© Originated and Compiled by Jacqueline Lawrie, Church Member

Foreword

As a church member I have always admired the entrance to the Kirk and I decided I would like to produce a booklet about Duddingston Kirk War Memorial. I could not imagine the journey it would take me on. With my husband I travelled all over France and Belgium. I was very moved by the sheer size of some of the cemeteries and also how immaculate they were kept. At all times we were shown nothing but politeness and kindness by the French people. At each cemetery there was a visitor’s book. I wrote who I visited in every visitor’s book and that he was a member of Duddingston Kirk. I now feel I really know all the people on the panel. It was also an emotional journey, but one I enjoyed making.

Jacqueline Lawrie
A Public Meeting was held to discuss the erection of a suitable War Memorial. It was decided at that meeting that the memorial would take the form of a new and improved doorway to the Church. A Committee was appointed and members were instructed to seek professional advice about the doorway and to collect funds for the memorial. It turned out during the collection that the idea of a new doorway to the Church did not meet with public approval.

A further Public Meeting was held where there was a breakaway of those people who wanted a memorial in the village, but detached from the church.

The Church then went ahead with their own plans and undertook the building of a new doorway with a tablet in the wall alongside with the names of the fallen engraved thereon. Due to economic difficulties after the War the building work was not put in hand until 1922.

The Duchess of Abercorn undertook to unveil the War Memorial, but called off at the last minute, so although her name appears on the Unveiling Programme, the War Memorial was actually unveiled by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

The whole scenario appears to have been fraught with difficulties and this was summed up very well in a letter from Mr Winning, Treasurer, to Mr. Lamb, Secretary of the Committee, which reads, “I fancy this brings us to the end of a perfect day, and if so, thank Heaven!! I congratulate you on steering the bark to port, through rough weather at times, But apparently to a tranquil ending.”

The first Public Meeting was held early in 1919, but it was 8 October, 1922 before the Unveiling Ceremony took place.

The Architect was J. S. Richardson, 4 Melville Street, Edinburgh.

The oak for the door was grown on the Duddingston Estate.
Mr. John Hay, Joiner & Undertaker, Duddingston Mills, Edinburgh, carried out the joiner work on the door.

As a souvenir of the occasion, Mrs. Hutchison, wife of the Lord Provost, who performed the ceremony of opening the door, was presented with a silver key which had a church token inserted in its head.

The Bugler and Trumpeter were each paid 10/- for their services.

The Roll of Honour was executed and gifted by Mr. Walter Scott.

*The Scotsman, Monday, October 9, 1922.*

## WAR MEMORIALS

### DUDDINGSTON’S TRIBUTE TO FALLEN

### LORD PROVOST UNVEILS MEMORIAL

With appropriate solemnity and in presence of a large gathering, the war memorial erected to the memory of 29 men belonging to Duddingston Kirk and Parish landward who fell in the war was unveiled yesterday. Lord Provost Hutchison performed the ceremony in the absence of Her Grace the Duchess of Abercorn, who wrote to Rev. William Serle, minister of the parish, expressing keen regret at her inability to be present. The Dowager Duchess of Abercorn also sent a letter of apology.

The memorial takes the form of a new doorway, window, and tablet in stone bearing the names of the fallen, the whole being in 17th century style, and in harmony with the present features of the newest portion of the church, which stands on ground hallowed by centuries of Scottish history, and dates back to the 12th century. The door is made of oak grown on the Duddingston estate, and at the base of the window, which has been placed immediately above the door, the St Andrews Cross, the Lion Rampant, and Scottish Thistle have been carved out in stone.

The Lord Provost, in unveiling the memorial, recalled that 130 men belonging to the congregation and parish had served in various branches of the Forces, and said it was fitting that a parish like Duddingston, which was associated with momentous events in the history of Scotland, should honour the memory of her gallant sons. Within these walls were monuments of many illustrious soldiers, silent but eloquent witnesses of the stirring part played in the olden days by the natives of the district, and that day they sought to honour in similar fashion the men who in the recent war so nobly upheld the traditions of that parish.

