

AN ACCOUNT
 OF THE
EXECUTIONS
 IN
SCOTLAND
 FOR THE PAST
200 YEARS.



NATIONAL LIBRARY
 OF SCOTLAND
 EDINBURGH

PAISLEY,—1866

DUMBARTON.

Murdoch Currie, theft June 14, 175
 Patrick Lunnay, murder Jany. 18, 1861

WILLIAM CALCRAFT, the general executioner of Great Britain, and who officiated at Dumbarton on the 18th Jan. 1861, was born in the year 1801, of humble but industrious parents, in a little village about ten miles from London, situate in the county of Essex. When 19 years of age he was appointed to the office of Newgate Hangman, and on being installed swore to the following oath.—“ I swear to hang or behead, and to draw and quarter, or otherwise destroy all felons and enemies to the peace of our Lord the King, and of his subjects duly sentenced according to Law, and I will do the like unto father, mother, sister or brother, and all other kindred whatsoever, without favour or hindrence. So help me God.”

Thereupon a black veil is thrown over him at his rising when he is conducted out of the court, amid the groaning of the assemblage, the tolling of the death-bell, and the horrifying words of the city judge grating in his ears, “ Get thee hence, wretch !”

The hall in which the oath is administered contains a table with the following articles placed thereon :—An axe, well sharpened!—the same as that used for the beheading of traitors—a pair of leg-irons—handcuffs—and other fetters—a small coil of rope—a pair of white caps.

GLASGOW.

At the Howgate Head where the Monkland Canal Basin is now situated

	Date of Execution
Hugh Bisland, robbery,	July 10, 1765
Agnes Dougal, murder	Nov. 1, 67
Andrew Marshall, murder,—hanged in chains,	Oct. 25, 60
William Mitchell and Charles Gordon, robbery,	Nov. 17, 73
George M'Taggart, housebreaking, &c.	June 21, 76
Robert Hislop, housebreaking, &c.	June 6, 81

A. the Castle Yard where the Royal Infirmary now stands

James Jack, robbery	June 7, 1784
James and Wm. Brodie & Jean Scott, housebreaking	Nov. 3, 84
Neil M'Lean, forgery	June 1, 85
David Steven, murder	June 3, 85
Thomas Vernon, robbery	Nov. 9, 85
James Spence, housebreaking and theft	June 7, 86
Elizabeth Paul, housebreaking and theft	Oct. 25, 86
John M'Aulay, Thomas Veitch, and Thomas Gentles robbery	May 28, 88
John Hill and William Porter, assault and robbery	May 12, 1830
William M'Feat, murder	Sept. 30 - 30

Walter M'Intosh, robbery	Oct. 22, 1788
William Scott, housebreaking and theft.—This criminal was tried and condemned by the Sheriff	Dec. 3, 88
John Brown, forgery	June 9, 90
James Day, murder	Oct. 20, 90
James Plunket, robbery	Jan. 11, 92
James Dick, murder	May 16, 92
Mortimer Collins, murder	Nov. 7, 92
Agnes White, murder, and James M'Kenzie, robbery	May 22, 92
James M'Kean, murder	Jan. 25, 97
John M'Millan, murder	May 16, 98
Peter Gray, ham sucking	May 28, 1800
William Cunningham, theft	June 8, 03
David Scott and Hugh Adamson, forgery	June 5, 06
Adam Cox, murder	June 10, 07
James Gilchrist, murder	July 20, 08
John Gordon M'Intosh and George Stewart housebreaking	Nov. 8, 09
James Ferguson, robbery	May 26, 13
W. Muir and W. Mudie, robbery	Nov. 17, 13
IN FRONT OF THE NEW PRISON.	
Wm. Higgins and Thos. Harold, robbery	Oct. 10, 1814
John Sherry, robbery	Nov. 8, 15
William M'Kay, forgery	May 28, 15
Freebairn Whitehill, robbery William M'Kechnie and James M'Cormick, housebreaking and theft	Oct. 29, 17
William Baird and Walter Blair, robbery	June 3, 18
Matthew Clydesdale, murder, and Simon Ross, housebreaking	Nov. 4, 18
A. Robertson, housebreaking and theft	April 7, 19
B. M'Kinlay, Hunter Guthrie, J. Forbes, and William Buchanan, housebreaking and theft	Nov. 3, 19
John Buchanan, murder	Nov. 17, 19
Richard Smith, housebreaking	May 21, 20
James Wilson, high treason—hanged and beheaded	Aug. 30, 20
William Leonard Swan, forgery	June 5, 21
Malcolm M'Intyre, William Paterson, and James Dyer housebreaking	Oct. 24, 22
Donachy, housebreaking and theft	June 5, 22
John M'Dougall and James Wilson, housebreaking and theft	June 21, 23
David Wylie, theft	Nov. 12, 24
W. M'Teague, uttering forged notes	May 19, 24
Francis Kean, robbery and George Laidlaw, theft	June 2, 24
J. M'Crevie, housebreaking and theft	June 2, 24
William Devon, murder	July 21, 25
James Stevenson, highway robbery	June 1, 26
James Dollan, street robbery.—This was the first criminal who suffered between eight and ten	June 7, 26
Andrew Stewart and Edward Kelly, street robbery	Nov. 1, 26
Jas. Glen, murder.—This criminal was dressed in white	Dec. 12, 27
Thomas Connor and Bell M'Enemy assault & robbery	Oct. 22, 28
Edward Moore, murder	May 30, 28

