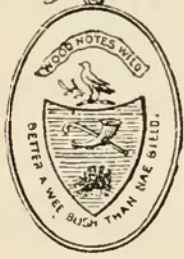
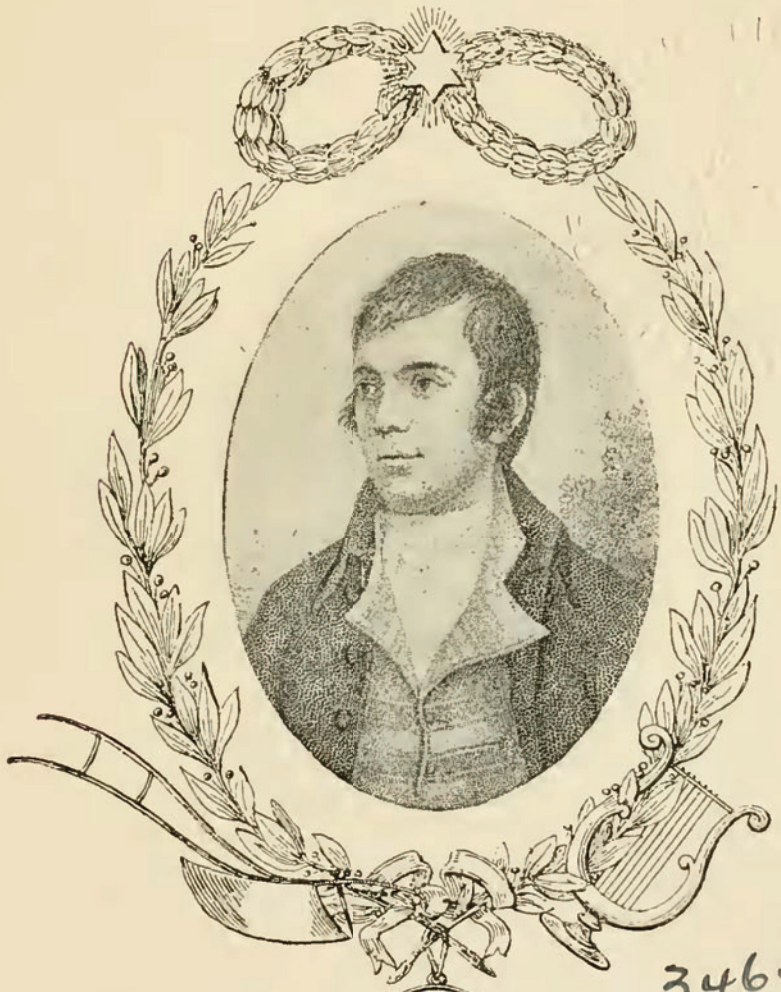


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ANNUAL  
**Burns Chronicle**  
AND  
**Club Directory.**

(INSTITUTED 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1891.)

Edited by **D. M'NAUGHT, Kilmaurs.**



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## P R E F A C E .

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THE events of the Death Centenary having been dealt with in the special issue of last year, the present number has been compiled on the original plan of the *Chronicle*, which has been carried out in detail so far as the limited space at our disposal permitted. Though the "Notes and Queries" section—perhaps not the least interesting of former issues—has again been crowded out, we hope to make good the deficiency by devoting more space to it in future issues.

The Editorial staff has been much encouraged by the very enthusiastic meeting held at Greenock in June last. If the pledges then given by the delegates to support the *Chronicle* in their several localities are in any degree redeemed, the permanent success of the periodical will be fully assured.

To our contributors we again return our warmest thanks ; and in connection with our illustrations, we beg specially to acknowledge the valuable services of Mr. Thomas Ferguson, Nursery Mills, Kilmarnock, who, from the first, has taken the most lively interest in our labours.

We have also to congratulate the Federation on the very appreciative notices of the *Chronicle* which have appeared in the press.

D. M'NAUGHT.

BENRIG,  
KILMAURS, 1st January, 1898.

