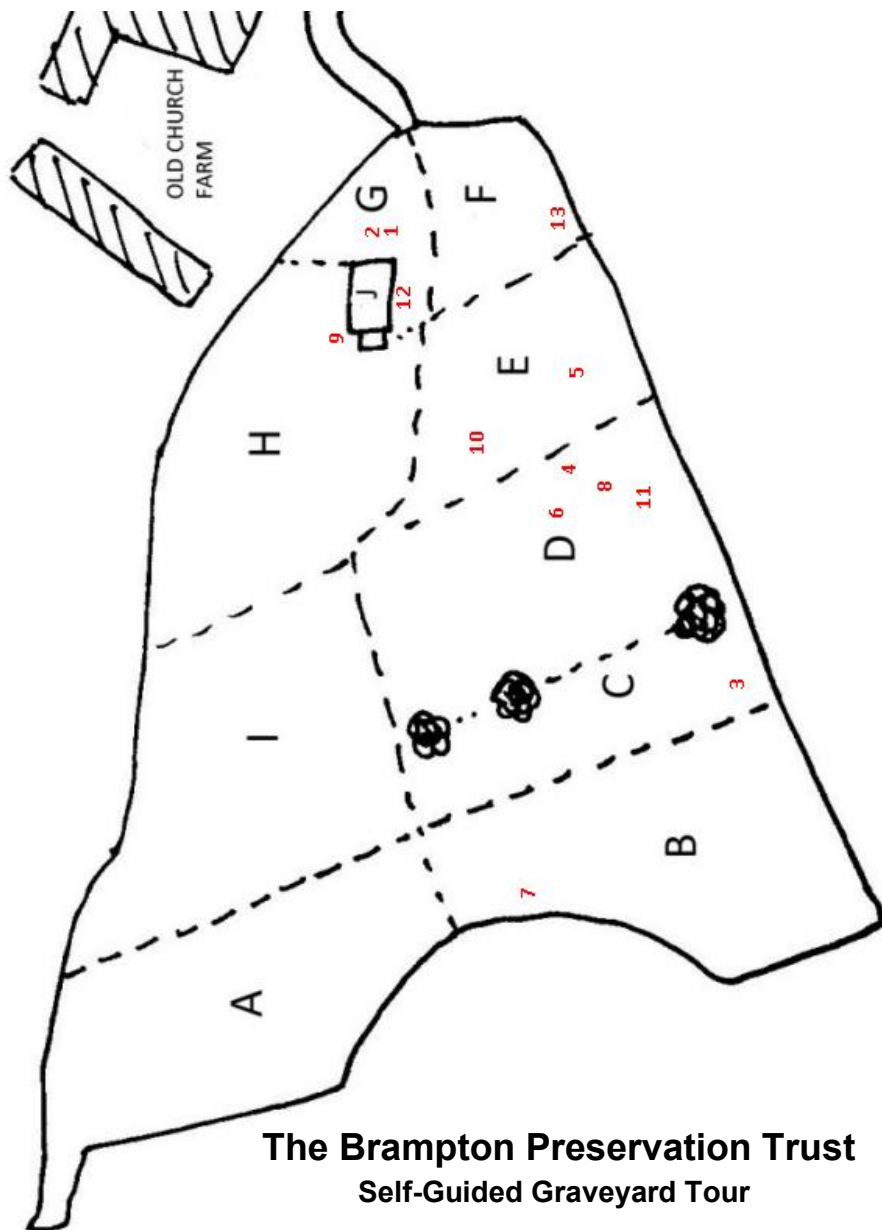




The Brampton Preservation Trust
Self-Guided Graveyard Tour

Please enjoy discovering the monuments in this beautiful place – if you have any questions about any of the graves please ask or email Brittany at solvingyourmysteries@gmail.com

1. *Big rectangular stone, mostly blank.* Although not many particulars of **William Atkinson** are known - beyond his profession - this stone is the oldest dated grave which stands exposed to the elements in the churchyard.