The ceremony of opening the door was performed by Mrs Hutchison, who was presented with a silver key as a memento of the occasion.
SACRIFICES FOR GREAT IDEALS

A memorial service was thereafter held in the church, and conducted by the Very Rev. Dr. John Smith, Glasgow, and Moderator of the Church of Scotland. The roll of honour, bearing the names of the fallen, including Lord John Hamilton, as well as those who served in the war, was unveiled by Dr J Hunter P Paton, St Andrews, a son of the former minister of the congregation.

Dr Smith preached from the text, Revelation xii, 11 - “They loved not their lives unto the death,” and in the course of his sermon said no standard could be found to measure the extent of the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in the war. Of all the questions that haunted the human mind, he proceeded, none had for most of them such absorbing interest as the question of reunion. Modern thought was full of it. All kinds of speculation were at the present moment noised abroad. They heard of communication with those who had passed to the other side, and they heard of the fond parent in touch with his brave son who fell in the war. They dared not deny the possibility. All things were possible to him who believed, but of this he was sure, that they would meet their dear ones again. The dead were not dead; they were living clothed in their spiritual body. Not a fibre of the lives of these brave souls was thrown away. That which was earthly in them had gone back whence it came, and sin had been washed away and the pure gold of their character left behind. They had left a work unfinished, which it was for those who remained to complete. They died for their country and for great ideals and noble ends, and they and he remained to live for those ideals and to seek those noble ends, to consolidate the work of the past and build up anew a brighter and better land from amidst those restless and troubled times. Those words, “Carry on,” spoken frequently during the war, concluded Dr Smith, came to them even four years after the Armistice with overwhelming significance. It was theirs to strive to live to carry out their work, to take up the mantle that had fallen from their shoulders, and to bear onwards the torch that had fallen from their hands.

A lament was then played by a piper of the Royal Scots, and the “Last Post” sounded by a trumpeter.
ORDER OF SERVICE

1. Prayer
2. Psalm 23, Tune - Evan
3. Unveiling of War Memorial
4. Placing of Wreaths on entering church
5. Organ Voluntary. “Adagio and Benedictus” (Mass in G.) Weber
6. Unveiling of Roll of Honour by Dr J. Hunter P. Paton
7. Hymn 513
8. Prayer
9. Scripture Reading
10. Hymn 339
11. Dedication and Sermon by the Moderator of the Kirk of Scotland.
13. Paraphrase 2. Tune – Salzburg
14. The Benediction
17. The National Anthem

Concluding Voluntary
March “Silver Trumpets” Vivani.

Greater love hath no man than this,
That a man lay down his life for his friends
John xv., 13.
Captain, Lord John Arthur Hamilton, 1st Battalion Irish Guards, was the son of the late Duke of Abercorn, K.G., and of the Dowager Duchess of Abercorn, of 115 Park Street, London. Deputy Master of His Majesty’s Household.

He was a Special Reserve and was in the 1st Battalion Irish Guards. Born in 1883, he was killed in action on Friday, 6 November 1914.

He is remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ieper, West Vlaanderen, Belgium. Reference Panel 11.

Newspaper Epitaph
Captain Lord Arthur John Hamilton, att'd. 1st Battalion Irish Guards (Special Reserve) Deputy Master of His Majesty's Household was included in the War Office monthly casualty list published in February 1915 as “unofficially reported killed,” no date being given. He had been officially reported as missing, but later in the same year it was heard from a German officer that he had been killed early in September 1914.

Lord Arthur Hamilton was the second son of the second Duke of Abercorn, and was born on the 20th August 1883 and educated at Wellington, where he was in the Benson from 1898-1900.

After serving with the embodied Militia for seven or eight months, he received a commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the Irish Guards in December 1901, becoming Lieutenant in August 1904, and Captain in December 1909. Retiring from active service, he joined the Special Reserve as Captain in March 1913, and was appointed Deputy Master of the Household in that year.