David Little, stouthrief	Jan 17,	31
James Campbell, housebreaking and theft	May 16,	31
James Byers and Mary Steel, murderers	Oct. 6,	31
William Heath, housebreaking	Oct. 20,	32
William Lindsay, murder	Jan. 18,	32
Philip Carnay rape, and John Barklay, murder	May 14,	32
Henry Burrell, street robbery	Jan. 13,	33
George Duffy, murder	Jan. 20,	33
Hugh Kennedy, throwing vitriol	Sep. 20,	34
George Campbell, murder	Sep. 20,	36
Mrs Jeffrey, murder	May 21,	36
Thomas Templeton, murder	May, 27,	40
Denis Doolan, and Patrick Redding, murder—Executed at Crosshill near Glasgow	May 14,	41
Charles M'Kay, murder	May 18,	43
Margaret Lennox or Hamilton, forgery and murder	Jan. 31,	50
Archibald Hare, murder	Oct. 24,	51
Hans Smith, M'Farlane and Helen Blackwood, murder	Aug, 11,	53
Alexander Stewart, murder	May 23,	55
Mrs M'Lauchlan was sentenced to be executed for the murder of Jessie M'Pherson on the 11th Oct. 1862, but was respited.		
John Reilly, murder	May 16,	64
Dr. E. W. Pritchard executed for the murder of his wife and mother-in-law, by poison,	July 28,	65

EDINBURGH.

Thomas Hunter, A. M., murder	Aug. 8,	1700
Nicol Musher, murder	Aug. 8,	10
Margaret Dickson, murder—This person recovered and lived 30 years at Musselburgh where she was known by the name of "ill hanged Maggie"	Aug. 2,	23
Agnes Crocket, child murder	Sep. 8,	56
Ann Morrison, child murder	Mar. 7,	58
Janet Heatly, child murder	April 1,	61
Patrick Ogilvie, for the murder of Thomas Ogilvie, of Easterhill, his brother, and adultery of his wife	Nov. 18,	65
Margaret Adam, murder	Mar. 2,	65
Robert Hay, street robbery	Mar. 25,	67
John Raybould, forgery	Feb. 24,	68
William Harris, forgery	May 20,	70
Alexander M'Donald, and Charles Jamieson, shop breaking at Lithgow Bridgend	Sep. 2,	70
Daniel Deyeron, robbery	Jan. 7,	87
Chas. and James Jamieson, robbing the mail	Jan. 29,	87
John Reid, murdering his son	Mar. 21,	87
William Brodie, and George Smith, theft	Oct. 1,	88
Jas. Falconer, and Peter Bruce, bank robbery	Dec. 24,	88
Bartholomew Collins, murder	Feb. 8,	90
William Gadesby, robbery	Feb. 2,	92
William Smith, housebreaking	Oct. 12,	92
John Paul and James Stewart, street robbery	July 27,	94
Robert Watt, high treason	Oct. 13,	94
Melissias Roderick M'Ullan, forgery on the Paisley Bank		98
Thomas Urquhart, postmaster of Kirkwall Orkney opening letters, and abstracting money therefrom	Oct. 16, 1800	

