The Gazetteer for Scotland
Guidebook Series:

Stirling

Produced from Information Contained Within
The Gazetteer for Scotland.
Tourist Guide of Stirling

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Introduction to the city of Stirling

Scotland's sixth city which is the largest settlement and the administrative centre of Stirling Council Area. Stirling lies between the River Forth and the prominent 122m (400 feet) high crag on top of which sits Stirling Castle. Situated midway between the east and west coasts of Scotland at the lowest crossing point on the River Forth, it was for long a place of great strategic significance. To hold Stirling was to hold Scotland.

In 843 Kenneth Macalpine defeated the Picts near Cambuskenneth; in 1297 William Wallace defeated the English at Stirling Bridge and in June 1314 Robert the Bruce routed the English army of Edward II at Bannockburn. For fully 500 years, from the reign of Alexander I to that of James VI, Stirling Castle was a principal residence of the Kings of Scotland. Under the shadow of the Castle there developed one of Scotland's earliest royal burghs with its market cross, Tolbooth, Parish Kirk and 'ludgings' of the wealthy merchants and nobles of the court.

Buildings of historic and architectural interest include 15th Century Stirling Bridge, the Church of the Holy Rude (from 1456), the Tolbooth (1703-05), Argyll's Lodging (c.1630), Mar's Wark (1569), Cowane's Hospital (1639-49), the Old Town Jail, Darnley's House, Norie's House (1671), Erskine Church (1824-26) and the Municipal Buildings (1914). The Smith Art Gallery and Museum was founded in 1874 with a legacy from the painter and collector Thomas Stuart Smith (1814-69).

Today Stirling is a leading centre of commercial and retailing industries and tourism, retaining much of its historic character. Founded in 1967 the University of Stirling is located near Bridge of Allan on the other side of the River Forth. The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) has its headquarters in the Castle Business Park to the west of the town. Stirling retains its importance as a military centre, with the headquarters of the 51st (Scottish) Brigade and a large Defense Support Group facility which maintains military vehicles, both located at Forthside.

Stirling was named Scotland's sixth city in 2002 in honour of HM Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee, Her Majesty presenting the 'letters patent' in May of that year.
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University of Stirling

The University of Stirling occupies a parkland campus on the outskirts of the small former spa town of Bridge of Allan, 2 miles (3 km) northeast of Stirling, close to the Wallace Monument. Occupying a spectacular setting at the base of the Ochil Hills, which rise sharply behind the campus, the University was sited in the former Airthrey Estate. It was developed from 1967, and today represents 134 ha (330 acres) of woodland and landscaped parkland, including a man-made loch noted for its wildfowl. Airthrey Castle, an 18th Century baronial edifice designed by Robert Adam (1728 - 92), forms the main administrative offices. The MacRobert Arts Centre houses a large theatre which acts as a noted venue for music, film and drama throughout the year.

Although King James VI (1566 - 1625) had promised in 1617 to found a 'free college' in Stirling, it took another 350 years before the University of Stirling came into being. Stirling has been at the forefront of educational innovation since then, being the first University in Britain to adopt a modular semester-based system of teaching, using this to promote inter-disciplinary degrees and has also been successful in adding new subjects to the academic diet.

Today, the University specialises in arts, human sciences, management and the natural sciences and has 8500 students, of which around 2300 are housed on-campus. The University also has two satellite campuses for the purposes of nursing and midwifery education, located in the grounds of Raigmore Hospital in Inverness and as part of the Lewis Hospital in Stornoway.

Allan Water

A river of central Scotland, the Allan Water rises in the Ochil Hills to the south of Blackford in Perth and Kinross. After its descent from the hills into Strathallan, it flows southwestwards and southwards into Stirling Council Area where it joins the River Forth immediately south of Bridge of Allan. Its total length is 22 miles (35 km).

River Teith

The River Teith emerges as the Eas Gobhain from Loch Venachar in the Trossachs district of Stirling Council Area. It is joined by the River Leny at Callander and flows 16 miles (26 km) southeastwards past Doune before joining the River Forth 3 miles (5 km) northwest of Stirling. The Ardoch and Annet Burns flow down from the Braes of Doune to join the River Teith on either side of Doune.
Features of interest in Stirling

Airthrey Castle

Airthrey Castle lies just to the east of Bridge of Allan, 2 miles (3 km) northeast of Stirling, and today forms the administrative centre for the University of Stirling, lying at the centre of a 134 ha (330 acre) parkland campus.

It was built in 1791 to a design by Robert Adam (1728 - 92) for the evangelist Robert Haldane (1764 - 1842), whose family had owned the estate since 1759. The castle includes two standing stones which may mark a battlefield where King Kenneth I (d.858) defeated the Picts to unite Scotland in 839. The estate is first mentioned in 1146 in a charter of King David I (c.1080 - 1153). In 1368, it ceased to be crown property and passed to the Keeper of Stirling Castle. In 1472, the Airthrey Estates passed to the Grahams of Montrose and in 1645, the manor house was burned to the ground by Archibald Campbell (1598 - 1661), the covenanting Marquis of Argyll, in reprisal for the burning of his nearby Castle Campbell by the royalist Grahams. John Hope of Hopetoun (d.1682) who bought the estate in 1678, sold it to the Dundas family in 1706. They in turn passes to the Haldanes in 1759. Robert Haldane improved the estate, created the loch and landscaped the grounds before selling the estate in 1798 to Sir Robert Abercromby (1740 - 1827) who further developed the estate and the surrounding area. Abercromby discovered an ancient whale’s skeleton at Airthrey in 1819 (the seashore had originally run along the base of the Ochil Hills). Sir Robert gifted the skeleton to the Natural History Museum at the University of Edinburgh (now the Royal Museum). Queen Victoria (1819 - 1901) was driven through the castle grounds during her visit to Stirling in 1842. The estate was bought by Donald Graham, a Glasgow merchant, in 1889. He extended the house and planted the grounds with conifers and rhododendrons, the latter provided by George Forrest (1873 - 1932). Airthrey Castle became a Maternity Hospital during World War II and continued in this role after Stirling County Council purchased the estate in 1946. The property passed to the University in 1966. A fire in July 2000 caused considerable damage to the castle, but the University quickly committed to restore the building to its former glory.

Cambuskenneth Abbey

Situated in a loop of the River Forth just south of the village of Cambuskenneth, Stirling Council Area, Cambuskenneth Abbey dates from 1174 when it was founded by King David I. It was occupied by monks of the Augustinian Order and was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Sometimes known as the Monastery or Abbey of Stirling, its proximity to the royal residence at Stirling Castle added considerable prestige and wealth to the foundation. The abbey was the scene of Robert the Bruce's parliament in 1326, the first to include representatives of Scotland's burghs. The abbey was pillaged intermittently throughout the 14th Century and in 1423 its Abbot was sent to England to negotiate the release of James I from his long captivity. In 1488 King James III was buried here beside his queen by the high altar following his assassination after the battle of Sauchieburn. After the Reformation much of the abbey was pulled down and its stone re-used. It fell into the hands of the Erskines of Alloa who held it until 1709 when it was sold to the town council of Stirling. In 1908 Cambuskenneth Abbey was acquired by the Crown for maintenance as an Ancient monument.