Lieutenant Archibald John Cunningham, “A” Battery, 110th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, lived with his wife at Mayfield, Duddingston, Edinburgh.

He was killed in action on Sunday, 24 March, 1918.

He is remembered on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Reference Bay 1

Photo: Edinburgh Evening Dispatch

Private J Dall, 2nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, was the husband of Agnes Newbery Dall, of Abercorn Cottages, Duddingston, Midlothian.

Born in 1892, he died on Thursday, 31 October, 1918, age 26.

He is buried in Inveresk Parish Churchyard, Midlothian. Reference C. 1255.
Sergeant James Deas, 11th Battalion, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, was born in Alloa, Clackmannanshire, resided in Portobello, Midlothian, and enlisted in Edinburgh, Midlothian.

His brother-in-law was James Wilson, Church Officer, St. James, Portobello.

He was killed in action on Tuesday, 31 July, 1917.

He is remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Reference: Addenda Panel 58.

Gunner James Dickson, Royal Horse Artillery And Royal Field Artillery, resided in Duddingston, Portobello and enlisted in Edinburgh.

Born in 1891, he died of wounds on Saturday, 26 October, 1918.

He is remembered on the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Reference Panel 3 and 60.

Private James Gavin, 15th Battalion, Royal Scots, was the son of Robert Gavin and Elizabeth S. Gavin (nee Patterson) of 20 Parsons Green Terrace, Piershill, Edinburgh.

Born in 1896, he died on Saturday, 1 July, 1916, age 22.

He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Reference: Pier and Face D and 7D.

Private Herbert Geddes, 12th Battalion, Royal Scots, was the son of Alexander and Mary E H Geddes, of 3 Mitchell Street, Craigmillar, Midlothian, and brother of James Geddes (see below).

Born in 1896, he died Saturday, 25 September, 1915, age 19.

He is remembered on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Reference Panel 10 to 13.

Private James Geddes, 6th Battalion, Cameron Highlanders, was the son of Alexander and May E H Geddes, of 3 Mitchell Street, Craigmillar, Midlothian, and brother of Herbert Geddes (see above).

Born in 1898, he died of peritonitis on Tuesday, 9 April, 1918, age 20.

He is buried in Mons Communal Cemetery, Mon, Hainaut, Belgium.
Private J Graham, 16th Battalion, Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment), was the son of Mr & Mrs James Graham, 26 Milton Street, Edinburgh. He was born in Alloa, Clackmannanshire and enlisted in Edinburgh.

Born in 1892, he was killed in action on Saturday, 1 July, 1916, age 24.

He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 6 D and 7 D

Private Alexander Hay, 4th Battalion, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, was the son of John Hay D.L., J.P., and Jeanie Hay, of “Mayfield” Duddingston, Portobello, Edinburgh. He resided in Duddingston and enlisted in Edinburgh. His father was an elder of Duddingston Kirk 1910-1944. He was the brother of John Mackie Hay and William Douglas Hay (see below).

Born in Duddingston, Edinburgh, in 1900, he died on 8 January 1918, age 18.

He is buried in Duddingston Parish Churchyard, Edinburgh. Reference: North of West end of Church.

Sergeant John Mackie Hay, 5th Battalion, Cameron Highlanders, was the son of John Hay D.L., J.P., and Jeanie Hay, of “Mayfield” Duddingston, Portobello, Edinburgh. He resided in Duddingston and enlisted in Edinburgh. His father was an elder of Duddingston Kirk 1910-1944. He was the brother of Alexander Hay (see above) and William Douglas Hay (see below).

Born in Duddingston, Edinburgh, in 1889, he died of wounds on Tuesday 28 September, 1915.

He is buried in Chocques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Reference 1. E. 65.

Company Sergeant Major William Douglas Hay, “C” Company, 7th Battalion, Cameron Highlanders, was the son of John Hay D.L., J.P., and Jeannie Hay, of “Mayfield”, Duddingston, Portobello, Edinburgh. He resided in Duddingston and enlisted in Edinburgh. His father was an elder of Duddingston Kirk 1910-1944. He was the brother of Alexander Hay and John Mackie Hay (see above).