Richard Brodie, theft	Feb. 11, 1801
George Lindsay, murder	April 7 1802
Margaret Cunningham, murder	Jan. 7, 1807
Matthew Smith, murder	— 08
Barbara Malcolm, murder	Feb. 10, 08
Robert Stewart, housebreaking & theft	Feb. 22, 09
John Armstrong, do do	Jan. 17, 10
A am Lyal, highway robbery	Mar. 27, 11
Hugh M'Donald, Neil Sutherland, and Hugh M'Intosh, street robbery	April 22, 12
John M'Donald, and James Jack, murder	April 14, 12
James M'Dougal, forgery	Aug. 10, 14
John Murroch, murder	Mar. 29, 15
David Thomson, house-breaking & theft	Mar. 15, 16
Robert Johnstone, robbery	Dec. 30, 18
George Warden, taking money out of letters in Post Office Aberdeen	April 14, 19
John Dempsey, murder	Dec. 13, 20
Samuel Maxwell, housebreaking & robbery	Jan. 17, 21
David Haggart, murder	July 18, 21
John Rennie, and William Sutherland, housebreaking and theft	Aug. 22, 21
Peter Hahan, and Francis Gantred, piracy and murder at Leith	Jan. 9, 22
William M'Intyre, housebreaking	Feb. 26, 23
Mary M'Kinnon, murder	April 16, 23
Daniel M'Donald Elphinstone, murder	July 3, 24
William Burke, murdering 16 individuals by suffocating them, and selling their bodies for desecration	Jan. 28, 29
John Stewart, and Catherine Wright, for murdering three persons, by giving them poison	Aug 19, 29
William Adams or Reid, robbery	Jan. 6, 29
Robert Edmond, Haddington murders	Mar. 17, 30
John Thompson, & David Dobbie, murder	Aug. 19, 30
George Gilchrist, robbery	Aug. 13, 30
John M'Court, murder	Dec. 19, 31
John Howieson, murder	Jan. 21, 32
Thomas Sweeney, assault and robbery—executed at Greenlaw.	April 4, 34
James Bell, murder	July 6, 35
Elizabeth M'Neil, murder	Aug. 3, 35
James Wemyes, murder	April 16, 40
James Bryce, murder	April 3, 44
William Benui, for poisoning his wife	Aug. 16, 50
John Williams, murder—executed at Greenlaw	Mar. 14, 53
William Cumming, murder	Jan. 25, 54
— Bryce, murder	June 21, 64

PAISLEY

Four men and three women were burned at the Gallows for Witchcraft	June 16, 1697
Alexander Provan, murdering his wife had his right hand cut off; and afterwards hanged	1765
Thomas Potts, housebreaking	Aug. 17, 97
John Craig, and James Brown, stouthrief	Oct. 16, 1829

William Pirie, murder Oct. 18, 37
 John Thomson, alias Peter Walker, murder Jan. 14, 58

GREENOCK.

Josias M'Donald, housebreaking June 5, 1822
 Hugh M'Ilvogue, Benard M'Ilvogue, and Patrick M'Crystal, rape and robbery Oct. 13, 23
 John Kerr, murder June 6, 27
 John Boyd, murder Oct. 27, 31

AYR.

John Hadden, housebreaking Dec. 3, 1768
 Matthew Hay, murder Oct. 18, 84
 William Dornon, and Robert Smith, housebreaking May 16, 1816
 John M'Millan, murder May 25, 16
 John M'Manus, murder and Robert Gibson, robbery May 27, 11
 George Watson, housebreaking June 7, 14
 John Wetherington Symington, robbery Feb. 17, 14
 William Evans, forgery May 31, 15
 Mary Cressan, fire raising, Wm Robertson, and Joseph Cairns, robbery Oct. 17, 17
 James Anderson, and David Glen, murder Dec. 12, 26
 Samuel Waught, murder Jan. 18, 21
 James M'Whellan, murder and robbery Oct. 26, 48
 Alexander Cunningham, murder May 11, 34

STIRLING.

Thomas M'Lauchlan, housebreaking Nov. 19, 1773
 J. M'Kerracher, forgery April 28, 83
 John Smart, forgery May 16, 85
 C. M'Nair, robbery at Falkirk Oct. 26, 1811
 Alexander O'Kane, robbery Feb. 21, 13
 John Baird, and Andrew Hardie, treason Sep. 8, 20
 John Fleming, forgery May 11, 25
 John M'Grady, housebreaking May 25, 25
 Peter Moffat, murder July 28, 28
 Robert Tennant, murder Oct. 2, 28
 Alexander Millar or Scatters, murder April 8, 37
 Allan Muir, murder upwards of 80 years age Oct. 4, 43

INVERARY.

Ann Campbell, & Sarah Graham, murder Nov. 3, 1733

INVERNESS.

Christian M'Kechnie, murder Nov. 2, 1701
 Alexander Gillan, rape and murder—hung in chains May 14, 1800
 J. M'Leod, murder and robbery Oct. 24, 34
 John Adams, alias John Anderson, murder Oct. 16, 35

PERTH.