Much of what survives today dates from the 13th century. The western doorway of the abbey church remains, as does the detached bell tower, or campanile, which rises to more than 20m (65 feet) in height. This fine example of 13th-century architecture was to replace the bell-tower over the central crossing in the abbey church, which collapsed in 1378. There is no parallel for this free-standing structure elsewhere in Scotland.
Features of interest in Stirling

**HM Prison Cornton Vale**

Located between Stirling and Bridge of Allan, in Stirling Council Area, and opened in 1975, Cornton Vale provides facilities for remanded and sentenced females and is Scotland’s only all-female prison. In 1999 separation of adult prisoners and young offenders was effected and subsequently a renovation and upgrading programme was carried out to the accommodation. The prison now provides 217 single cell places for the prisoners, divided between five blocks (or houses), called Bruce, Ross, Peebles, Ross, Skye and Younger. These houses are sub-divided into six or seven-room units each with its own dining/sitting room, and almost all have a common kitchen. Cornton Vale runs a drug addiction programme, and various work experience programmes.

**Ballengeich**

Ballengeich is the name given to a steep pass at the back of Stirling Castle, Stirling Council Area. King James V (1512-42) wandered the countryside disguised as the ‘Gudeman of Ballengeich’.

**Polmaise**

A former rural estate and mansion (now lost) owned by the Murray family and situated on flat carselands by the River Forth to the east of Stirling, Polmaise Quarry once supplied fine sandstone for building. The area developed as a centre of coal mining during the 20th century when shafts were sunk. Messrs Archibald Russell Ltd. opened Polmaise No. 1 and 2 pits in 1904 on the west bank of the Bannock Burn, 1¼ miles (2 km) west of Fallin, while Polmaise No. 3 and 4 (also known as Bandeath Colliery) opened two years later a half-mile (0.8 km) southeast of the village. At their peak, these collieries employed 1200 men. Polmaise eventually closed in 1984.

**Stirling Royal Infirmary**

A large general hospital located in the Braehead district of Stirling, a mile (1.5 km) south of the city centre, Stirling Royal Infirmary was opened on 10th August 1928 by the Duke and Duchess of York (later George VI and Queen Elizabeth). The original Neo-Georgian block by James Miller (1860 - 1947) has subsequently been much extended, now comprising more than forty buildings on the single site. Most recent is the four-storey Queen Elizabeth Wing of 1996-98. The hospital includes accident and emergency, general and specialist surgery, maternity and geriatric departments, together with laboratory facilities.

Stirling Infirmary was founded in 1874 in a fine Neo-Classical building on Spittal Street, which was built in 1827 and had previously been occupied by the Commercial Bank.

**Stirling Station**

Located on Goosecroft Road to the east of the city centre, Stirling Station is an important interchange providing connections to Edinburgh and Glasgow to the south and Dunblane, Perth and Alloa to the north. This fine A-listed Edwardian station building was completed in 1916 by James Miller (1860 - 1947) for the Caledonian Railway Company and features his distinctive curves, although not to the same degree as his more famous design at Wemyss Bay. The facade features crow-stepped gables separated by decorative battlements. Miller’s station represented an extension and reconstruction of the original station, which in 1855 and was the work of Andrew Heiton (1823-94).

An engine shed complex to the south of the station has closed, and many of the sidings have been lifted, however a modern train maintenance depot remains. Stirling had a ‘motorail’ terminal from the 1960s until the early 1990s.
Gillies Hill
A wooded summit in SE Stirling Council Area, Gillies Hill rises to 158m (518 feet) a half-mile (1 km) southwest of Cambusbarron and 2 miles (3 km) southwest of Stirling. It was from Gillies Hill that the servants, wives and children of Robert the Bruce's soldiers descended on 24th June 1314 during the Battle of Bannockburn. They were mistaken by the English army as reinforcements who took flight, giving the Scots victory. Considerably denuded by whinstone quarries, the hill became the centre of controversy in 2007 when the re-starting of quarrying operations was proposed. Local residents restaged the historic charge as a protest.

Wildlife found amongst the long-established mixed woodland includes red squirrels, peregrine falcons, buzzards and roe deer. There are rare Wellingtonia Firs and a Scots Pine which has been designated as one of Scotland's top 100 heritage trees. There are also the remains of an Iron-Age hill fort.

New Bridge
Located a half-mile (0.8 km) northeast of the centre of Stirling, the New Bridge is the only road bridge across the River Forth within the city, connecting to the suburbs of Cornton and Causewayhead, as well as providing the route north to the University and Bridge of Allan. Built 1831-32 to the designs of noted engineer Robert Stevenson (1772 - 1850), the bridge comprises five segmental arches of bull-faced ashlar. The structure is B-listed.

Much of the traffic north now follows the M9 motorway, which is conveyed over the Forth by another bridge 1¼ miles (2 km) to the west northwest.

Snowdon Cemetery
A small cemetery lying beneath the walls of Stirling Castle, Snowdon Cemetery opened in 1923 on the site of the former Snowdon House and its gardens. The boundary walls of this property, its gatepiers and ruined former lodge-house remain. Providing an extension to the older cemeteries to the south east, this comprises one of five cemeteries collectively known as the Old Town (or Top of the Town) Cemeteries. The majority of burials took place between the 1930s and 1960s, including fourteen war graves from the World War II which are maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Ballengeich Cemetery
A cemetery located in a little valley to the northeast of the walls of Stirling Castle, Ballengeich Cemetery opened in 1888 as an addition to the overcrowded Holy Rude Kirkyard, and Valley and Mar Wark Cemeteries located to the south of the castle. With these and the Snowdon Cemetery, it now forms one of five collectively known as the Old Town (or Top of the Town) Cemeteries.
Tourist attractions in Stirling

**Stirling Castle**

Often considered the greatest of Scotland's castles, Stirling Castle dominates the sky-line of the city, the lowest crossing point and the highest navigable point of the River Forth. The castle is therefore at the cross-roads of strategic and trade routes and has been called 'the key to Scotland'. Thus its possession has been a focus of considerable contention, with battles such as Stirling Bridge (1297) and Bannockburn (1314) fought nearby. Dating its original foundation is difficult because Robert the Bruce destroyed the castle after Bannockburn so that the English could not exploit it again. However, it was used by King Malcolm III in the 11th Century and its chapel, founded by King Alexander I, who died in the Castle, is mentioned in the year of his death, 1124. William the Lion also died in the castle (1214). After Bruce's destruction, Edward III of England rebuilt it in 1333, although the present castle dates mainly from the 15th and 16th centuries when it was the principal royal residence. King James III was born in the castle (1452). In the same year, King James II began his feud with the 'Black Douglases' by inviting William, the 8th Earl, to Stirling, killing him and throwing his body from a window. King James IV built the Great Hall (1500) and gatehouse (1510). King James V began the marvellous Renaissance Palace (1540). Mary, Queen of Scots, was crowned in the old chapel (1543) and narrowly escaped death by fire (1561). Her son, King James VI, was baptised there (1566) and built the Chapel Royal, for the baptism of his first son Prince Henry. King Charles I visited (1633) and King Charles II in 1650. General Monk laid siege to the castle (1651), but it quickly surrendered. Maintained and strengthened as a garrison fort from early in the 18th C., it held out during the 1715 and 1745 Jacobite Risings. Thereafter, the castle was used as a barracks but the army left in 1964, the only reminder being the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum. Today the castle is in the care of Historic Scotland, one of their flagship properties.

