



St Marys Church Dumfries

## Dumfries - St Mary's Churchyard

**Sergeant Archibald Johnston**, 2nd Dragoons the Scots Greys. His gravestone records he 'served in the above corps for a period of 24 years and was present with his regiment at the ever memorable Battle of Waterloo.' On 18th June 1818 Sergeant Major Johnston presided at an anniversary dinner in the Trades Hall in Dumfries town centre, after four troops of the regiment had paraded through the town. In later life he became landlord of the Ewe and Lamb, Queensberry Street, where he arranged annual dinners to celebrate the victory at Waterloo. These were often attended by up to 80 gentlemen including the Provost. *(Immediately to the rear of the church).*

## Kirkmahoe Churchyard, Kirkton

*(4 miles north of Dumfries, off the A701)*

### Ensign John

**Bramwell**, 92nd Foot Gordon Highlanders, was lucky to survive the action to defend the crossroads at Quatre Bras, two days before the battle at Waterloo.

His regiment, the Gordon Highlanders, held the line as the Brunswick Hussars were routed and the Duke of Brunswick killed. As the 92nd advanced at close quarters with the bayonet, the Ensign carrying the Regimental Colour fell dead and the staff of the Colour shattered into pieces. Ensign Bramwell is said to have wrapped the Colour round his body to prevent it being captured. He was so badly wounded that eventually his right leg had to be amputated. From 1820 he farmed at Blackaddie, Sanquhar, until he moved to West Gallaberry, Kirkmahoe. *(Close to the rear of the church, to the right).*



Kirkmahoe Church, Kirkton



Ensign Bramwell,  
Kirkmahoe Church Kirkton

## Penpont Churchyard,

*(17 miles north of Dumfries, turn off the A76 at Thornhill)*

**Private John Ross**, 92nd Foot. Two days before the battle, he fought in the action at Quatre Bras against determined attacks by French cavalry. Towards the end of the day at Waterloo he was wounded. John married Mary Ross and they had eleven children. He worked as a forester at Eccles House, Penpont, for 30 years and died aged 76. His gravestone has recently been restored.

*(At the churchyard wall overlooking the river).*



Private Ross, Penpont

## Glencairn Churchyard, Moniaive

*(23 miles north of Dumfries, turn off the A76 at Thornhill or 17 miles via Dunscore on the B729)*

**Private William Smith**, 2/73rd Foot, was brought up in Moniaive by his mother whose family had lived there for over a century. He joined the Dumfriesshire Militia and was one of 20 men from it who enlisted as volunteers in the 2nd Battalion the 73rd Regiment. At Waterloo, the 2/73rd received punishing close range bombardment from French artillery. They took so many casualties that no officers remained unwounded and the battalion was about to collapse. The Colours were sent



Private Smith,  
Glencairn Church, Moniaive

to the rear to prevent capture but fortunately order was restored. He was discharged aged 24 in 1817, in consequence of an injury from a gunshot wound received at Waterloo. William married and raised a family in Chapel Street, Moniaive and worked in agriculture. In later life Private Smith said he he remembered the Allies entering Paris. *(Close to the Gillespie of Peelton mausoleum to the right of the rear of the church).*

*Cover photograph of Captain Clark's sword and medal taken with permission of Mr. H. Clark Kennedy, Carsphairn*

*Leaflet produced with considerable assistance from Sandy Hall, Moniaive.*

# Waterloo Remembered in Nithsdale



Portrait of the Duke of Wellington  
by Thomas Lawrence  
©National Trust for Scotland.  
Licensor www.scran.ac.uk.



The Battle of Waterloo, 18th June 1815, was a turning point in world history. It was fought close to Brussels in Belgium between the French, under the command of Napoleon Bonaparte, and British, Dutch, Belgian and German armies commanded by Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, and General Blücher of Prussia, now part of Germany.



The Battle of Waterloo painted by George Jones in 1815  
© Royal Scottish Academy of Art and Architecture

The Allied forces, under the overall command of the Duke of Wellington, totalled 67,000 soldiers including 17,000 troops from Hanover and Brunswick. Soldiers from Dumfries' twin town Gifhorn, which is between Hanover and Brunswick, took part in the battle. It was closely fought and either side could have won. Wellington described the battle as a 'damned near-run thing' but Napoleon's mistakes led to French defeat. Fortunately the German troops under General Blücher intervened at a crucial point and ensured the victory.



Gifhorn Coat of Arms

After his defeat at the battle, Napoleon was exiled to the island of St Helena where he died in 1821. The battle concluded the Napoleonic Wars which had started in 1799. The Napoleonic era was the last of numerous wars between Britain and France and marked the end of almost a millennium of intermittent conflict between the two nations. This decisive victory was a source of great celebration in Britain and brought about a peaceful co-existence between the two countries which continues to this day.

The battle entered the nation's consciousness and the soldiers who fought in it were treated with respect.

## Waterloo Monument, New Abbey

Overlooking the village, the Monument was erected by public subscription in 1816 at a cost of a little over £100. One of the subscribers was Jean Armour, Robert Burns's widow, who gave 5 shillings. There are extensive records about the building of the monument and many people took part in the procession to lay the foundation stone in 1815. *(Follow the road behind the corn mill for one mile and park at the bridge. There is a steep 20 minute walk to the Monument).*



Waterloo Monument,  
New Abbey

## Veterans' Graves

Over 50 men from Dumfries and Galloway were at Waterloo and many of those who survived are buried throughout the region. In Nithsdale there are graves in Dumfries, Kirkton, Penpont and Moniaive. Our graveyards are some of the most beautiful and historical corners of our region and are well worth exploring.



Sir Andrew Halliday  
St Michaels Church Dumfries

## Dumfries - St Michael's Churchyard

**Sir Andrew Halliday** was a surgeon at Waterloo. He campaigned about the treatment of the mentally ill for many years and became the Consulting Physician at the Crichton Hospital, Dumfries, which he helped to found. *(Just to the left of the main gate).*

**Private John Gornal**, 1st Royal Dragoons, was an experienced soldier, having enlisted in 1805, and was in No.4 troop which took part in the great charge which smashed into the French line at the battle. He lived in the Long Close, off Dumfries High Street. *(Table-top stone very close to the church door).*



Private Gornal  
St Michaels Church Dumfries



John Riddick  
St Michaels Church Dumfries

**Captain Alexander Clark**, 1st Royal Dragoons, was from Lochrutton, near Dumfries. Captain Clark led No 8 Troop in the charge of the Royal Dragoons. He captured the Eagle Standard of the 105th Ligne regiment, one of the only two Eagles taken at Waterloo, which are the most treasured trophies of the battle. He had two horses killed under him and was himself wounded. He was promoted to Lieutenant General and became Aide de camp (personal assistant) to Queen Victoria. *(Behind the stones to left of the path approaching Burns Mausoleum).*



Captain Clark's sword and  
campaign medal by his grave.  
St Michaels Church Dumfries



Eagle standard of the  
105th courtesy of the  
National Army Museum