Born in Duddingston, Edinburgh, in 1893, he died on Thursday, 17 August, 1916, age 23.

He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Reference Pier and Face 15 B.
Intimation has been received by Mr & Mrs John Hay, Mayfield, Duddingston, that their third son, Coy. Sergt. Major Wm. Douglas Hay, Cameron Highlanders, has been killed. Coy. Sergt. Major Hay was offered a commission dating from the 7th of this month, but he wrote to the War Office requesting that he should be allowed to remain with his regiment during the present “push”. He was a student of Broughton Higher Grade School, Edinburgh, and enlisted at the outbreak of war along with his brother, Sergt. J. M. Hay, who was killed at Loos. Coy. Sergt. Major Hay was 23 years of age.

Private Robert Herriot, 13th Battalion, Royal Scots, was the son of James and Janet Herriot, of Duddingston Mills, Edinburgh.

Born in 1893, he was killed in action on Monday, 23 April, 1917, age 24.

He is buried in Canadian Cemetery No. 2 Neuville-St.Vaast, Pas de Calais, France. Reference 20. A. 7.

Private William Kerr, 13th Battalion, Royal Scots, was the son of Andrew M. and Mary Kerr, of Poplar Bank, Duddingston, Edinburgh.

Born in 1892, he was accidentally drowned on Wednesday, 12 April, 1916, age 24.

He is buried in Guildford (Stoke) Old Cemetery, Surrey. Reference G. 396.

Private John Middlemass, 1st/7th Battalion, Royal Scots, was the son of Robert and Jane Middlemass, 18 Parsons Green Terrace, Edinburgh.

Born in 1892, he died on 31 October, 1915 of enteric fever at University War Hospital, Southampton, age 23.

He is buried in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, United Kingdom.

Private James Gordon Scott, 2nd Battalion, Princess Louise’s Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, was the eldest son of Walter and Helen Elizabeth Scott, of 13 Queen’s Park Avenue, Edinburgh.

Born in 1894, he attended George Heriot’s School from 1907 to 1909.

He was employed as a Clerk in the Goods Department of the North British Railway, and was killed in action on Tuesday, 29 August 1916, age 22.

He is buried at Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France. Reference XXX.H.1.
Private John Sharp, 17th (Service) Battalion, (3rd Glasgow) Highland Light Infantry, was married, lived in Kirknewton, Midlothian, and enlisted in Edinburgh.

Born in 1890, he died on Wednesday, 20 December, 1916, age 26.

He is buried in Porte-de-Paris Cemetery, Cambrai, Nord, France. Reference: II. B. 11

Private David Sim, 2nd Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), lived with his wife Susan in the village of Duddingston, Edinburgh. He was born in St. Vigeans, Forfarshire.

Born in 1876, he was killed in action on Friday, 21 January, 1916, age 40.

He is remembered on the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Reference Panel 25 and 63.

Private James Dinnie Simpson, 1st Battalion, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), was the son of Mr. Simpson, 1 Jane Terrace, Abbeyhill, Edinburgh. Born in Edinburgh, he enlisted in Edinburgh, and was killed in action on Saturday, 21 September, 1918.

He is buried in Meath Cemetery, Villers-Guislain, nord, France. Reference II. C. 3.

Private George Smith, 5th Battalion, Royal Scots, was the son of Mr. James Smith, Southfield.

Born in Edinburgh, he resided in Southfield, enlisted in Edinburgh, and was killed in action on 28 June, 1915.

He is remembered on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 26 to 30.

Private Ebenezer Steele, 18th Battalion, (4th Glasgow) Highland Light Infantry, was the son of Edward Steele of 27 Hazelbank Terrace, Edinburgh.

Born in 1892, he died of wounds on Monday, 30 September, 1918, age 26.