The castle served as a location for the television drama Colditz (1972) and numerous films, including Tunes of Glory (1960), Kidnapped (1971), The 39 Steps (2008) and Burke and Hare (2010).
Valley Cemetery

Perhaps Scotland's most picturesque cemetery, the A-listed Valley Cemetery occupies a commanding position above the town of Stirling, between Ladies' Rock and Stirling Castle, in an area once used for Royal tournaments, sporting events, markets and horse fairs. During the 1745 Rebellion this was the site of Jacobite batteries.

The cemetery was created as an extension of the Holy Rude Kirkyard which was badly overcrowded such that the excavation of new graves regularly disturbed older burials. The initiative for a new cemetery was taken by Rev. Charles Rodgers, the Chaplain of Stirling Castle, along with Provost William Rankin, nurseryman and philanthropist William Drummond and his brother Peter. Valley Cemetery was laid out by Peddie & Kinnear and opened in 1857.

Statues of notable Presbyterians are prominently located within the cemetery, all carved by Alexander Handyside Ritchie (1804-70). These represent the Protestant reformers John Knox (c. 1505-72), Andrew Melville (1545 - 1622) and Alexander Henderson (c. 1583 - 1646), martyrs James Guthrie (1612-61) and James Renwick (1662-88), and Ebenezer Erskine (1680 - 1794), who founded the Scottish Secession Church. Below Knox's statue is the Valley Rock Fountain carved from marble, featuring a shell basin and adorned with Biblical references.

The Martyr's Monument was constructed in 1859 is also by Ritchie, with its distinctive glass dome added in 1867 by John Rochead (1814-78). The monument features three figures carved in marble; an angel protecting Margaret Wilson, who reads to her younger sister Agnes. Margaret was celebrated as a religious martyr having been drowned in the Solway Firth for her adherence to the Covenanting cause. Another prominent religious monument is the Star Pyramid, located behind the cemetery in the Drummond Pleasure Ground. Together the cemetery and pleasure ground were intended to have an educational purpose and have been described as a 'religious theme park'.

The Valley Cemetery is one of five cemeteries collectively known as the Old Town (or Top of the Town) Cemeteries. Tours were introduced in the 1860s and the cemeteries were subject to a £1.7 million restoration in 2008-09, paid for by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Stirling Council and Historic Scotland.

Old Bridge

An ancient bridge which is no longer accessible to vehicular traffic, the Old Bridge crosses the River Forth a half-mile (0.8 km) northeast of the centre of Stirling, between Laurencecroft Road and Bridgehaugh Road. This substantial bridge was constructed around 1500 and served as the lowest crossing over the Forth for almost four centuries. Gifford and Walker state it was "perhaps the most strategically important river crossing in all Scotland, yet strangely quiet and detached from the town."

Comprising four semi-circular arches and measuring 81.6m (268 feet) in length, it replaced earlier bridges including one built of wood and located just to the north, where William Wallace (1274 - 1305) defeated the Edward I in 1297. Duties were once levied on goods crossing the bridge.

Now Category A-listed for its historical importance, it was on the Old Bridge that John Hamilton (1547-71), Archbishop of St. Andrews, was put to death. He was executed in his full regalia having been linked to the murders of Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley (1545-67), and James Stuart, 1st Earl of Moray (c. 1531-70). In 1745, the southernmost arch was blown up by General Blakeney to prevent the Jacobites from crossing and entering Stirling, but it was later rebuilt.

Stirling New Bridge opened in 1832.
Tourist attractions in Stirling

Drummond Pleasure Ground

A small park located between the esplanade of Stirling Castle and Valley Cemetery, Drummond Pleasure Ground was established 1862-63 by nurseryman and evangelist William Drummond (1793 - 1888). He purchased the ground and presented it to the people of Stirling.

The centrepiece of the garden is the Star Pyramid, located next to an ornamental pool known as Pithy Mary Pond. This square pyramid, also known as the Covenant Monument or, occasionally, Salem Rock, was crafted in fine sandstone ashlar by William Barclay in 1863. It is dedicated to those who were martyred to uphold civil and religious freedom in Scotland and reflects Drummond's strong Presbyterian faith. White marble Bibles are mounted on the base of each face of the pyramid, along with names of texts published by the Drummond Tract Enterprise, the foremost 19th century publisher of religious pamphlets. Copies of a Bible and the Confession of Faith were sealed into a chamber within the pyramid as it was nearing completion in April 1863.

Drummond is buried beneath a grey granite sarcophagus within his pleasure ground, which was included in a £1.7 million restoration of Stirling's Old Town Cemeteries in 2008-09.

Bannockburn Battlefield

One of Scotland's most important historical sites, the Bannockburn Battlefield is the site where in June 1314, King Robert the Bruce of Scotland defeated the forces of the English king, Edward II and thus won freedom for the Scots from English domination. Located nearby is the Borestone site from where it is believed Bruce commanded his forces during the battle and Stirling Castle, the objective of the marauding English forces. A National Trust for Scotland site, there is a visitor centre providing an audio-visual presentation. The Bannockburn Battlefield is located to the west of the village of Bannockburn, 2 miles (3 km) south of Stirling.

Argyll's Lodgings

Argyll's Lodging is located in the historic old town of Stirling and is arguably the most striking of Scotland's surviving 17th Century townhouses. Built by the founder of Nova Scotia, Sir William Alexander (1567 - 1640), the house passed into the hands of the Earl of Argyll when he died. Its rooms have been restored to their original state and feature period furniture and tapestries. This A-listed house is now in the care of Historic Scotland and managed in conjunction with Stirling Castle.

The building has served as a location for the film The 39 Steps (2008).

Mar's Wark

Mar's Wark is a ruined town-house located on Castle Wynd, below Stirling Castle, opposite the top of Broad Street. It was built 1569-72 by John Erskine, the 1st Earl of Mar, who was hereditary keeper of the castle and became Regent of Scotland in 1571. Mar built himself a grand Renaissance palace, befitting his status. What remains are of two storeys, although there may originally have been three, with much of the building stone having been taken from the ruined Cambuskenneth Abbey. The facade is decorated
with a string course of hewn stonework, carved armorial panels and gargoyles, and includes two octagonal towers flanking the arched entrance. It has been suggested that the building was never fully completed, with the possibility it was intended to be extended around a courtyard.

