

# Dirleton War Memorial Conservation Report



**Introduction**

Dirleton is an historic conservation village located some 22 miles east of Edinburgh in East Lothian. The Dirleton Village Association wishes to re-dedicate the village war memorial located on the church green and to commemorate 100 years of remembrance in 2020. The purpose of this report is to survey the present condition of the monument and its designed setting and to identify any restoration work which may be needed to ensure that it is in good condition for the ceremony and for the future.

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Introduction	1
Contents	2
Description and History	3
List of the Fallen	3
Listed Buildings and Structures entry	5
Design of the Monument	5
Present Condition of the Monument	5
Design of the Monument's Setting	6
Present Condition of the Setting	6
Conservation Recommendations	
The Monument	10
The Memorial's Setting	10
Appendix	
Association with Historic Personalities	11

## Description and History

Dirleton War Memorial is situated on the triangular green in front of the church. It is also located in front of the former church school where many of those commemorated would have played during school breaks.

It was designed by the famous architect Sir Robert Lorimer, who located it in the centre of the open green and on the centre of the axial view down Manse Road. The builder was Mr Neil McLeod.

It was commissioned in response to the many parish deaths in the First World War and it was formally unveiled by the local Member of Parliament, Patrick Ford of Westerdunes, on Sunday afternoon 10th October 1920. Prior to this ceremony, an afternoon service and sermon was held in the Kirk with the largest congregation that anyone there remembered. 50 comrades of the Great War filled the transept, commanded by Captain Scott of Craigville (Dirleton). The service was taken by Reverend Norman Keith assisted by Reverend James Burt of North Berwick. After the service the congregation marched in procession to the memorial and formed around it. The Reverend Keith read out the names of the 31 departed and dedicated the memorial to the memory of the fallen. School children led the praise. Mr Ford then unveiled the memorial. The 'Last Post' was sounded by 2 buglers and wreaths were laid around its base.

This tradition of a church service followed by a gathering outside around the memorial with the reading of the names of the dead and the laying of wreaths has continued to this day.

A further four names of Dirleton fallen were inscribed on the memorial after the Second World War. They were unveiled during the service of remembrance on 12<sup>th</sup> November. The service was conducted by the Reverend H. O. Wallace, and, after the two minute silence, Mr David Tweedie performed the unveiling.

## List of the Fallen

It is inscribed with the names of the dead and the following inscription:

*To the deathless memory  
of the sons of Dirleton parish  
who laid down their lives  
in the Great War  
1914 – 1918*

*And in the World War 1939-1945*

The list is as follows, with rank and battalion information added:

The 1<sup>st</sup> World War

<i>Burns</i>	<i>Andrew</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Royal Scots 8th Battalion</i>
<i>Burnside</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Royal Scots 9th Battalion</i>
<i>Calder</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Driver</i>	<i>Army Service Corps 32nd Division Train</i>

Campbell	Peter Robertson Bain	Private	Royal Scots 2nd Battalion
Christie	Martin	Private	Royal Scots 13th Battalion
Glen	Archibald	Private	Scots Guard 2nd Battalion
Gracie	William J.	Second Lieutenant	North Staffordshire Regiment 9th Battalion
Hynds	Hugh	Private	Royal Scots Fusiliers 1st/5th Battalion
Logan Mackay	William George		
Marr	Andrew	Private	Gordon Highlanders 1st/7th Battalion
Mattison	James	Lance Corporal Chief	Australian Forces
Mattison	John	Engine Room Artificer 2nd Class	Royal Navy HMS "M15"
McDonald	Robert		Undetermined
McNeil	Edward	Private	Scots Guard 2nd Battalion
McNeil	George William	Private	Royal Scots Fusiliers
McNeil	Joseph	Private	Royal Scots Fusiliers 6th/7th Battalion
McNicoll	William	Corporal	Tank Corps 17th Battalion
Moran	John	Private	Royal Scots 12th Battalion
Morin	John	Lance Corporal	Seaforth Highlanders 7th Battalion
Peattie	William	Sergeant	Tank Corps 5th Battalion
Selby	John Edwin	Private	Somerset Light Infantry 6th Battalion Canadian Regiment
Simpson	James Duncan	Lieutenant	1st Tunneling Company
Smith	Charles	Private	Royal Scots 8th Battalion
Smith	Robert	Private	Gordon Highlanders