Private J H Stevens, 5th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, enlisted in Edinburgh and was killed in action on Tuesday, 31 July, 1917.

Theatre of War: France & Flanders.

He is buried in New Irish Farm Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Reference XXVI. B. 3.
Private David Suttie, 2nd Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), was the son of Matthew Suttie, 5 Mitchell Street, Craigmillar, Edinburgh. Born in 1887 in Rutherglen, Lanarkshire, he enlisted at Glencorse, Midlothian, and was killed in action on 25 September, 1915, age 28. He was the brother of Matthew Suttie (see below) and the husband of Mary Suttie.

He is remembered on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Reference: Panel 78 to 83.

Private Matthew Suttie, 8th Battalion, Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment), was the son of Matthew Suttie, 5 Mitchell Street, Craigmillar, Edinburgh. Born in 1895 in Maryhill, Lanarkshire, he resided in Edinburgh, enlisted at Gilmerton, Midlothian, and died on 23 November, 1918, age 23. He was the brother of David Suttie (see above).


Private David Swan, 4th Battalion (Bandsman), Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment), was the son of William Swan, Peffermill Cottages, 13 Station Road, Craigmillar, Edinburgh. Born in 1896 in Portobello, lived with his parents, was employed in the Royal Bank, Portobello, enlisted in Edinburgh, was wounded in the Dardanelles and died on Monday, 12 July, 1915, age 19.

He is buried in Skewbridge Cemetery, Turkey. Reference: II. F. 7.

Second Lieutenant Herbert Philip Turnbull, 42 Squadron, Royal Air Force, was the youngest son of David Lowe Turnbull, M.A., of “Denesyde,” 7 Duddingston Crescent, Portobello, Midlothian.

Born in 1890, he was educated at George Heriot’s School, Edinburgh, from 1913 to 1917. He was First Prefect and School Captain from 1916 to 1917, and Officer Training Corps Cadet from 1913-1917 (Sergeant Major medallist in Germany).

He was killed in action on Sunday, 27 October, 1918, age 19.

He is buried in ASCQ Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. Reference: A. 4.

Private George Weston, 15th Battalion, Royal Scots, was the son of Mr David Weston, formerly 5 Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh.

Born in Edinburgh, he enlisted in Edinburgh, he was killed in action on Monday, 9 April, 1917.

He is remembered on the Arras Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France. Reference: Bay 1 and 2.
Second Lieutenant James Pringle White, 10th Battalion, (Liverpool Scottish) (Territorial) King’s (Liverpool Regiment), was the son of Hugh White and Mary Pringle White of 77 Great King Street, Edinburgh, who previously resided at 10 Hamilton Terrace, Portobello.

He was a grandson of the late Provost Pringle, Leith.

Born in 1880, he died on Wednesday, 16 June, 1915, age 35.

He is remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Reference Panel 4 and 6.

Private William Young, 7th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, was the son of George Allan Young and Christina Young, of 3 Comely Green Crescent, Edinburgh, formerly 5 Mitchell Street, Edinburgh. He had a sister, Christina, and a brother, David.

Born in 1897, he was killed in action on Friday, 14 July, 1916, age 19.

He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Reference: Pier and Face 15C.

Acknowledgements

With thanks to my husband George for driving me all over France and Belgium, so I could photograph gravestones and memorials.

To Gordon Taylor for his invaluable help and expertise.

Reverend J Jack for allowing me access to Duddingston Kirk archives.

Other sources of information:-

George IV Bridge Library and National Library of Scotland, microfiche of “Evening News” and “Edinburgh Evening Dispatch” for photos and snippets.

The Royal Scots Club for newspaper cuttings from their Library.

Various Universities’ and Colleges’ Rolls of Honour.

The Scottish Archives for Duddingston Communion Roll.

Watchtower Roll at the Gatehouse by Mr. Walter Scott

Please excuse any errors I may have inadvertently made and let me know of any I can correct.
Roll of Honour in the Watchtower

Originated and compiled by Jacqueline Lawrie