2. *Next to Atkinson.* **William Burrough** was descended from a longstanding, respectable family. While few of his own personal details survive, his tombstone records the esteem in which his family was held.

His descendants continued the family's tradition of public service and distinction. Among them was Captain William Burrough Strong (d. 14 Oct 1846), who served in the 2nd Battalion of the 44th Regiment. He was wounded twice at the Battle of Waterloo.

The Burrough family was also connected to the arts through William's grandfather, Thomas Highmore, a court painter in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Highmore served as Serjeant Painter to King William III. The coat of arms on the stone is blazoned as "*A couple close gemelle between 3 chaplets of 5 flowers. Crest – out of a couple close, a griffin's head.*" The motto is "Vive ut vivas" – "Live to live".

3. *Large gray stone with urn decoration on top.* **Peter Burn** (1830 – 6 Feb 1902) was known for his literary and charitable contributions. He was a poet and writer, achieving local acclaim for his 1885 collection of poems and prose. He authored the novel *Rosenthal* and numerous works reflecting the folklore, history, and people of North and East Cumberland. His works were admired for their tenderness and optimism, and he frequently composed poetry for ceremonial occasions and political events.

Burn supported multiple denominations and was closely associated with Rev. Henry Whitehead. He was remembered as a man of optimism and generosity, devoted to helping others in times of need.

4. *Sundial behind flat stone.* **Florence Evelyn Arnott** MBE RRC (1873–1965) was awarded the Royal Red Cross (RRC) and the Member of the British Empire (MBE) for her exemplary service during World War I.

Florence served as the Commandant-in-Charge of St Michael's Auxiliary Military Hospital in Brampton, overseeing the care of wounded soldiers. Her leadership and dedication to nursing earned her recognition from the British government. In 1918, she was invested with the MBE by King George V at Buckingham Palace.



She was deeply involved in local affairs and was a member of the Brampton Parish Council, playing a pivotal role in the establishment of the Brampton Boys' Club.

5. *Large black cross, southeast of tree.* **William Carrick** (15 Aug 1804 – 14 Jul 1877) was a solicitor and coroner for the Eastern Division of Cumberland, a post he held for forty-two years, overseeing nearly four thousand inquests. He gained a reputation for fairness, judgment, and sound legal knowledge, earning widespread respect. Notable cases included the discovery of a murder through his astute perception of character and the inquest into the St Nicholas Crossing collision in 1870.

His son, William Carrick, pursued agriculture and became a respected figure in local sports, introducing innovations like the mowing machine to the district and co-founding the Talkin Tarn Regatta.

6. *Two rows behind Florence Arnott, smaller stone with leaf design on top.* **Edward Forster** (c. 1843 – 5 Jul 1926) was a tailor and cornet player from Brampton, renowned for his musical skill and dedication to local bands. He began learning the cornet at the age of 14 in 1857 and

by 1859, had formed a small brass ensemble with friends, later joining the Brampton Rifle Corps as a bandsman, eventually becoming bandmaster with the rank of sergeant. Forster played a prominent role in the town's musical life for decades.

He conducted and performed at major events, including the unveiling of the Lord Carlisle monument in 1870, visits to Naworth Castle by dignitaries including W. E. Gladstone, and at various regattas and volunteer reviews. He was also a member of the trio "Forster and Davidson," performing with the visually impaired Davidson brothers for over 30 years, bringing music to communities across Cumberland and northern England.

7. White writing on gray stone with leaf designs on top. Furthest row in the churchyard. **Joseph Hope** (6 Jun 1850 – 9 Apr 1922) is remembered for his long career as a railway engineer and publican. Born in Brampton, Hope spent nearly half a century abroad, first in the United States, where he served as an engine driver on the Chicago Grand Trunk Line for nine years, before transferring to the Canadian Grand Trunk Railway, where he worked for over eighteen years.