## MAUCHLINE KIRKYARD.

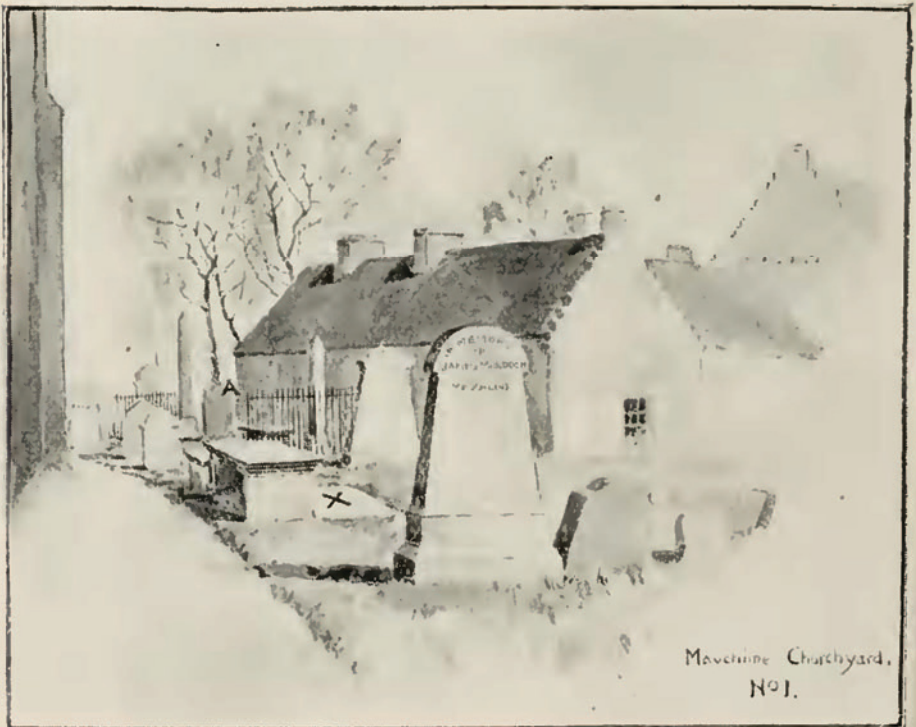
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FOR a reliable description of the Auld Kirk and Kirkyard of Mauchline, I would refer the reader to the first of the first series of lectures delivered by the late Rev. Dr. Edgar, which were published by Alex. Gardner, of Paisley, in 1885. The purpose of this article is the preservation of more detailed information, which may be lost, and which may be of some value to those who take an interest in the persons with whom our National Bard was acquainted during the culminating period of his career at Mossgiel. With this object in view, I submit illustrations founded on pen-and-ink sketches, which were specially prepared for this article by my kinsman, Mr. David Dunn, of Galston, and which, in my opinion, well merit preservation in the pages of the *Chronicle*. As the years pass on, the connecting links between the past and present become fewer and fewer, and with the death of old "Sandy Marshall," the Kirkyard of Mauchline may be said to have lost its only accredited historian. As a native of Mauchline, I have often been privileged to listen to the old man's reminiscences, and many a time and oft has he pointed out to me the various spots of interest in the churchyard which nobody could descant upon with more authority than he. He has left no successor. I will therefore endeavour to put his notes on the permanent record, supplemented by whatever original information I myself have been enabled to obtain.

We enter the sacred enclosure by what is called the Back Gate, for which I have a special reverence, for the reason that by that entrance I was, many years ago, carried towards the baptismal font. Let us doff our cap, for we are on sacred ground. While our present object is to indicate the resting places of those connected with the Poet, yet the ashes of not a few who fought our country's battles repose within the churchyard walls, and the corpse of a covenanting hero (James Smith) was also interred within the sacred precincts.