Another John Erskine, who was the 6th Earl of Mar (1675 - 1732), led the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715 and, after its failure, Mar's Wark was converted into barracks. During the Second Rebellion of 1745-6 it was damaged by cannon fire and within a generation it had fallen into ruin and its stone looted for use in other buildings.

Managed by Historic Scotland, the ruin is now protected through a Category-A listing owing to its historical and architectural importance. The rear of the building and its gardens are now occupied by Mars Wark Cemetery.

Wallace Monument

Standing on top of the wooded Abbey Craig, a volcanic 'crag-and-tail' feature to the east of Stirling, the Wallace Monument is a prominent feature of the landscape of Stirling Council Area. It was erected between 1861 and 1869 in honour of Scotland's national hero Sir William Wallace (d.1305) at a total cost of £15,000. Built of freestone quarried on and around the Craig and rising to 67m (220 feet), the monument was designed in the Scottish Baronial style by John T. Rochead of Glasgow (1814-78). However a controversy over the architectural competition which Rochhead had won and the bankruptcy of the contractor meant he never received his fee.

On show is the gigantic two-handed sword with which Wallace 'made great room about him.'

The King's Knot

The King's Knot represents the remains of a great parterre laid out c.1628 in King's Park, below Stirling Castle, a quarter-mile (0.5 km) southwest of the city centre. Locally known as the cup-and-saucer the feature comprises an octagonal grass-covered earthwork which rises above the surrounding parkland through a series of steps. The remains of square areas, divided by walkways, can be discerned around this feature. The area was once a magnificent formal garden, planted with box hedges, ornamental trees and flower beds. Thereafter it fell into disrepair and was let for grazing. Almost lost to the plough, it was restored in the 19th century possibly as the result of complaints by conservationist Henry Cockburn (1779 - 1854), but today is no longer planted.

The area formed part of the Crown Estate until 1999, when it was conveyed to the Scottish Ministers. It is managed by Historic Scotland.

Pathfoot Concourse Gallery

The Pathfoot Concourse Gallery, located in the northwest of University of Stirling's parkland campus at Bridge of Allan, houses the majority of the university's art collection. A varied collection and dating predominately from the 1970s, it comprises more than 300 pieces including sculptures, paintings, etchings and sketches and tapestries from Frink, Paolozzi, Sutherland, Heron, and Hepworth. The collections has benefitted from two major gifts: fourteen works by the colourist J.D. Fergusson (1874 - 1961), presented by his widow and a further 18 works, including paintings by Elizabeth Blackadder (b.1931), Anne Redpath (1895 - 1965), William McTaggart (1835 - 1910) and Alberto Morrocco (1917-98), which came from the Scottish Arts Council.
Tourist attractions in Stirling

Other parts of the collection are distributed around the campus, with some larger sculptures being displayed outside.

**Abbey Craig**

A wooded basaltic knoll in Eastern Stirling Council Area, Abbey Craig rises to 91m (300 feet) above the River Forth to the east of the city of Stirling. It forms a glacial crag-and-tail feature and on its summit stands the 67-m (220-foot) Wallace Monument, a memorial to Sir William Wallace (1270 - 1305) erected in 1869 to a design by the architect John T. Rochhead.

![The Wallace Monument on Abbey Craig](image)

**Stirling Old Town Jail**

Located within Stirling, the Old Town Jail was designed by Thomas Brown in 1847 as the county jail but from 1888 through to 1935 it was a Military Prison, the only one in Scotland. Lying abandoned until 1991, it was renovated and restored and opened as a tourist attraction. Some of the cells themselves have been converted into offices.

![Old Town Jail, Stirling](image)

**Ladies' Rock**

A small rocky summit on the south side of Castle Rock in Stirling, Ladies' Rock (or the Ladies' Hill) provides a vantage point overlooking Valley Cemetery and across the Forth Valley. When the area now occupied by the cemetery was used for jousting tournaments, spectating ladies would view proceedings from this point.

**Mars Wark Cemetery**

One of the five cemeteries collectively known as the Old Town (or Top of the Town) Cemeteries, Mars Wark Cemetery was created c.1859 as an extension to the Valley Cemetery and occupies the gardens of the Earl of Mar's former palace, Mar's Wark.
**Bannockburn**

A residential area in SE Stirling Council Area, Bannockburn is 2 miles (3.2 km) south of Stirling. The original village developed in the 18th and 19th centuries as a centre for coal mining and textile manufacture, specialities being the production of carpets and tartan. The National Trust for Scotland's Bannockburn Heritage Centre, opened in 1987, is associated with one of Scotland's most historic sites. On a battlefield nearby King Robert the Bruce routed the army of King Edward II of England in June 1314 to win freedom for the Scots from English domination. A few yards from the Centre is the famous Boerstone site which by tradition was Bruce's command post before the battle.

The site is enclosed by a Rotunda which focuses on the approach route of the English army intent on capturing Stirling Castle. The Rotunda was inaugurated by Queen Elizabeth in June 1964 when she also unveiled the statue of Bruce by Pilkington Jackson. In 1930 a committee under the 10th Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, head of the Bruce family, successfully raised funds to purchase 23.5 Ha (58 acres) of the site of the battlefield. This land was eventually gifted in 1960 to the National Trust for Scotland which acquired further land. The Bannock Burn Valley is a major open space within the Stirling conurbation.

**Causewayhead**

A settlement at the foot of Abbey Craig, in the shadow of the Wallace Monument, Causewayhead is located at the junction of the A9 road with the A907, a mile (2 km) south southeast of Bridge of Allan in Stirling Council Area. It lies on a bend of the River Forth at the eastern end of the causeway that leads southwestwards across the River Forth to the town of Stirling. Stone and coal were once produced in the neighbourhood, but Causewayhead is best known as the location of Scotland's first powered flight in 1909. Brothers Harold and Frank Barnwell established the Grampian Motor and Engineering Company here in 1907 and were to test three aeroplane designs in the vicinity, culminating in the flight of a monoplane in 1911 which was to last for more than a mile (1.5 km). Although the brothers were both killed in aircraft accidents their company continued trading here until 2003. A monument on the roundabout which now represents the road junction was unveiled in 2005 to commemorate their feat.

Causewayhead once had a railway station on the line to Alloa.

