

= Sir James Shaw , 1st Baronet =

Sir James Shaw , 1st Baronet (26 August 1764 ? 22 October 1843) , became Lord Mayor of London in 1805 . From humble beginnings in a farming family in Ayrshire , he became a successful merchant and politician ; he was a relation of Robert Burns and used his wealth to support Burns 's orphaned children . As Lord Mayor of London , he led the funeral procession of Lord Nelson in 1806 , having established his right to do so and was created baronet twice , in 1809 and 1813 . While later Chamberlain of London , he almost lost his own fortune due to injudicious investments , and died , exonerated , in 1843 .

= = Early life and career = =

Shaw was born on 26 August 1764 , in Riccarton , Kilmarnock , Scotland , the son of a " respectable farmer " , John Shaw , whose family had farmed the area of Mosshead for over 300 years , and Hellen Sellars . On the death of his father , the family moved to Kilmarnock , and Shaw studied at the local grammar school .

At the age of 17 , he followed his elder brother to America to seek work , returning after three years to take up a position in the same company 's London offices and becoming a junior partner in the firm . He became a wealthy merchant and financially assisted the children of Robert Burns after Burns 's death in 1796 . He was elected alderman for Portsoken in 1798 and became Sheriff of London and Middlesex in 1803 .

= = Lord Mayor of London = =

Shaw had developed a reputation as a " gentleman and a citizen " and was sponsored for the office of Lord Mayor of London by the Scriveners ' Company , and became only the second member of that guild to achieve that honour .

Having taken office in 1805 , Shaw determined to re @-@ establish the tradition whereby the Lord Mayor took precedence in public processions within the City of London over all except the reigning monarch , and took the opportunity of the funeral of Lord Nelson in 1806 to do so . According to one account , Shaw discussed the matter with the Prime Minister , Lord Liverpool , who was aware that the Prince Regent would be attending the funeral , but did not seem willing to take action . Shaw then offered to visit the King himself at Windsor Castle to resolve the matter , and Liverpool said that he would see what could be done . By the following day , the Royal Warrant of Precedence had been granted , and Shaw duly led the procession .

= = Baronetcy and later career = =

Shaw was created Baronet , of Kilmarnock , in the County of Ayr by George III in 1809 , and re @-@ created in 1813 by a second patent to include a future interest for his nephew . As such , he was appointed a Member of Parliament for London until 1818 , but thereafter sat as an alderman until he resigned in May 1843 . In 1831 he was also appointed Chamberlain of London , and was almost ruined as he inadvertently invested £ 40 @,@ 000 , (£ NaN as of 2016) then a huge sum , of city funds in fake Exchequer bills . On discovering his error , he began to liquidate all his property to repay the sum , but was cleared by a commission of enquiry . Shaw resigned all his positions in 1843 due to long @-@ term illness and died some six months later on 22 October . Shaw was unmarried , and normally his baronetcy would have become extinct on his death , but because of the second patent , the title passed to his nephew , John Shaw .

Shaw was also President of St Bartholomew 's Hospital from 1806 to 1831 and President of the Honourable Artillery Company from 1829 to 1843 .

= = Legacy = =

Shaw is commemorated in Kilmarnock town centre by a statue of Carrara marble , about 17 feet tall , on a base of Aberdeen granite , executed by sculptor James Fillans (1808 ? 52) . The cost was defrayed by public subscription , which raised almost £ 1000 . It was unveiled on 4 August 1848 and was originally located at the Kilmarnock Cross . On 28 March 1929 the statue was moved to the area of The Dick Institute just off the London Road because of the increase in traffic around the centre of the town .

It was described as

... a noble work of art , worthy of the creative genius of the sculptor , Mr. Fillans , and no less worthy of the venerable baronet whom it commemorates , and of whom , we believe , it is a faithful likeness . In symmetry of form it is truly admirable . The mild , benevolent features of Sir James are finely developed ; and , as a whole , it is replete with that seeming animation and intellectual expression which mark the superior powers of the sculptor , and give to the object itself a high and permanent interest .

His portrait (pictured above) is also shown in the Guildhall , London .