But Burns is all-important, and the first question likely to be asked by a student of his life's history would be one bearing on the locality of the Armour's burying-place, for it was there the Poet's twin children

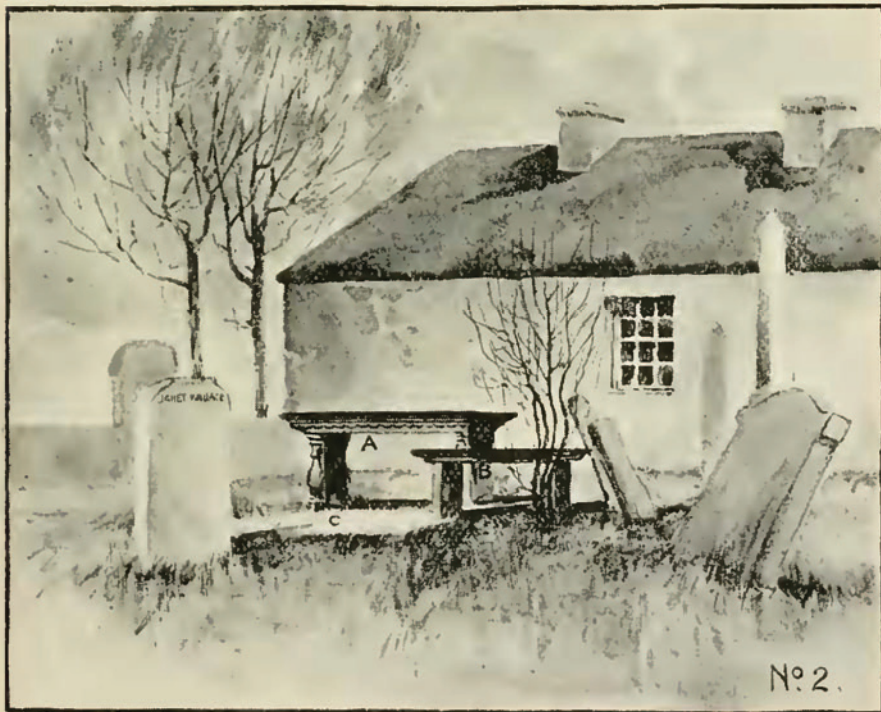
were buried, and also his daughter, Elizabeth Riddell. The latter was born in Dumfries on 21st November, 1793, according to the inscription on the flat stone within the tripart enclosure, and died at Mauchline in the autumn of 1795. We learn from Scott Douglas that this was the Poet's only daughter and favourite child, and it can be inferred from a letter to Mrs. Dunlop, dated 31st January, 1796, that he was not present at the interment of her remains. For a photogravure of this enclosure I refer the reader to page 79 of the *Burns Chronicle* for 1896. Before passing from this spot, we may remark that it is very probably the resting-place of Adam, Jean's brother, the hero of "Adam Armour's Prayer," and also of the Poet's youngest brother, John, who died at the age of fourteen. The *locale* of this spot is to the north side of the church, and quite close to the walk, which we now propose to follow. The cross (X) in number I. of the sketches



indicates the place where the mortal remains of Andrew Noble, the parish schoolmaster in Burns's time, were interred. The stone does not bear his name, but only those of his two daughters and son, and the inscription is in Greek and Latin, nothing unusual in those days of the old parish school and schoolmaster. The Greek inscription enunciates the common

truism—"The best things are laid up for us in heaven." The humorous epitaph beginning "Lament him, Mauchline husbands a'," which is, by many Burns editors, set down as connected with Burns's crony, James Smith, is, according to the most reliable local tradition, backed by the emphatic and oft-repeated assertion of "auld Sandy," a sort of "Court of Equity" indictment against the man whose name is engraved on this unostentatious flat stone.

Letter A on the same drawing gives the *locale* of the memorial stone of "Daddy Auld." The inscription is a beautiful example of tombstone decoration at the beginning of the present century, and was executed, I understand, by an ancestor of our respected townsman, Mr. William Smith, box manufacturer. "Daddy Auld" died 12th December, 1791, in the fiftieth year of his ministry, and eighty-first of his age.