**Raploch**

A district of Stirling, Raploch lies to the northwest of the Castle Rock, a mile from the centre of Stirling. Formerly a separate community, very little survives of the old village. The houses of Raploch council estate facing the Drip Road were designed in 1920 by E.S. Bell to resemble small Scottish palaces complete with towers and turreted roofs. Having become infamous for its social problems the Raploch estate was subject to a multi-million pound regeneration scheme 2003-06 which has involved the demolition of a number of houses, the building of a community-school campus, health centre, riverside walkway and a bypass forming part of the Stirling Western Access Road, together with commercial and industrial development.
Towns and districts near Stirling

**Cambuskenneth**

A hamlet on the River Forth, Cambuskenneth lies a mile (1.5 km) to the east of Stirling. The imposing three-storeyed Campanile is all that survives of Cambuskenneth Abbey which was founded for Augustinian Canons in 1147 by King David I. Closely linked to the royal castle of Stirling, the Abbey grew to immense wealth and importance in mediaeval times and it was here that King James III was buried after his death at the Battle of Sauchieburn.

The orchards of Cambuskenneth attracted the group of artists known as the ‘Glasgow Boys’ in the late 1880s, with E.A. Walton (1860 - 1922) and Arthur Melville (1854 - 1904) taking studios here.

**St Ninians**

Also known as St Ringans, the ancient village of St Ninians lies a mile (1.5 km) south of the centre of Stirling to which it is now adjoined. During the 18th and 19th centuries it was a centre of coal mining and tartan weaving. The prominent tower of the parish church of St Ninians dates from 1734, this being the only part of the kirk to survive an explosion in 1745 when the building was being used by Jacobites as an arsenal. The church was rebuilt in 1751 on a separate site to the north. Some interesting buildings dating from the 17th-18th centuries survive in Kirk Wynd.

**Torbrex**

A small former weaving village in Stirling Council Area, Torbrex lies a mile (1.5 km) to the southwest of Stirling, between Cambusbarron and St Ninians. Mainly comprising 19th-century cottages, it has amongst its older buildings Torbrex House (1721) and Williamsfield House which was built in 1682 by William Wordie of Torbrex. The old High School of Stirling was located here and an extension, adjoining the Sports Ground and known as the New High School, was built in 1962.

**Cambusbarron**

Separated from the Stirling conurbation by the M80 motorway, Cambusbarron is an ancient village and former spinning and woollen manufacturing settlement of SE Stirling Council Area. The Parkvale and Hayford Mills, the latter founded by the Smiths in 1860 and still surviving, once employed more than 1000 people. The Bruce Memorial Church (1910) stands on the site of a chapel where Robert the Bruce is said to have taken sacrament on the eve of the Battle of Bannockburn.

**Airthrey**

A location in Stirling Council Area, Airthrey lies at the western end of the Ochil Hills, immediately southeast of Bridge of Allan. The policies of the former Airthrey Estate, focusing on Airthrey Park and Airthrey Loch, were landscaped by a pupil of ‘Capability’ Brown and Airthrey Castle was built to a design by Robert Adam for the Haldane family in 1791. The lands of Airthrey now form the campus of the University of Stirling which was founded here in 1967.

**Drip**

A location in Stirling Council Area, Drip comprises the scattered settlements of West Drip, Dripend and Hill of Drip, all of which lie on the reclaimed Drip Moss. The five-arched Old Drip Bridge over the River Forth dates from 1790, with a tollhouse built in 1820. The road heading northwards from Stirling between the Teith and the Forth is known as the Drip Road.
Blairlogie

An attractive small Hillfoots village, situated beneath the great cliff of Dumyat between Stirling and Menstrie. One of central Scotland’s earliest Conservation Villages, Blairlogie comprises a cluster of 17th-19th-century cottages. The minister of Logie Parish between 1598 and 1609 was the poet Alexander Hume whose most famous poem was 'Of The Day Estivall'.

Cornton

A settlement on the River Forth, Cornton lies between Stirling and Bridge of Allan. It has a community centre and business park and to the north is HM Prison Cornton Vale, the only women's prison in Scotland, constructed in the 1970s on the site of a former male borstal institution.

Kildean

A location in Stirling Council Area, Kildean lies on the River Forth on the northern edge of Stirling. Said to be the site of the original Stirling Bridge, it is now the location for a Cattle Market. The restored Kildean Mill dates from 1697.

Craigmill

A village in Stirling Council Area, Craigmill lies to the south of Abbey Craig and immediately east of Causewayhead, 2 miles (3 km) northeast of Stirling. A burn flows down through Craigmill to meet the River Forth nearby.

Chartershall

A settlement in Stirling Council Area, Chartershall lies on the Bannock Burn 2 miles (3 km) south of Stirling. Chartershall, with its bridge dating from 1747, was once a nail-making community.

Netherton

A location in Stirling Council Area, Netherton lies to the west of Bridge of Allan near the junction of the Allan Water with the River Forth.
Rev. Thomas Dick  (1774 - 1857)

Author, clergyman, philosopher and astronomer. Born in Dundee, the son of a linen weaver, he was inspired by the sight of a meteor at the age of nine to study the heavens and he developed a passion for astronomy. Initially he followed his father's occupation but, at the age of sixteen, he became an assistant in a local school. From 1794, he studied at the University of Edinburgh and then set up a school of his own. He obtained his licence to preach in 1801 and officiated as a probationer for the United Presbyterian Church in Stirling and elsewhere. He was invited to become a teacher at the Secession School at Methven (1807-17) and thereafter in Perth.

Following the success of his book The Christian Philosopher (1823, with a number of subsequent editions), he gave up teaching to concentrate on writing and, in 1827, built a small cottage with an observatory and library on a hill overlooking the Firth of Tay at Broughty Ferry. Dick attempted to reconcile science and religion, and believed that the greatness of God could best be appreciated by the study of astronomy. His work included a range of philosophical, scientific and religious books such as The Philosophy of Religion (1825), On the Mental Illumination and Moral Improvement of Mankind (1835), Celestial Scenery (1838), The Sidereal Heavens (1840), The Practical Astronomer (1845), containing a remarkable prediction of the benefits of celestial photography, The Solar System (1846), The Telescope and Microscope (1851). Despite the success of his books he was reduced to poverty, which was only alleviated when he was awarded a pension of £50 per annum by the government in 1847.

Dick advocated that every city should have public parks, a public library and a public observatory.

King James VI  (1566 - 1625)

James I of England

First British monarch. Born in Edinburgh Castle, the son of the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots, but brought up as a Protestant. His father was Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley (1545-67). James became King of Scotland on the forced abdication of his mother in 1567, when he was just one year old. A series of Regents ruled in his name (the Earls of Moray, Lennox, Mar and Morton respectively) until James reached majority. He took time to assert his authority over the nobility, who had become used to wielding power.

James married Anne of Denmark in 1589, but it was not a happy marriage and they lived apart from the early years of the 17th century.