Returning to Brampton, he took over as landlord of the Barley Stack Inn, a position he held for 21 years. During this time, he became a familiar and respected figure in the town, known for his hospitality and warmth.

8. Large gray cross. **Robert French** (c. 1838 – 5 Jan 1889) was a draper and civic figure of Brampton. Born locally, French became well known for his involvement in public affairs, serving as a member of the Board of Guardians and actively participating in community initiatives. He was admired for his dedication and commitment to the town.

After the death of his wife in August 1888, French became deeply despondent. Despite efforts by friends and family to support him, he struggled with depression in the months following her passing. On 5 January 1889, his body was discovered drowned in a cistern at his

home, Ridge House, Brampton. The inquest concluded that he had taken his own life while suffering from temporary insanity.

9. *Directly next to the wall of the church.* **Margaret Richardson** (1729–1813) was born in Scotland and came to Brampton in 1745 during the Jacobite rising when, at the age of sixteen, she accompanied the Highland army as it passed through the town. She chose to remain in Brampton when the army departed, avoiding the dangers that befell some of the other girls who had followed the march.

In 1748, she married John Richardson of Easby, a member of a longstanding yeoman family. Margaret's life was marked by a strong sense of personal autonomy and intellect, with local records noting that she was believed to be of noble birth, though she remained discreet about her origins. She inherited the family estate at Easby after her husband's death in 1799 and passed it on to her grandson upon her own death in 1813.

Margaret was known for her sharp wit and unorthodox views. An epitaph she composed for her own grave criticized traditional religious practices and reflected her skeptical and independent spirit. Although the original inscription was later removed by church authorities, and the stone broken up, it remains a testament to her unique personality and fearless expression of her beliefs.

*"Here rest my old bones; my vexation now ends;
I have lived far too long for myself and my friends.
As for churchyards and grounds which the parsons call holy,
'Tis a rank piece of priestcraft and founded in folly:
In short I despise them; and as for my soul,
It may rise the last day with my bones from this hole;
But about the next world I ne'er troubled my pate;
If no better than this, I beseech thee, O Fate,
When millions of bodies rise up in a riot,
O pray let the bones of old Margaret lie quiet!"*

10. *Directly facing church doors, large reddish stone with wreath design at the top.* **Mary Martin** (c. 1824 – 14 Jun 1876) was the wife of Captain F. F. Harrington RNR and tragically lost her life in the wreck of the barque *Geltwood* off Rivoli Bay, South Australia. She was 52 years old at the time of her death, which occurred alongside her husband and all on board the ship.

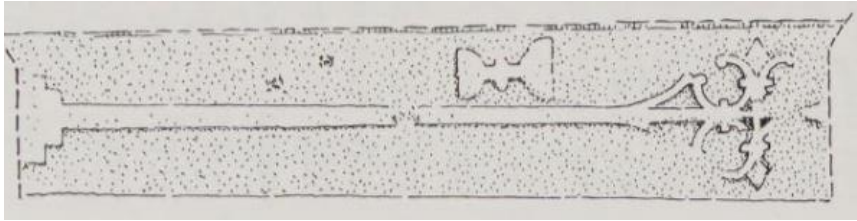
The *Geltwood*, an iron-built barque of 1,057 tons, was commanded by Captain Harrington and embarked on its maiden voyage from Liverpool to Melbourne. The vessel carried a cargo of salt, coke, slate, and general merchandise, valued at approximately £50,000. The ship was wrecked in a dangerous part of the South Australian coast known as Cape Northumberland, a site notorious for shipwrecks.

The disaster attracted international attention, as the ship carried a number of Cumbrian crew members and passengers, including James Nelson Jr., architect of St Stephen's Church in Carlisle. The wreck was discovered weeks later, with portions of cargo found scattered along the coast.