Letter A in drawing No. II shows the form of this memorial stone. Letter B, in same drawing, indicates the last resting-place of John Richmond, the close friend and fellow-lodger of Burns when in Edinburgh. He died in 1846, aged 81. Letter C marks the stone covering the place of rest of the remains of one of Burns's characters, mentioned in "Old Church Life in Scotland," first series, p. 334, and who is

supposed to be the person referred to in a famous surreptitious effusion of the Poet, which is too warm in colour to be included in its entirety in any popular edition of his works. He was an elder in the church, and, as reported by local tradition, was the informant to Jean's family of her connection with the Poet. He was married to the mother of James Smith, "the sleest, pawky thief."

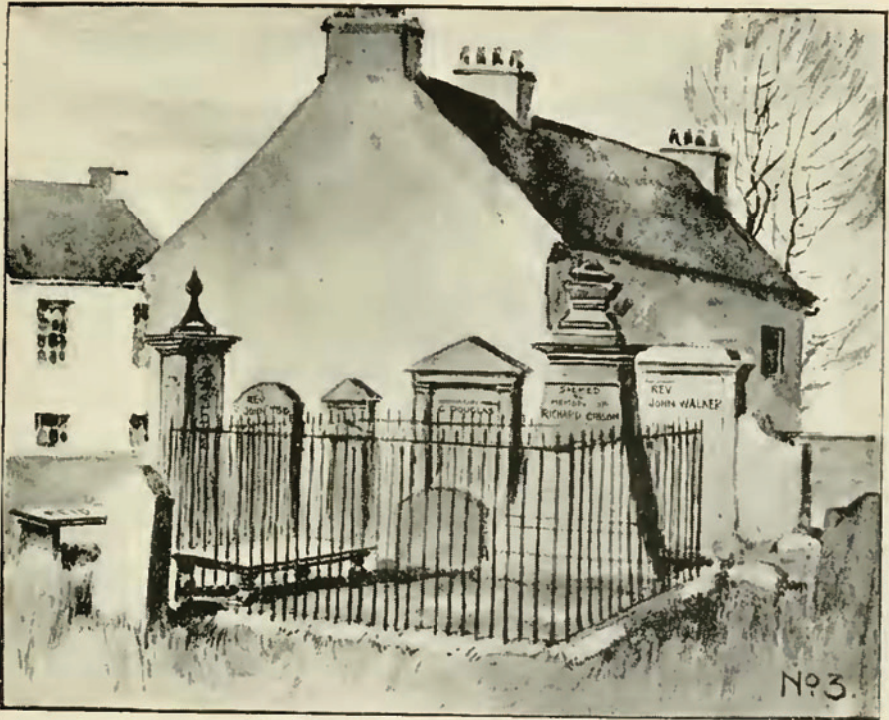
Before passing to the next corner, which might very appropriately be called the "Minister's Corner," the resting-place of the Alexander family of Ballochmyle, should be noted. The heroine of the famous "Bonie Lass of Ballochmyle" is not buried here, but situated at the western angle of the enclosure, which is bounded by a stone wall capped with a plain substantial railing, stands a grey stone, in which is inserted a marble slab, which bears the following inscription:—

HERE LIES THE BODY OF  
JAMES WHITEFOORD,  
SON OF  
SIR JOHN WHITEFOORD,  
BARONET.  
WHO DIED SEPTEMBER 18TH, 1773,  
AGED ONE YEAR.

He was the brother of Maria,  
Who sang through faded groves:  
And to whom the wild wood's echoes rang—  
Farewell the braes of Ballochmyle.

To the left of this stone, and a few paces nearer the western boundary wall of the churchyard, is a slab marking the last resting-place of James Bryen, mentioned in the Poet's last letter to John Richmond—the "Godly Bryen" and "Auld Whitreck" of the "Court of Equity." Passing thence, we reach the point from which the third sketch is taken, and which we have called the "Minister's Corner," though its occupants were not exclusively connected with the cloth. Here lie the remains of the Reverend Mr. William Maitland, who taught his flock in Mauchline with a sincere heart for forty-four years, and died October 27th, 1739. He was the predecessor of Daddy Auld. Here also repose the bodies of Reid and Tod, the successors of the immortal "Daddy" in the cure of the parish. Of Tod it should be noted that his wife was Williamina Hamilton, daughter of Gavin Hamilton, her mother being a Kennedy of Daljarock, and sister to