			5
<i>Souter</i>	<i>George</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Cameron Highlanders 7th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment 10th Battalion Royal Scots 2nd Battalion Army Service Corps 37th Reserve Park</i>
<i>Taylor</i>	<i>Alexander</i>	<i>Sergeant</i>	
<i>Taylor</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>Private</i>	
<i>Wardrop</i>	<i>Alexander</i>	<i>Driver</i>	
<i>Watt</i>	<i>David P.</i>	<i>Lance Corporal</i>	<i>Cameron Highlanders Depot Scots Guard 1st Battalion</i>
<i>Waugh</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>Private</i>	

The 2<sup>nd</sup> World War

*Ronald Falconer*

*James Rennie*

*Hugo Douglas Tweedie*

*Thomas Wood*

Five of the First World War dead had worked together at Castlemains farm, three of them brothers. David Watt lived in Rosemary Cottage and was a golf professional. He had won the Scottish Open Championship just weeks before the outbreak of war.

### **Listed Buildings and Structures entry**

LB1345 Category C. Listed on 07/12/1988

Dirleton Parish, East Lothian Planning Authority. NGR NT 51324 84117

Coordinates 351324, 684117

### **Design of the Monument**

The monument consists of a simple shaft set on a pedestal. It is of ashlar, thought to be of Northumbrian stone (from Doddington sandstone quarry near Berwick upon Tweed?). It has an octagonal base of 3 steps bearing a square pedestal, chamfered at angles with recessed inscription panels to each of 4 sides, supporting a square, tapering shaft with chamfered arrises. There is a ring of 4 shields at the mid-point of the shaft: a saltire, a crowned thistle, a lion and a wreathed cross. It has cavetto capitals with carved tudor roses and bearing a decorative Greek cross finial.

### **Present Condition of the Monument**

There are open joints around the base and steps and slight damage to a skirting. 3 north facing risers have minor horizontal cracks. There is evidence of white lichen on the stone. The main column is in reasonable condition. There is no damage to the word carving. The foundations are exposed, primarily on the north side.



*Open joints*



*Exposed foundations*

### **Design of the Monument's Setting**

The monument was located by Sir Robert Lorimer centrally within Dirleton's existing church green which dates from at least as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the church was

constructed. It was located on the centre of the view down Manse Road to be seen from the main village green, offset to the right of the churchyard entrance. See the postcard below, taken around 1921, soon after the completion of the monument.



*The designed view from the main green: Postcard from 1920-1925*

### **Present Condition of the Setting**

The original design intention to position the monument asymmetrically in the church green so that it would form a new centrepiece and focal point on the Manse Road axial view north across the main green, thus visually linking the two greens together, has become degraded in a number of ways:

Firstly, both the intended openness of the green and the focal view from the south illustrated above have become cluttered by historically inaccurate reproduction gas lamps installed at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. See the photograph below.





*View of monument offset with the church in the background compromised by modern reproduction lampposts*

Secondly, a telephone wire was aligned immediately above the monument at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. See the photographs below.



*Telephone wire close to top of monument*



*Telephone wire across green*

Thirdly, the general quality of the historic memorial green is marred, particularly in the winter, by damage to the western verge caused by parking. See the photograph below.



## **Conservation Recommendations**

### **The Monument**

In order to prevent more serious damage as a result of water and frost ingress, the following remedial works to the monument are recommended:

- 1) Repointing using a lime mortar mix or putty to a specification to match the existing as analysed by the Scottish Lime Mortar Centre. Approximately 45 linear metres are required.
- 2) Stone paving around the base of the monument to prevent further undermining and loosening of the foundation stones.