11. *Large gray obelisk with urn on top.* **Reverend Joseph Bliss** (16 Jan 1816 – 28 Sep 1882) was a devoted Congregational minister who served Brampton for forty years. Bliss dedicated his life to the ministry and became widely respected for his pastoral care, and compassion.

He was known not only within his own congregation but across denominational lines, visiting and comforting members of all churches in the town. His personal kindness extended to children and the wider community. Upon his retirement, the town of Brampton recognized his decades of service by presenting him with a purse of gold, raised entirely by voluntary public subscription. His tombstone was also funded by the townsfolk.

12. *Pink sandstone slab lying in a recess on the south wall of the church. **Attributed to Robert West*** Unearthed in 1874, this delicately cut design depicts an ornate cross alongside a chalice. Attributed by John Robinson in the transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society 1986 to Robert West, vicar of Brampton in the 16th century.



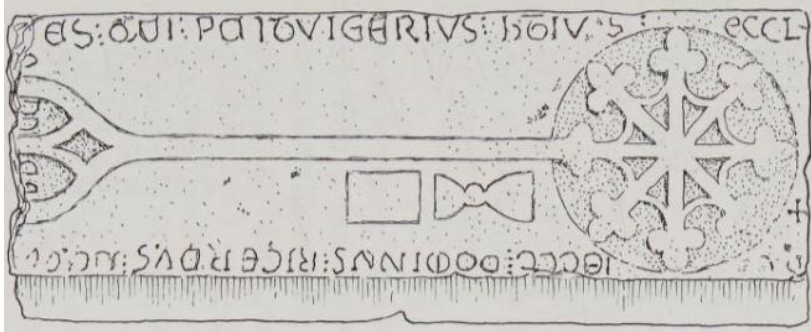
13. *Sandstone slab lying flat next to the south fence. **Attributed to Andrew Milburn of Talkin*** Bears the design of a simple cross with a stepped base, with a sword on the right. Henry Whitehead, vicar between 1874 and 1884, suggested that the initials 'A.M.' - which could then be seen on the base of the stone but have since eroded – may have stood for Andrew Milburn of Talkin, "*Andrew being a not uncommon Christian name in that ancient Talkin family*".



The following stones are inside the church building.

14. *Red sandstone slab with eight-terminal ring head cross set upright against the internal face of the south wall of the porch. **Richard de Caldecotes*** This stone was discovered in 1840 covered in a thick coat of moss, and thought to be unworthy of notice. It was turned over, and left for two years to remove the incrustation. When removed the inscription was noted, and the historical value of the stone discovered.

The inscription reads “HIC IACET DOMINUS RICARDUS DE CALDECOTES QUI FUIT VICARIUS ISTIUS ECCLE”, or “Here lies Richard Caldecotes who was once vicar of this church.” Richard was vicar between 1334 and 1346, during the erection of Naworth castle, so this stone is almost 700 years old. The inscribed emblems on the right-hand side of the stone are of a book and a chalice.



15. *Inscribed stone north of the altar.* **Phillip Feilding** Feilding was vicar of Brampton between 1662 and his death in 1692, and according to Henry Whitehead (above); “*cared nothing at all about the parish register, whether old or new; for having signed his name to the memorandum of his reading himself in, he never again, as far as I can make out, during the whole thirty years of his ministry, wrote another word in the register*”. During Feilding’s incumbency, the first proposal to remove the parish church to the town was put forward by Lord Carlisle. This offer was approved by both the bishop and the parishioners. However, the bishop recorded in 1704 that “*the then vicar Mr Feilding, who was rich and had no children, refusing to make some small contribution on his part, the earl was so far disgusted that the thing fell and came to the ground*”.

Many thanks to Bridget Casson and William Bundred from the Cumbria Family History Society for producing a transcript of the memorial inscriptions in the graveyard, as well as The Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society and Peter Ryder’s Medieval Cross Slab Grave Covers in Cumbria for information on the medieval stones.