

NEW CUMNOCK

AULD KIRKYARD SOLDIERS HERITAGE TRAIL

A rich heritage waiting to be discovered and enjoyed...



newcumnockheritage.com

INDIA MUTINY (1857-1859)

S1



SURGEON-GENERAL JOHN FINDLAY ARTHUR CSI

HM's Indian Army

26 July 1886, Age 79

He was born at Crook, a cottage on the Arthur family's farm of Wellhill. A graduate of Glasgow University he was Surgeon to the 1st Madras Fusiliers who entered Lucknow as part of the 1st Relief Force during the Indian Mutiny and later served in the siege and capture of Lucknow. John retired from the service with the rank of Surgeon-General in 1860 and was awarded 'The Most Exalted Order of the Star of India', C.S.I. in June 1869. He died at Lochside House, aged 79 years.



SECOND BOER WAR (1899-1902)

S2



SERGEANT JOHN MONTGOMERIE

17th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry

28 March 1901, Age 33

Young John lived for a time at the Old Mill where his father was a road surveyor. His father later farmed at Nether Dalhanna while John married and then worked as a gamekeeper at Hardhill, Galston. John served in the Imperial Yeomanry, a volunteer cavalry regiment, and died of his wounds at Boshof, South Africa.

THE GREAT WAR (1914-1918)

S3



PRIVATE WILLIAM SLOAN

1581

1-1st Ayrshire Yeomanry

15 November 1915, Age 21

The Sloan family farmed at Roughside. William died in hospital of his injuries at Helles, Cape Gallipoli.

S4



PRIVATE WALTER SCOTT MURPHY

14554

Highland Light Infantry

1 July 1916, Age 24

The family lived at the Bluebell Cottage (Tank) where his father was a foreman plate-layer and Walter worked at the railway station. Walter was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

S5



LIEUTENANT ANDREW STURROCK

3rd Royal Scots Fusiliers

14 July 1916, Age 21

The family originally from Forfar lived at Castlehill and Mossmark where his father was a tailor's cutter. Andrew was killed in action at the Battle of the Somme.

56

PRIVATE GEORGE McKERROW

S/12232

9th Black Watch

8 September 1916, Age 20

His family lived at Dalricket Cottage where his father was a colliery-engine keeper and George a champion ploughman. George was killed in action at the Battle of the Somme.

57

PRIVATE ALEXANDER SLOAN

100942

49th Canadian Infantry Alberta Regiment

9 October 1916, Age 25

PRIVATE WILLIAM McKERROW SLOAN

34590

8th Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

25 April 1917, Age 22

The Sloan brothers were born at Maneight farm. Alexander emigrated to Canada where he signed up to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force and was killed in action at the Battle of the Somme. Six months later William was killed in action at the Macedonian front of the Balkans campaign.

58

PRIVATE DOUGLAS McKENZIE

S/14826

2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

25 September 1917, Age 19

His family lived at Old Coalburn where his father worked as a joiner at the nearby mine. Douglas was killed in action at the Battle of Passchendaele.

59

PRIVATE JOSHUA MATHIESON

240763

11th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

15 September 1916, Age 18

PRIVATE THOMAS MATHIESON

1253

5th King's Own Scottish Borderers

19 November 1917, Age 24

Their father Robert Mathieson was a cloth-merchant for a time at Pathhead before moving to Kirkconnel, where both brothers were born. Joshua was killed at the Battle of the Somme. His elder brother Thomas, a coal miner, died of infectious jaundice and is buried here in the family plot.

S10

**PRIVATE ROBERT MURRAY**

35778

1st & 4th Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

22 November 1917, Age 24

The family lived at Connel Bridge where Robert worked as an assistant in his father's grocer's shop. He was killed in action in Palestine.

S11

**PRIVATE ARCHIBALD MacKENZIE**

240763

1st & 5th Sherwood Foresters

27 January 1918, Age 28

Archibald and his twin George were born at Rottenyard farm. He enlisted when working as a ploughman at South Boig. Archibald contracted pneumonia in France, he was brought home and he died in Glenafton Sanitorium.

S12

**SERGEANT ROBERT PATERSON**

75249

29th Canadian Infantry British Columbia Regiment

6 April 1918, Age 39

A farmer at Culcreoch he emigrated to Canada where he signed up to serve in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. Robert died of shrapnel wounds in a casualty clearing station in France.

S13

**PRIVATE ARCHIBALD ROSS**

265608

Royal Scots Fusiliers

22 July 1918, Age 19

Born in New Cumnock, his father Hugh was a grocer and spirit dealer at Craigbank. After his father's death the family moved to Cathcart where he enlisted. He died of pneumonia in the Victoria Infirmary.

S14

**PRIVATE JAMES GALSTON**

240763

1st & 5th Royal Scots Fusiliers

17 September 1918, Age 27

Born in Glasgow the son of a clog-maker he moved to Pathhead to work in the mines and married local girl Ellen Hastings. James died of his wounds in France.

S15

**PRIVATE THOMAS SAMUEL DICK**

161611

31st Machine Corps (Infantry)

19 August 1919, Age 20

He lived with his family at the Boig Road and worked in the nearby mines. Thomas died at Kilmarnock Infirmary of tubercular peritonitis.