### **The Memorial Setting**

It is recommended that the following work is carried out to the designed setting:

- 1) Restore the Lorimer designed setting, open space and axial view of the monument by relocating lampposts to the green edges. The new lampposts should be reproductions of the historically correct type of electrical lamppost for Dirleton- a swan neck type with pendant lantern- as installed in the village in the 1920s and 1930s. See the post card above.
- 2) Re-route the telephone wire away from the top of the monument.

In addition, repairs to the damaged west verge of the green would also improve the appearance of the open space.

## Appendix

### Association with Historic Personalities

The association of Dirleton's war memorial with its designer Sir Robert Lorimer gives it additional conservation value.

### Biographical details

Sir Robert Stodart Lorimer, KBE (4 November 1864 –13 September 1929) is recognised as an outstanding Scottish architect and furniture designer noted for his sensitive restorations of historic houses and castles, for new work in the Arts and Craft style, the Scots Baronial, and Gothic Revival styles, and for extensive war memorial work.

Lorimer was born in Edinburgh, at 21 Hill Street. From 1877 to 1882 he was educated at Edinburgh Academy, going on to study at the University of Edinburgh from 1882 to 1885. However, he left without completing his studies. In 1878 the Lorimer family acquired the lease of Kellie Castle in Fife and Robert became involved in its restoration.

Lorimer began his architectural career in 1885 working for Sir Robert Rowand Anderson in Edinburgh, and in 1889 for George Frederick Bodley in London. He returned to Edinburgh opening his own practice in 1891. His first major restoration commission was Earlshall Castle in Fife.

He was influenced by Scottish domestic architecture of the 16th and 17th centuries and the Scottish baronial style of Kellie Castle where he had spent much of his childhood and adolescence. From his time in Bodley's office, Lorimer was influenced by the ideas of William Morris, and went on to become a committed exponent of the Arts and Crafts approach to architecture. He assembled a collaborative group of artists and craftsmen who, collectively, often contributed to his various commissions and to the manufacture of furniture sent to the Arts and Crafts exhibitions in London. In 1896 he was elected to the Art Workers Guild.



*Portrait of Lorimer at work*

Lorimer designed a series of cottages in the Arts and Crafts style in the Colinton area of Edinburgh, the so-called "**Colinton Cottages**". Constructed using traditional methods and materials, each cottage included a garden layout and interior design, including furniture, in keeping with the Arts and Crafts concept.

As his reputation grew the scale of his commissions increased, including major alterations and additions to important houses in various styles, culminating in three entirely new country houses designed in his personal interpretation of Scots baronial style; at **Rowallan Castle**, Ayrshire (1903), **Ardkinglas**, Argyll (1906), and **Formakin House**, Renfrewshire (1912). His important restorations at this time include **Lennoxlove House**, Haddington (1912) and **Dunderave Castle**, Argyllshire (1912) on the Ardkinglas estate.

