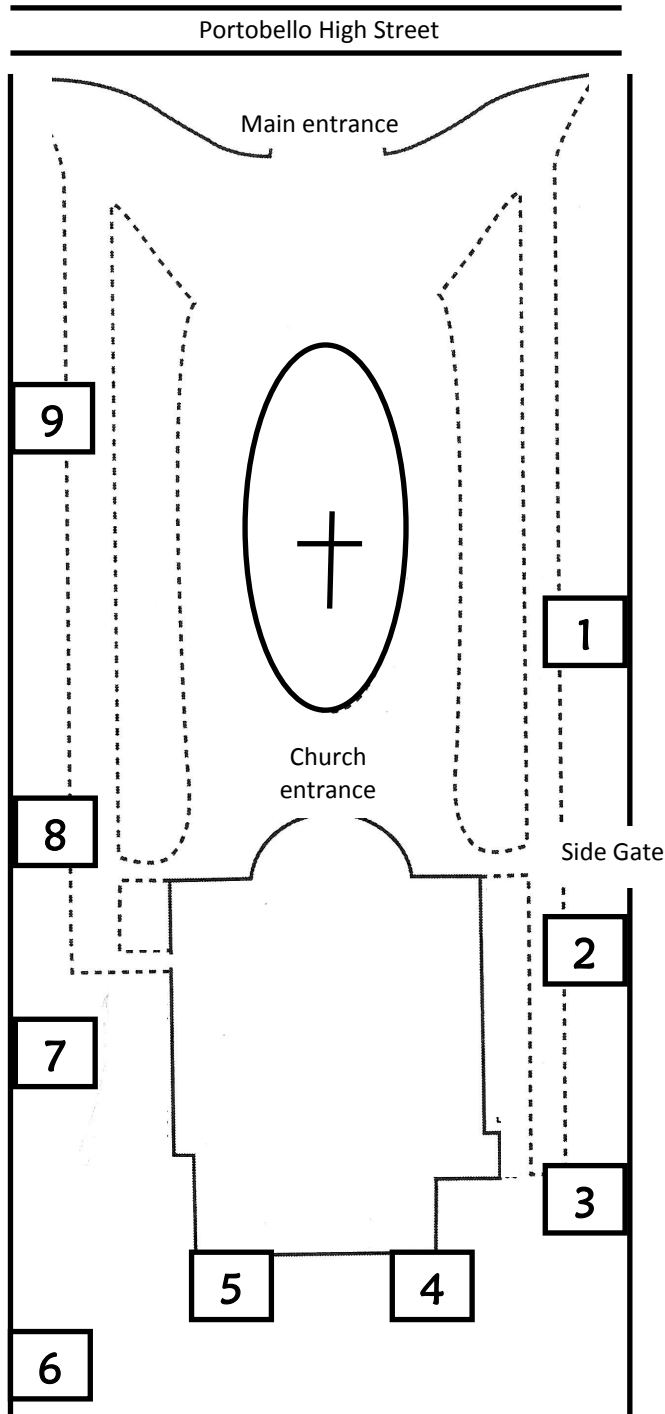


Graveyard Trail



St Marks Graveyard

As part of our Graveyard Project, we wanted to develop local knowledge and awareness of the heritage in this space. With the generous support of the Heritage Lottery, we have been able to organise training and ongoing research, discovering the stories behind the stones.

This graveyard trail shares some of these stories. We also see the heritage of our local Portobello community, and the wider society that we are part of. And shedding fresh light on lives lived long ago honours those whose last resting place was our graveyard and ensures that they will never be forgotten.

Many thanks to all our researchers: Arlene Bird, Archie Foley, June Jeffries, Anne Cunningham, Rosemary Mander, Linda Muir, Caroline Richards. We also want to thank Ken Nisbett from the Scottish Genealogy Society for all his advice.

For more information about the research and to see the stories in full please go to

www.stmarksportobello.org/our-past-lives



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Sacred Space
Green Space



St. Marks
Graveyard
Trail



1) George Jack

George came from Tower Hamlets to Edinburgh at the turn of the 19th century. His family story traced back through two generations shows a working family following a variety of trades including tailor, blacksmith and linen weaver. Orphaned aged 15, he and his siblings worked from an early age with George becoming a plumber.



2) Constance Macadam

Less than 4 years old when she died, Constance's brief life highlights the grim mortality rate of diphtheria in the 19th century, one of the leading causes of child deaths at that time. Her highly academic family made a major contribution to chemical science, in particular her father Stevenson and eldest brother William Ivison.

3) Caroline Purves Home

Born in London, Caroline's story is firmly intertwined with that of India and the East India Company with a family association stretching back to the mid-18th Century. Daughter of a Major General, she married a Lt Colonel in India. She lived in Portobello for most of her married life but did not live to see her surviving children grow up and leave Scotland behind.



4) The Boyle Family

3 gravestones lead us into the story of this family, including the man who links them together, the Reverend John Boyle. Although he is not actually buried here, he is named on two of the three gravestones. It is a story that suggests a time when marriage was viewed in a more practical light but also highlights the emotional impact of grief that transcends any period as can be seen from the inscription on Eliza Boyle's stone.

5) Colonel John Wright



The story of the Wrights reminds us of the fragility of life for children in the early 19th century, whatever social class they are from, as the names on the plaque show. Son of a minister, John Wright pursued a military career in India

in the Madras Army as did his son. The family faced litigation over his will after his death.

6) Robert Forsyth

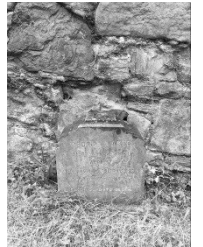
A glimpse of Portobello life is seen through the story of Robert who was the Proprietor of the Hot and Cold Sea Water Baths on the corner of Bath Street in the mid 19th century. This hugely popular venture attracted many customers from Edinburgh, those who could afford the stage coach fare or had their own private carriages. An advertisement stated that there was "a stable for bathers' horses".

7) Joseph Huey MD

The Historical Record of the 14th Kings Hussars notes that their assistant surgeon died of laryngitis in Edinburgh. Although this cavalry regiment had seen extensive action abroad, he was most likely to have served whilst they were based in Britain quelling civil unrest during turbulent political times. The regiment was noted for its "esprit de corps" which might explain the efforts made to mark his grave.

8) George Laker

Only 17 when he died, George Laker was a footman with Col Sinclair at Duddingston House. Originally from Sussex, he died of acute appendicitis which was still a common cause of death in the early 1900s.



9) Marjorie Simpson

Living to the age of 86, Marjorie was known for her love of the sea, bathing in it nearly every day when she was at the family home, Selville Cottage in Portobello. Her husband Henry was born in Russia and the family were well travelled. Their other great love was music, and one of their daughters Therese was said to be the best public singer of her day in Edinburgh.