Margaret Kennedy of "Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonie Doon." The remains of the Rev. John Walker, a minister of the associate congregation of Mauchline, also lie here, as well as those of his successor, the Rev. David Thomas,



both in proximity to the memorial stone of the famous "Daddy." But to the Burns enthusiast the plot of ground enclosed by the railing is of the most engrossing importance. for here is interred the earthly tabernacle of "Racer Jess," and in the same space are deposited the corpses of George Gibson and his spouse, Agnes Ronald (Poosie Nancy), who have been immortalised in connection with "The Jolly Beggars."

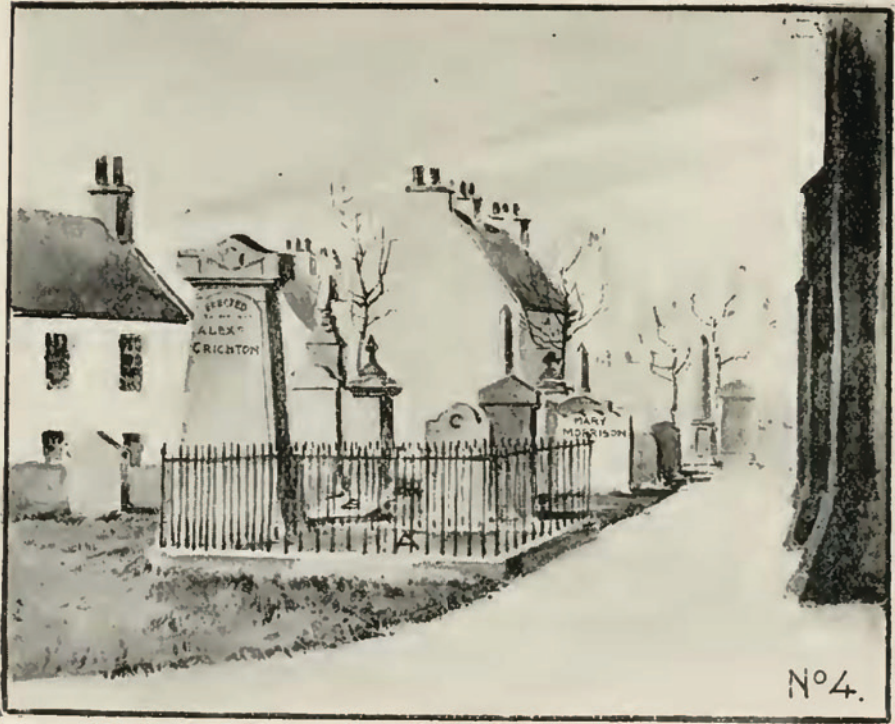
Leaving this corner, we now take our stand almost at the south entrance to the church. The buttress in sketch IV. approximately indicates the important point we have in view. The enclosure A marks the burial-place of the bosom friend of the Poet, Gavin Hamilton. There is no monument here, and we are tempted to ask the reason why. By request, tradition asserts. This may be true, but it is no answer to our question. B marks the spot where

"Holy Willie's sair-worn clay  
Takes up its last abode."



“Near by, to the south,” says Ainslie, “repose the remains of Nance Tinnock,” and further west, nearer the Minister’s Corner, lie the remains of him, who

. . . “Wi’ rattlin’ tow,  
Began to jow and croon.”



C marks the place where the remains of “The Gallant Weaver,” Robert Wilson, a reputed sweetheart of Bonie Jean, were laid at rest many years ago. He went to Paisley, where Jean met him during her temporary estrangement from Burns.

No letter marks the next place of importance, but the name is sufficient for identification.