FROM THE FIELDS OF NEW CUMNOCK TO FLANDERS FIELDS



Of all the Great War poems 'In Flanders Field' is perhaps the most memorable. It was written by John Alexander McCrae, who served as a field surgeon in the Canadian artillery and in 1915 took charge of the field hospital during the second battle of Ypres. He was the grandson of Thomas McCrae of Kells, Kirkcudbrightshire and Jean Campbell of New Cumnock. Jean was born on Christmas Day, 1814 at Maneight Farm, one of ten children of William Campbell and Jean Scott

*In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

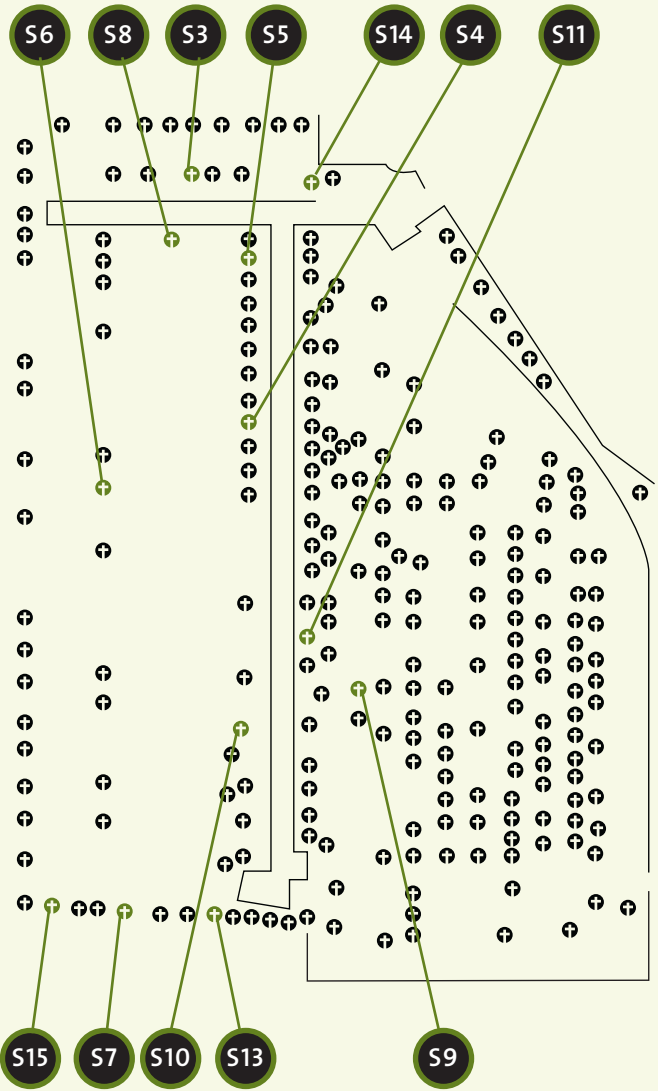
*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

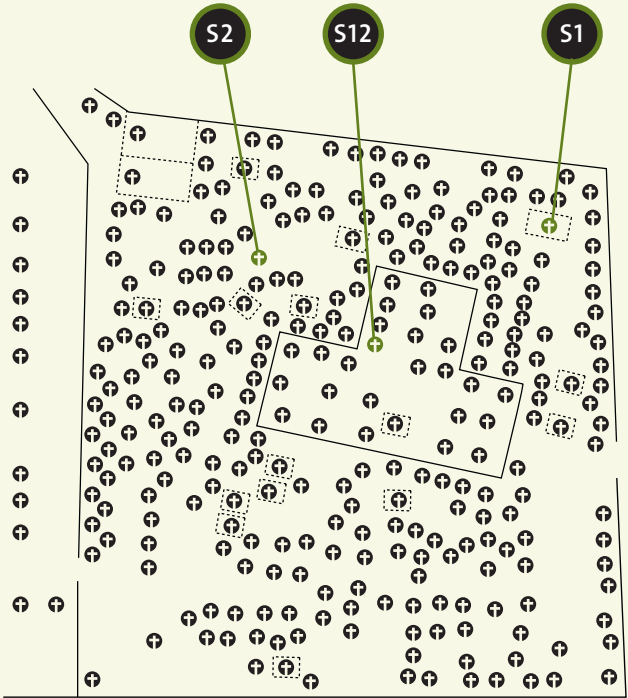
In a remarkable coincidence some 70 years after the birth of Jean Campbell at Maneight, brothers Alexander, William and John Sloan were born in the same farmhouse. Alexander emigrated to Canada and served in the Canadian forces but fell at the Somme. His younger brother William was killed in action at Macedonia and elder brother John was awarded the Military Medal.



THE AULD KIRK SOLDIERS HERITAGE TRAIL LOWER GRAVEYARD GUIDE



**THE AULD KIRK
SOLDIERS HERITAGE TRAIL**
UPPER GRAVEYARD GUIDE



Visitors should exercise caution within the vicinity of the headstones and Auld Kirk ruins. Thank you.

ENJOY YOUR VISIT



NEW CUMNOCK
AULD KIRKYARD SOLDIERS
HERITAGE TRAIL

PLEASE TAKE CARE

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