

Granton Quarry

Holyrood Palace building stones:

- The City Treasurer's Accounts for 1552/3 show that *"1/2 an ell of velvet be given to the Laird of Carube for a li-cencete to wym stanes of his lands of Granton for the Schoir, for the hale space of a year"*.
- *When Sir George MacKenzie wished to have a much more modern dwelling he had Royston Castle remodeled in 1696. This work is said to have been undertaken by the King's Master Mason, Robert Mylne, who was working at Holyrood at this time. He had the stone hewn from Granton Quarry and used the same Architect who was working at Holyrood.*
- - The 5th Duke of Buccleuch had rock quarried at Granton for the construction of Granton Harbour. This project was overseen by the lighthouse engineer Robert Stevenson. The first section of the harbour was formally opened for the coronation of Queen Victoria, in 1838, with the full harbour being completed by 1863. When the rail line was developed it was used for freight and local passenger trains and Granton had the **'world's first' ferry-train** operating between Granton and Burntisland from 1850 until the Rail Bridge was completed at Queensferry, in 1890.
- The stone for the figure of Nelson, on Nelson's Column, Trafalgar Square, came from this quarry.

The Fossils of Granton

The foreshore in this area is rich in fossil-bearing carboniferous rocks as old as 340 million years. Tiny fossilized eel-like creatures were found along the shoreline in 1925, and again in 1984.

The first example of the fossil crustacean *Waterstonella* was found in the Granton shrimp beds by the keeper of geology at the Royal Scottish Museum, but it was the discovery of the *Crangopsis Anthracophausia*, and the very rare *Teallicaris* that brought the marine scientists to this part of Edinburgh. These fossils were the first complete examples of this creature to be discovered in Scotland and are considered to be of major importance in this field of study. The foreshore area, from Broomfield through Granton to Newhaven, was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) aimed at encouraging and preserving the resource of fossils in the area.

Hound Point

This headland point on the River Forth takes its name from the legend that Sir Roger de Mowbray, who when leaving to fight in the Crusades, was leaving his faithful hound behind. As he was sailing off his hound wailed its sorrow so loudly that he turned back and took it along.

Further, at a later date, a hound was heard to bay all night long on the headland and soon thereafter the family learned that this was the night that Sir Rodger fell in battle.

The tale is immortalized in the following ballad:

"And ever when Barnbogle's lords

Are parting this scene below

Come hound and ghost to this haunted coast

With death notes winding slow".

Marjory Fleming (Pet Marjorie)

Elisabeth Houison-Craufurd lived at Braehead House in the 1770s. It was during this period of ownership that a young girl, Marjory Fleming, niece of the Keith's of Ravelston, visited the area and wrote notes in her diaries outlining how much she enjoyed her visits. Marjory died during a bout of measles at the age of 8 (some weeks before her 9th birthday). Her writings and the simple delight that they express can be seen in her diaries - held at the archives of the National Library of Scotland. A plaque was erected at Braehead in memory of this young lady. The plaque bears an inscription from one of her journals and can be found next to the water fountain and horse trough on the approach to Cramond Brig, below Braehead House. Marjory Fleming holds the posthumous reputation of being the youngest author ever to be recorded in the 'Dictionary of National Biography'.

The Phantom Stagecoach of Craigcrook

The road between Muttonhole and Craigcrook was difficult to negotiate with a coach and four, particularly along the side of Craigcrook Loch (known locally as the Marl Pits). It is said that on a black wintery night a stagecoach lost its way as it passed along the side of Craigcrook Loch, never to be seen again.

Ramsay of Barnton

Other than being a huntsman William Ramsay Ramsay also enjoyed the turf and had a number of exceptionally good horses. His racing horses were managed by William L'Anson, at Gullane and Malton, and wintered at Barnton. His stables had a number of successful horses, viz. The Doctor, Inheritor, Despot, and Lanercost. He also had a close friendship with William Sharpe of Hoddam who, for a time, lived at Marchfield and was involved with the breeding and training of these horses. It is said that it was he who bred Martha Lynn, the dam of Voltigeur, *"from whom all the best racing blood in England is descended"*, at Marchfield.

A Race to Inverness

William Ramsay Ramsay was known as a great coach and horse rider and had established the Defiance Coach Service between Edinburgh and Aberdeen with his partner Captain Barclay of Ury. In 1841 he and his rival, Mr Davidson of Tulloch, Perth, agreed to race their respective coaches between Perth and Inverness.

The 'Princess Royal', driven by Mr Davidson of Tulloch, left Perth at half-past five o'clock a.m., and was rattling through the streets of Inverness at ten minutes before four. The 'Duke of Wellington', driven by Mr Ramsay of Barnton, started at six o'clock the same morning and reached Inverness at five minutes past four.

William Ramsay won by 15 minutes, the journey having taken him 10 hours 05minutes.