In 1603, on the death of Queen Elizabeth I, he acceded to the English throne as James I. This came through Margaret Tudor, eldest daughter of Henry VII of England who, slightly incestuously, was James' great-grandmother both through his mother and father. Although this "Union of the Crowns" resulted in James being King of both countries, the countries remained constitutionally separate for another 104 years. James moved to Whitehall Palace in London with his court, who settled around the palace in an area which became known as 'Scotland Yard'. Despite promising to return to Scotland at least every three years, James quickly became distant from his homeland, returning only once in 1617 to press for acceptance of the Five Articles of Perth which attempted to impose English Episcopalian practices on the Scottish church.

James' inconsistent attitude towards Catholicism gave rise to much criticism, and the famous Gunpowder Plot. He is also remembered for the translation of the Bible which became known as the authorised or King James version.

He lies buried in Westminster Abbey in London.
Johnny Ramensky (1905 - 1972)

'Gentle Johnny'; John Ramsay; Yonas Ramanauckas

Heroic safe-breaker. Ramensky was the son of a Lithuanian immigrant. He followed his father down the Lanarkshire mines, but without work during the depression, Ramensky moved with his mother and sisters to the Gorbals district of Glasgow. He took to a life of crime, using his remarkable physical strength and the skills with explosives gained in the mines to become a skilled burglar and safe-breaker. He spent the majority of the remainder of his life in Barlinnie and Peterhead prisons, although he escaped on a number of occasions, able to scale the walls with his bare hands. His crimes were never violent; this fact and his genial nature brought his soubriquet 'Gentle Johnny'. In 1942, his unique skills brought him the opportunity to fight for his country and he volunteered for Commando training. He was dropped behind enemy lines with the task of stealing key documents. Entering Rome with the liberating troops, he broke open the safes in fourteen embassies, all in one day. His exploits gained him the Military Medal and a pardon for his previous crimes.

Unfortunately, after the war Ramensky returned to his familiar career in crime. He escaped from Peterhead Prison no less than three times in 1958 alone, gaining considerable public sympathy and status as a folk-hero. The Ballad of Johnny Ramensky written by the Labour politician Norman Buchan, appeared in the Scotsman newspaper.

However his abilities as a cat-burglar were beginning to fail him. He suffered serious injuries when he fell trying to break into the County Buildings in Stirling in 1970 and collapsed and died two years later in Perth Prison. He was accorded the accolade of an obituary in every Scottish newspaper.

Steven Campbell (1953 - 2007)

Artist. Born and brought up in Rutherglen, Campbell attended the Academy until he was sixteen. He went to work in the steelworks at Cambuslang but was inspired towards art when given a book on the French painter Toulouse-Lautrec by his aunt. Campbell continued his education at the Glasgow School of Art (1978-82) and was dubbed one of the 'New Glasgow Boys', having studied with Ken Currie (b.1960), Peter Howson (b.1958) and Adrian Wisniewski (b.1958), although Campbell always resisted this description. He was soon described as one of the leading young Scottish artists of the modern school and his international reputation was cemented when a Fulbright Scholarship allowed him to work in New York (1982-86). His early work was included installation and performance art and this influence extends into his distinctive paintings. These reflect his character, regarded variously as enigmatic, theatrical and highly original, often painted at speed with considerable improvisation and evidence of quickly changing ideas. His narrative paintings involve surreal figures in bizarre landscapes drawing on an eclectic range of personal, literary and historical subjects.

He spent much of the 1990s in self-imposed exile but emerged to stage a celebrated exhibition at the Talbot Rice Gallery in Edinburgh. His work is included in many public collections, such as the Glasgow Museums, the British Council, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, the Tate Gallery in London.

Since 1989 Campbell had lived and worked in Kippen and he died in Stirling following complications from a ruptured appendix.

Alexander Handyside Ritchie (1804 - 1870)

Sculptor. Ritchie was born in Musselburgh, the son of a brick-maker. He was educated in Edinburgh, attending the School of Arts in the city, before continuing his studies in art and sculpture in Rome (1826-30). Returning to Musselburgh, he opened a studio on Princes Street in Edinburgh.

He specialised in busts for private clients, together with statues for public buildings. His statues can be
Famous People related to Stirling

seen on the facade of the Royal College of Physicians (1844), on the former headquarters of the Commercial Bank of Scotland (now the Dome) on George Street, on the parapet of the Bank of Scotland in St. Andrew's Square and several on the Scott Monument (Princes Street Gardens). In 1850, Ritchie restored the sundial on John Knox's House (Edinburgh). In Glasgow, he created unusual reliefs of minting and printing money for the former Commercial Bank in Gordon Street. He also completed work for the Houses of Parliament in London.

Ritchie carved a number of notable public statues, including two of Sir Walter Scott (George Square, Glasgow in 1837 and Selkirk 1839), the Fisherman's Monument (Dunbar; 1856), Hugh Miller (Cromarty; 1858), John Knox (Valley Cemetary, Stirling; 1858) and Sir William Wallace (Lanark; 1859). His statue of St. Andrew, originally commissioned for an Edinburgh insurance company (1850), can now be seen in St. Andrews Botanical Gardens.

Ritchie also executed monumental sculpture in the cemeteries of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling.

He died almost penniless.

**William York MacGregor (1855 - 1923)**

Artist. Born in Finnart (on Loch Long, Argyll and Bute), the son of a ship-yard owner, MacGregor was brought up in Glasgow. He trained at the Glasgow School of Art with James Paterson (1854 - 1932) and the pair became firm friends. They painted together from 1877 on the East Coast of Scotland at St. Andrews, Stonehaven and Nairn, practising a form of plein-air painting, whereby real, rather than idealised, scenes were captured outdoors with importance given to the portrayal of light.

MacGregor completed his training at the Slade School of Art in London, before returning to his native city where he set up his home and studio at 134 Bath Street. There an influential group of artists known as the ‘Glasgow Boys’ met, including the likes of George Henry (1858 - 1943), E.A. Walton (1860 - 1922), James Guthrie (1859 - 1930) and John Lavery (1856 - 1941), with MacGregor as their leader. The group adopted the realism of French painting of the time and their work was very popular, yet they were rejected by the establishment in the form of the Royal Scottish Academy.

His most notable work is perhaps the still-life The Vegetable Stall (1884), which is regarded as one of the best Scottish paintings of its time and is now on display in the National Gallery in Edinburgh. His work Crail (1883) hangs in the Smith Art Gallery & Museum (Stirling).

In his latter years MacGregor lived in Bridge of Allen and is buried at Logie Old Church nearby.

**David Watson Stevenson (1842 - 1904)**

*D.W. Stevenson*

Sculptor. Born at Ratho, to the west of Edinburgh, he was the elder brother of another sculptor William Grant Stevenson (1849 - 1919) with whom he was to form a partnership. Stevenson trained at the Trustee's School (Edinburgh) and was an apprentice in the studio of the sculptor William Brodie (1815-81). He won a national prize for a statuette of Venus de Milo, and thereafter he went on to complete his studies in Rome (Italy).