Alexander M'Cowan, June 5, 1700
 C. Davidson, and G. Bruce, robbery June 22, 33
 John Dow Cameron, murder & robbery Nov. 3, 53
 William Doag, murder June 13, 55

H. M'Lean, murder hung in chains	July 15, 1757
James Russell, robbery	June 27, 59
Robert Keith, murder	July 2, 60
John Henderson, murder—hung in Cupar	Sept. 26, 62
Jean Cameran, child murder	Oct. 19, 64
Duncan Campbell, & John Chapel, murder	June 19, 67
Alex. M'Donald, cattle stealing	Nov. 27, 72
Francis Thornlie, housebreaking	June 7, 74
John Fisher, housebreaking	July 17, 75
James Dorn, highway robbery	May 31, 93
Robert Rodger, highway robbery	June 21, 93
Donald M'Craw, murder	Nov. 13, 95
A West, housebreaking—executed at Dundee	June 12, 1801
Hans Regelson, rape	June 28, 12
John Larg, and John Mitchell, robbery	Feb. 28, 17
Margaret Tindel, murder—executed at Montrose	Nov. 2, 23
David Balfour, murder—executed at Dundee	June 3, 25
Margaret Wishart, murder—executed at Forfar	June 15, 27
Arthur Woods, murder—executed at Dundee	Ma0. 24, 29
Thomas Leith, murder—executed at Dundee	Oct. 10, 47
John Kellocbar, murder—executed at Forfar	May 9, 52
Michael and Patrick Scaulan, brothers murder and robbery do Cupar	July 5, 52

DUMFRIES.

William Johnstone, theft	Nov. 3, 1780
John Carmichael, housebreaking	May 27, 86
Maitland Smith, murder and robbery	Oct. 21, 1800
James Gordon, murder	June 6, 10
John M'Canna, and Joseph Richardson, forgery	May 14, 28
James M'Manus, highway robbery	Oct. 18, 29
Mrs Reid or Timney, murder	April 19, 62

ABERDEEN.

John Hutchison, housebreaking & theft	June 28, 1766
Helen Watt, murder	Oct. 11, 63
William Keith, (her son) murder	Nov. 15, 66
Jean Craig, theft	July 28, 85
Elsbeth Reid, theft	Jan. 14, 85
Thomas Donaldson, Wm. Buchanan, and Wm. M'Leod, housebreaking	May 23, 1823
Malcolm Gillespie, forgery	Nov. 17, 26
Catherine Davidson, murder	Oct. 30, 36
James Burnet, murder	May 28, 49
James Robb, murder	Oct. 10, 49
George Christie, robbery & double murder	Jan. 13, 53
John Booth, murder	Oct. 21, 57

JEDBURGH.

David Douglas, robbery	Nov. 18, 1768
William Murray, theft	May 26, 89
Charles Mercer, rape	Oct. 10, 1809

John Gibson, murder
 Robert Scott, murder
 James Rogers, murder
 M. Wilson, murder

May 12, 1814
 Oct. 23, 1828
 Oct. 20, 1831
 Sep. 25, 1849

MONTROSE.

Andrew Brown, murder, Jan. 31, 1866

LINLITHGOW.

Peter McLean, murder, Feb. 2, 1851

FOR WITCHCRAFT.

Allison Pearson, Fifehire; practising sorcery and
 invoking the devil, strangled and burned 1582
 Euphame McClusean, Edinburgh, burned alive 1591
 Patrick Lurie, consulting with the devil burned 1601
 James Young, East B. rns, strangled and burned 1621
 Janet Brown, Burntisland, condemned and executed 1649
 Isobel Bardie, and three women, strangled and burned 1649
 Isobel Elliot, Edinburgh for having carnal copulation with
 the devil, burned by the executioner 1672

THE ENGLISH CRIMINAL CODE.

In the reign of Henry VIII., according to Sharon Turner, there were executed 72,000 great and petty thieves, according to Hume, 2000 were executed annually during that reign, for theft and robbery only, besides other criminals. In the century from 1638 to 1738 there were 70,000 executions, or 700 per annum. From 1820 to 1824, the first inclusive and the last exclusive, or 93 a year. From 1828 to 1831, there were 230, or 57½ a year. From 1882 to 1835, there were 155, or 38½ a year but in the year 1836 there were only 17 executions.

The Plantagenets made 4 offences capital.

The Tudors 27

The Stuarts 35

The Hanoverians 156

Which were reduced in number, considerably in the reign of George IV and William IV., and in the reign of her present Majesty, so great has been the sanctoration of our Criminal Code, that there are now only 9 offences punishable with death.

For the origin of this purification of our Statute Book from blood, we are manly indebted to the late Sir Samuel Rowney and the late Mr Whitbread.

IN PAISLEY.

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