High Spirits at Barnton

William Ramsay Ramsay is said to have ridden his horse up the 'splendid oak staircase' at Barnton House and jumped him over the great deal dining table to the delight of his party.

The Craigiehall Chancellor

In Calderwood's History of the Church in Scotland we learn that, in 1606, a *'Henry Stewart of Craigiehall was the Chancellor of the Jury that tried those Presbyterian Ministers indicted on a charge of high treason for having denied the King's authority on matters ecclesiastical'*.

The “Gudeman o’ Ballengeich”.

The story relates that King James V, who on going about his business on his hunting estate, was being attacked by a gang of gypsies and that Jock Houison, who was working nearby, went to the aid of the person being assailed and the attackers took flight. Jock is said to have been invited to attend the Palace in Edinburgh (Holyrood). Only then did he learn that the person he rescued was King James V.

The King is said to have given Jock, and his heirs, tenure of his farmlands in the area of Braehead in perpetuity. In return the family was to provide the Sovereign (King or Queen) with a basin of water and napkin by way of “quit-rent” each time they crossed his lands.

The validity of the story has often been doubted. However, the service was first undertaken when King George IV visited Edinburgh in 1822. Sir Walter Scott, who is credited with organising the King’s visit, arranged for the service to be performed at Cramond Brig when the King was on his way to visit Hopeton House. Sir Walter arranged for his own son and his nephew to assist the Laird of Craufurdland, William Houison-Craufurd, to fulfil the service. The original silverware is held at Craufurdland Castle, Ayrshire and the duty is recorded as having been undertaken on three separate occasions.

King James V and the Gypsy

The Craigleith stone from which this statue was hewn weighed 23 tons and was ‘rough cut’ at the quarry to 14 tons. It took 8 horses and 60 quarrymen, with ropes, to drag it along Prince’s Street to Robert Forrest’s workshop at Calton Hill, in 1835. The statue stood at the front of William McFie’s, Clermiston House until the house and estate was compulsory purchased by Edinburgh Council for the development of housing. It was then moved to the quadrant at Braehead Mains farm, where it still stands.



Marchfield

Peter Edgar and his wife, who lived at Marchfield, had two (2) daughters, the eldest was Ann Edgar who married James ‘Count’ Leslie of Deanhaugh. James Leslie had bought significant tracts of land in the area of Deanhaugh, through Stockbridge to Canon Mills, at the time when Edinburgh was building the New Town and expanding along the Water of Leith. Lady Ann’s husband died in 1777 and she was left heir to the Deanhaugh Estate. Lady Ann then met Henry Raeburn when she sat to have her portrait painted by him, a short romance followed, then they married and went touring in Italy.

The Salvesen Steps

The Salvesen family were very philanthropic and supported a number of charitable causes, both in Scotland and their home of Norway. These included; *support for merchant seamen, youth hostelling, housing for war wounded and the advancement of zoology and the study of animals.* Captain Keith Salvesen, who lived at Inveralmond, gifted a strip of his lands, along the River Almond, to the City of Edinburgh, in 1966, and heavily funded the construction of the “Salvesen Steps”. The steps traversed a steep rocky outcrop on the right bank of the river, linking the river walkway from Cramond Village to Cramond Brig, thereby enabling all to enjoy the riverside walk.

Drylaw Parade

Drylaw House and estate was the location for some high ranking events in Edinburgh’s past glories: the Edinburgh Courant reported, in 1798, on a grand field day of the whole brigade of Edinburgh and Leith Volunteers. This was attended by Sir Ralph Abercrombie, Commander in Chief in Scotland and the Right Hon. Secretary Dundas. The different Corps “*paraded in the New Town at ten o’clock and marched in sub divisions to Drylaw Mains*” where the salute was taken.

Visit the Maltings on Cramond Foreshore where you will be able to see many items of life dating from Roman times and can obtain books and/or leaflets that help you understand some of Cramond’s history. Open from Easter until October—Saturday and Sunday from 2—5 pm and on each day during the Edinburgh Festival.

The Cramond Association

Promoting the amenity of the community of Cramond, Barnton and Cammo and safeguarding its heritage



Further Tales and Stories of the Old Cramond Parish



Cramond Parish Church

No sooner had I presented the first leaflet outlining some tales that I had struck upon whilst searching the libraries and archives when undertaking research on the Mansion Houses of the old Cramond Parish than I was asked to add to the list some of the following oft’ forgotten stories.

Bill Weir, Cramond Association.

Cramond Old Brig

Records show that in 1587 the old Brig was in such poor condition that passage was said to be near impossible. It took an Act of Parliament to instruct the landowners to have repairs undertaken to enable travellers to make the crossing of the River Almond to the Queen’s Ferry. The wall of the central parapet of the old Brig has inscribed on it the dates of the early repair/restoration works that were undertaken, the earliest being 1619. Then repaired in 1691; 1761; and in 1854.