Stevenson then helped Sir John Steell (1804-91) create the Prince Albert Memorial in Edinburgh's Charlotte Square, contributing corner groups of figures along with William Brodie (1815-81). His statue of William Wallace (1274 - 1305), in bronze on the Wallace Monument near Stirling is well known. He contributed figures to the Scott Monument, in Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens and in the same city sculpted the statue of Hygeia within St. Bernard's Well alongside the Water of Leith. He was also responsible for the rather similarly-styled Saracen Fountain in the Alexandra Park (Dennistoun, Glasgow). Other sculptures include the poet and song-writer Robert Tannahill (1884) in Paisley and statues of the
bard Robert Burns (1759-96), including in Leith at the bottom of Leith Walk, as well as Burns' love Highland Mary (1896) in Dunoon.

Stevenson maintained a studio in Dean (Edinburgh) and exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy from 1859.

**John Row (c.1525 - 1580)**

Protestant reformer and church scholar. Born near Stirling, Row was educated there and at the University of St. Andrews. He was appointed an advocate in the consistorial (church) court in St. Andrews. John Hamilton, Archbishop of St. Andrews (c.1511-71), sent him to Rome in 1550. He returned to Scotland in 1558, having been appointed Papal Nuncio, with the task of examining the spread of Calvinism in the country. However, influenced by the sermons of John Knox (c.1513-72) and the other reformers, Row joined them. He took on the parish of Kennoway (Fife) on behalf of the new church in 1560, moving to the Middle Church of St. John's in Perth later the same year. He quickly became a leading figure in the Reformation, taking the role of Moderator of the General Assemblies of the Church held in Edinburgh (1567), Perth (1568), Edinburgh (1576) and Stirling (1578). Row was one of those who drew up the Confession of Faith (1560), the First Book of Discipline (1560) and the Second Book of Discipline (1581). A renowned church scholar, he is said to have been the first to teach Hebrew in Scotland. He opposed the Episcopal system of church governance.

He died in Perth and his son, another John Row (1568 - 1646) was also a noted church scholar.

**Craig Reedie (1941 - )**

Olympic administrator. Born in Stirling, Reddie qualified as a lawyer in 1964 although went on to become a financial advisor. He played badminton at a national and international level (1962-70), however, it is in sports administration where Reddie made his name. Following senior positions in the Scottish Badminton Union (1964-79), he rose through the International Badminton Federation, becoming its President (1981-84).

He was appointed Chairman of the British Olympic Association in 1992 and a Council Member of the World Anti-Doping Agency (1999). Between 1996 and 2002, Reedie served as Deputy Chairman of the UK Sport, the organisation tasked by the British Government with the development of sport in the UK. He is a member of the International Olympic Committee, involved in the organisation of the Athens (2004) and Beijing (2008) Olympic Games. He led the failed bid to bring the Olympics to Manchester (2002) and played a key role in London's successful bid for 2012. He retired as Chairman of the British Olympic Association in 2005.

Reedie lives in Glasgow. He served on the Court of the University of Glasgow and received an honorary degree from that institution in 2001. He was awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours List of 1999.

**Harold (Harry) Ewing (1931 - 2007)**

_Lord Ewing of Kirkford_

Policitian and champion of Scottish devolution. Born in Cowdenbeath (Fife), the son of a miner and socialist, Ewing was educated at Beith High School and went to work in a foundry after completing his National Service (1949-51). He then joined the Post Office and became an official of the Union of Post Office Workers. He stood for Parliament as Labour Party candidate in East Fife in 1970, but lost to the sitting MP Conservative Sir John Gilmour (1912 - 2007). Later the same year Ewing won a by-election in Stirling, Falkirk & Grangemouth, serving this constituency until 1983, when he was re-elected to Falkirk East after boundary changes. Ewing was appointed Under-Secretary of State for Scotland for a brief period in 1974 and served as Labour spokesman on Scottish industry (1981-87). He was a Euro-sceptic.
He retired in 1992 and was raised to the peerage as Lord Ewing of Kirkford. He served as Labour spokesman on Scottish affairs in the House of Lords and was appointed Co-Chairman of the Scottish Constitutional Convention but resigned in 1996 in protest at what he saw as Labour’s inconsistent policy on devolution. He was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Fife in 1995.

He died in a Dunfermline hospital.

**Margaret Ewing (1945 - 2006)**

*Margaret Anne McAdam*

Politician. Born Margaret Anne McAdam in Lanark, the daughter of a farm-worker, she was educated at Biggar High School, the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde, and Jordanhill College of Education. She began her career as a teacher in Cumbernauld (1968-70), rising to become a principal teacher in Stirling (1973-74). Ewing joined the Scottish National Party (SNP) in 1966 and was elected the Member of Parliament for East Dunbartonshire in 1974, with a slim majority, but lost the seat in 1979.

She married Donald Bain, an SNP researcher, in 1968, although this marriage ended in divorce in 1980. In 1983, she married another politician Fergus Ewing, the son of veteran Nationalist Winnie Ewing (b.1929).

She then worked as a journalist but was re-elected to her mother-in-law's former seat of Moray in 1987. Ewing was elected Deputy Leader of the SNP and, in 1990, stood for the leadership but lost to Alex Salmond (b.1954). In 1999, was elected to the new Scottish Parliament, leaving Westminster two years later. She was re-elected an MSP in 2003.

She died at her home in Lossiemouth from breast cancer and will be remembered as a popular politician who was respected across the political spectrum.

**Thomas (Tom) Johnston (1881 - 1965)**

Politician. Born in Kirkintilloch. Johnston was educated at Lenzie Academy and Glasgow University, where he ran the campaign for Keir Hardie (1856 - 1915) to become Rector of the University. He served as Labour Member of Parliament for Stirling (1922-24, 1929-31, 1935-45) and Dundee (1924-29) and as Secretary of State for Scotland in Churchill's wartime coalition cabinet. Johnston was highly regarded as a particularly effective Scottish Secretary, and critically did much to develop the Highlands and attract industry to Scotland. His lasting memorial was the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, which he set up in 1943 to create employment, improve social conditions (only 1% of crofts were connected to an electricity supply) and power new industries. He became the Board's Chairman in 1945, a position which he retained until 1959, by which time most of the Board's generation stations were complete and the supply network had extended to almost 90% of the country. Johnston also acted as Chairman of the Forestry Commission, the Scottish Tourist Board and was a governor for the BBC but, on principle, took no payment for these positions.

He died at his home in Milngavie.
Hector MacNeill (1746 - 1818)

Poet. Born at Rosebank House near Roslin (Midlothian), the son of an impoverished army officer, at the age of fourteen MacNeill went to Glasgow then to relations in Bristol, as a counting-house clerk. He was sent to the West Indies, serving as manager of a plantation and then as a secretary on board a navy flagship (1780-86) before returning to Scotland. He was based in Stirling for a time but settled in Edinburgh c.1796, becoming a friend of novelist Elizabeth Hamilton (1758 - 1816).