IN MEMORY OF  
ADJ. JOHN MORRISON;  
ALSO HIS DAUGHTER, MARY—  
THE POET’S BONNIE MARY MORRISON—  
WHO DIED, 29TH JUNE, 1791, AGED 20.\*

The sketches, however, by no means exhaust the Kirkyard of Mauchline, for, since they were completed, I have considerably added to my stock of information regarding the inhabitants of Mauchline who knew Burns in the flesh, the memories of

\* “Mary Morrison” was composed in 1780. At that date the lady here referred to would be about nine years of age.—[ED.]

whom are fresh in the minds of some old people still living in the district. I have gleaned some interesting particulars regarding James Hamilton, William Patrick, and Laird M'Gaan.

On entering the Kirkyard from Loudoun Street, there stands, the first on the left, a stone on which is inscribed the name Hamilton. While not specifically stating the fact, yet, on the authority of the son of the man interred here, this stone indicates the place of interment of the James Hamilton of whom it is written:—"It is with regret we have this week to record the death of another venerable inhabitant who had seen and spoken to the gifted Ploughman of Mossiel. Mr. James Hamilton, one of the privileged few, died at his residence,† in New Road, on the evening of Saturday, the 14th inst. Deceased was 84 years of age, and though but a boy when Burns came to this neighbourhood, yet he had vivid recollections of the Poet, and delighted to speak of him and the family. His parents became intimately acquainted with the Poet's family, which gave him an opportunity of being often at Mossiel; and spoke of having repeatedly "c'ad the pleugh to Robin," and, on one occasion, of being sent with a letter to Jean Armour, with an earnest admonition to give it to no one but herself. Little did anyone at that time think that great homage would ever be paid to the genius of the Ploughman, and as little did the stripling think, as he hurried back to tell of his success in delivering the letter, that after three-quarters of a century he would be borne along the same road, like a conqueror, in a triumphal car of evergreens, carrying a bust of Burns, and taking a prominent part in the great Centenary demonstrations. Of the five contemporaries who were lately living amongst us, only two—James Hamilton and William Patrick—could join in the procession to Mossiel. Three are now dead, and one was removed to his friends, near Edinburgh, so that the only one now in Mauchline is auld Willie Patrick."

"The deceased Mr. Hamilton was an industrious, well-living man, and, enjoying comparatively good health, kept stepping about till within a few months of his death. He had been engaged on Netherplace Estate about sixty years, and being highly esteemed was treated with great kindness

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† The residence is, I may say, the house below the pump—the same house in which "My Nannie, O!" (Agnes Fleming) resided.

by Colonel Hamilton and Major Campbell. Being much respected, there was a large attendance at his funeral, which took place on Tuesday last. Among those present we observed Auld Willie, who is still able to act as *cicerone* to visitors, and being once a servant boy at Mossgiel he could not only point out all the places of note, but relate many interesting particulars about the Poet and his family."

The place where the remains of William Patrick were laid is indicated by the first and second stones on the right of entrance, and almost immediately opposite the resting-place of James Hamilton. The larger tombstone of the two bears the name Henry Wilson, and can easily be distinguished. William Patrick was born in 1776, and died in 1864, aged 88. The reference to him in the article just quoted needs little addition. He was the herd boy at Mossgiel, and occupied the same sleeping apartment as the Poet, whom he often heard revising his compositions in the "wee sma' hours ayont the twal."

Immediately behind these stones, and under the birch tree, we find a stone erected by William Leitch, teacher of drawing, London, in memory of his daughter, Jean, who died at Mauchline in 1831. This was the Leitch who gave lessons in drawing to the Royal Household, and who, for some time previous to going south, painted for the late Andrew Smith. Immediately behind this stone we find three stones, almost of equal height but of different eras. These mark the resting-place of the M'Gaan family, of which "Tootie," or Laird M'Gaan, was a member. Mention is made of him in an effusion of Burns to Gavin Hamilton recommending a boy.

The intention of this article is sufficient excuse for its scrappiness and imperfections, and I beg to conclude with the same invitation as that with which my former article to the *Chronicle* was closed. I will be pleased to answer any Burnsiana query addressed to me in elucidation of this article; or explain *in propria persona* the topography of Mauchline and its Kirkyard to any correspondent or visitor.

JOHN TAYLOR GIBB.