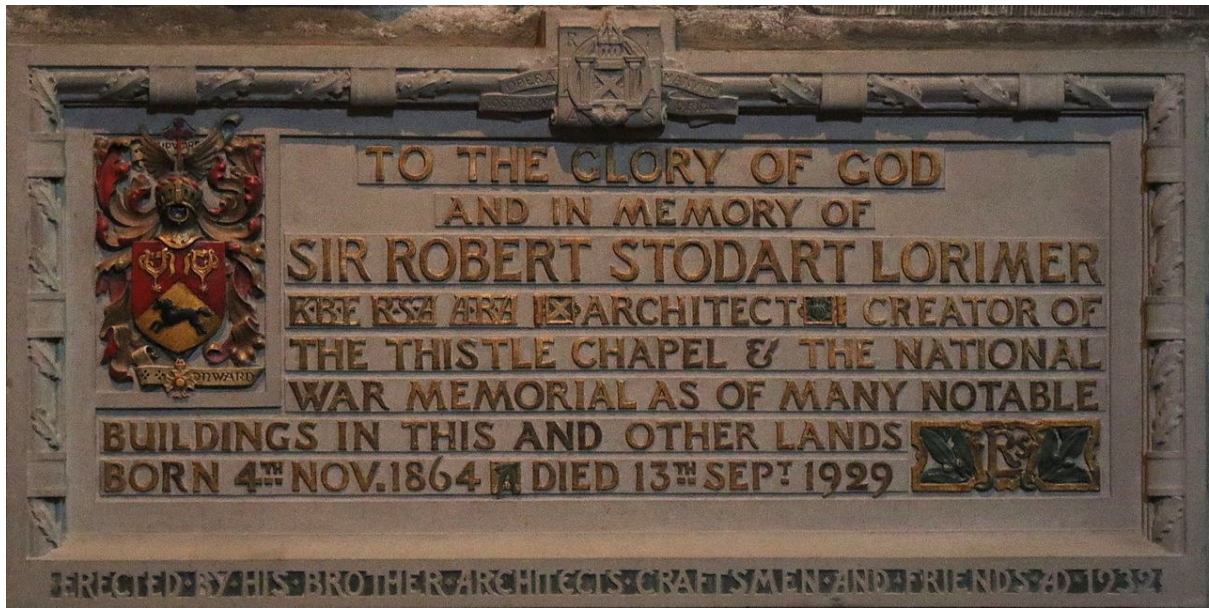
The First World War restricted the demand for large new houses and his attention shifted to smaller scale projects, war memorials, and restorations. He already had a reputation as one of Scotland's leading restoration architects following the restoration of Earlshall and Dunderave, and he went on to carry out significant alteration and restoration works at **Dunrobin Castle** in Sutherland following a fire (1915).

Although much of his work, and reputation, was in the sphere of domestic architecture, Lorimer also carried out significant public works. Principal amongst these include his design for the **new chapel for the Knights of the Thistle in St Giles' Cathedral**, Edinburgh in 1911. He received a knighthood for his efforts and went on to gain the commission for the **Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle** in 1919, subsequently opened by the Prince of Wales in 1927. Following the completion of the memorial, Lorimer was in December 1927 appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE).

### **World War One work**

Over and above the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle, Lorimer was responsible for the simple and elegant design of the Commonwealth gravestone and for the design of several CWGC cemeteries in Germany (for PoWs dying in captivity) and in the Middle East. In 1918, Lorimer was appointed Principal Architect to the Imperial War Graves Commission. Between 1919 and 1927, he designed over three hundred war memorials in Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Greece, Macedonia, Egypt, Palestine and one in Queenstown in South Africa. Of special significance are the **Doiran Memorial** in Greece, and the three great naval memorials to the missing: **Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Plymouth Naval Memorial and Chatham Naval Memorial**, each of which is a Grade I Listed Building.

Other **war memorials** by Lorimer include: in East Lothian: Dirleton; Gullane; Stenton; Whitekirk; Pencaitland; Humbie; Inveresk and Spott. In the rest of Scotland: The 1st and 5th Battalions Royal Scots Memorials in St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh; Parliament House (advocates) Memorial in Edinburgh; Selkirk; St Andrews; Culross; Edinburgh City Chambers; Melrose; Penicuik; Kelso; Glasgow and Lerwick, Shetland. In England: the Border Regiment Memorial in Carlisle Cathedral; Harrow School Memorial; Carlisle; Merton College in Oxford and the Portsmouth War Memorial.



*Lorimer Memorial*

He was cremated at the newly opened Warriston Crematorium and his ashes were thereafter buried with his parents at Newburn in rural south-east Fife, close to the family home of Kellie Castle. The grave (which he had designed himself at the death of his father) lies in the extreme south-west corner of this tiny and very remote churchyard, overlooking rural Fife towards the Firth of Forth.