MacNeill wrote various political pamphlets, including one in the defence of slavery, two novels, including The Memoirs of Charles Macpherson, based on his own adventures, together with several poems and songs. He also served as editor of the Scots Magazine. His poems include The Harp, a Legendary Tale (1789), Scotland's Skaith, or the History of Will and Jean (1795), a caution against the evils of whisky, and The Carse of Forth. He is perhaps best remembered for his songs, such as My Boy Tammy, I Loved ne'er a Lassie but Ane, Mary of Castlecary and The Plaid amang the Hether.

He died in Edinburgh.

Robert Carver (c.1484 - c.1568)

Robert Arnat

Composer of sacred choral music. Little is known of Carver's life, except that he served as a Canon at the Abbey of Scone, may have been associated with the Chapel Royal in Stirling and certainly enjoyed Royal Patronage, with his 10-part Mass Dum Sacrum Mysterium (written sometime between 1506-13) most-likely sung at the Coronation of the infant King James V (1512-42).

All his surviving works appear in a single manuscript, the Carver Choirbook - once known as the Scone Antiphonary - which is now held by the National Library of Scotland. In addition to the Dum Sacrum Mysterium, these works comprise the motets Gaude Glore Virginali (c.1515), O Bone Jesu (early 1520s), regarded as a Renaissance masterpiece, together with four masses; namely Mass for Six Voices (c.1515), L'Homme Armé and Pater Creator Omnium (1546).

Unlike other British composers of the time, Carver drew his influence from Europe and is regarded as Scotland's greatest 16th Century composer. He occasionally used the alias Robert Arnat and probably died at Scone.

Ebenezer Erskine (1680 - 1754)

Evangelical divine and founder of the Secession Church of Scotland. Born in Dryburgh (Scottish Borders), the son of a former Minister who had been removed from his charge following the Act of Uniformity (1662), Erskine was educated at the University of Edinburgh. He was ordained at Portmoak (Perth and Kinross) and ministered there for 28 years, proving to be a popular preacher. He supported Thomas Boston (1676 - 1732) and the evangelical work The Marrow of Modern Divinity, which had been condemned by the General Assembly.

He transferred to Stirling in 1731 but continued to speak out against liberalism in the Church and the system of Patronage, which prevented congregations choosing their Minister. In 1733, this led to Erskine's suspension by the General Assembly and he and four others formed an Associated Presbytery which quickly became the Secession Church. This church grew, but was itself divided over the Burgess oath, into the Burghers and Anti-Burghers. Erskine remained with the Burgher majority.
Erskine died in Stirling, having made his mark on the church and fathered fifteen children.

**Rev. Prof. Allan Galloway (1920 - 2006)**

Theologian. Born in Stirling, the son of an estate-worker, Galloway was educated at Stirling High School, the University of Glasgow, the Union Theological Seminary, New York, and Christ's College, Cambridge. He was ordained a Minister of the Church of Scotland and served as an assistant in Port Glasgow and then was charged with the parish of Auchterhouse. He accepted the new Chair of Religious Studies at the University of Ibadan (Nigeria) in 1954. Returning to Scotland he was appointed a Senior Lecturer at the University of Glasgow, taking the Chair of Divinity in 1968. Between 1972 and 1982, he also served as Principal of Trinity College (Glasgow) at a time which saw the College relinquish its own premises and relocate completely within the University. He contributed a history of theology since the Enlightenment to a larger work, gave several notable lectures on systematic theology and was a popular teacher. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1985.

He died in Clynder (Argyll and Bute).

**Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman (1836 - 1908)**

Politician and Prime Minister of Britain between 1905 and 1908. Born and educated in Glasgow, the son of a Lord Provost of the City. Elected as Liberal Member of Parliament for Stirling (1868), he served under Gladstone as Chief Secretary for Ireland. Campbell-Bannerman opposed the Boer War and advocated comprehensive social reforms. In doing so established himself as one of the most progressive figures within his party.

He took office on the resignation of Arthur Balfour (1848 - 1930) in 1905 and went on to lead the Liberal Party to a landslide victory in the 1906 General Election. Importantly, Campbell-Bannerman gave David Lloyd-George his first government posts, who was responsible for many reforms, including the introduction of pensions for elderly citizens.

Campbell-Bannerman was awarded the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh in 1907. He became seriously ill and died within days of resigning as Prime Minister. He is buried at Meigle in Angus, close to his home at Belmont Castle.

**Anne Lorne Gillies (1944 - )**

Singer and political activist. Born in Stirling, the grand-daughter of founder of the Scots National League, William Gillies (1865 - 1932), Gillies was raised on a croft in Argyll. She was educated at Oban High School and the Universities of Edinburgh, Strathclyde and Glasgow. A successful singer, she won a Gold Medal at the Mod when she was 17 and went on to perform on radio and television, as well as making a number of recordings. A qualified teacher and supporter of the Gaelic language, she became National Education Officer of the Scottish Gaelic language development agency in 1988. Gillies is also a prominent member of the Scottish National Party, serving on their National Executive Committee. She put herself forward as a candidate for the Western Isles in Westminster Election (1997) and European Parliament Election (1999).

Gillies was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Edinburgh in 1993 and now lives in Ayrshire.
King Robert I  (1274 - 1329)

*Robert the Bruce*

Scottish monarch. Defender of Scottish independence. Bruce's birthplace is not definitively known, but was either in Essex (England) or at Turnberry Castle (South Ayrshire). He was the eldest son of Robert de Bruce, 5th Lord Annandale and Earl of Carrick. Despite somewhat wavering loyalty in his earlier years, Bruce became a hero of the Wars of Independence, eventually being crowned King of Scotland at Scone in 1306. He defeated the English King Edward II at Bannockburn on the 24th June 1314. He is supposed to have been encouraged towards perseverance and eventual victory by watching a spider build a web in the cave in which he was hiding. Bruce died of leprosy at Cardross Castle on the Firth of Clyde. His body was buried at Dunfermline Abbey and his heart was interred at Melrose Abbey after being carried to the Crusades. His daughter Marjorie married Walter the High Steward, their son Robert II initiating the Stewart line of royalty.

King James III  (1452 - 1488)

Scottish monarch. Born in Stirling, James was crowned at the age of only nine years at Kelso, following the sudden death of his father. This gave rise to a weak monarchy dominated by the power-play between James' regents. He married the daughter of King Christian I of Norway and Denmark in 1469, which resulted in the Orkney and Shetland becoming part of Scotland.

Even when he tried to enforce his authority, James failed to gain the respect of his nobles. He surrounded himself with 'favourites' and there were several challenges to his rule. His final challenge came with a battle at Sauchieburn (near Stirling) where he was defeated by a force mustered by the Border lairds and commanded reluctantly by James' fifteen-year-old son. James left the field injured, only to be murdered by a stranger who had claimed to be a priest, and his son became James IV. He is buried at Cambuskenneth Abbey (Stirling).
Cant, Ronald G. 1948. Old Stirling