

22 August 2026

Finding Lachlan MacTavish

Evidence for the 1796 Burial of Clan MacTavish's 19th Chief

Greyfriars Kirkyard, Edinburgh

Researched and written by John R. Harrison-Stevenson, Seannachie

Office of the Seannachie, Clan MacTavish

August 2026

Authorial Responsibility and Provenance: John R. Harrison-Stevenson conducted the research synthesis, evaluated and correlated the cited evidence, prepared the comparative figures, and is solely responsible for this article's analysis and final conclusions. Emma Maxwell's commissioned search report is reproduced with permission and represents her research and conclusions at the time it was prepared. Unless otherwise stated, materials described as "prepared by the author," "author-held," or "privately held by the author" are preserved in Harrison-Stevenson's research files. Wording within Maxwell's reproduced report remains unchanged and reflects the client-researcher relationship under which it was prepared.

KEY FINDING

Lachlan MacTavish was buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard on 17 September 1796, in the place recorded as the "Middle of Kincaids Ground."

The record confirms the kirkyard and burial area. It does not identify an extant individual stone. The photographed wall monument is the Young/Kincaid monument and should be used only as a landmark for the recorded ground.

The Question Behind the Search

Clan MacTavish's published chiefly pedigree identifies Lachlan MacTavish of Dunardry, who died in 1796, as the nineteenth chief. The present article adopts that ordinal designation as the clan's own published usage; it does not attempt to re-examine the full chiefly succession.¹

The burial question arose from a long-standing family attribution that placed Lachlan at Greyfriars Kirkyard in Edinburgh and associated him with a prominent carved wall monument. The enquiry sent to genealogist Emma Maxwell asked for the burial site to be confirmed from original records, for the photographed monument to be tested against inscriptional evidence, and for relevant burial, lair, plan and monumental sources to be identified.²

A separate testamentary record establishes that the man under investigation was not merely a similarly named Edinburgh official. The Edinburgh Commissary Court record describes the deceased as "Lauchlane McTavish Esquire, late of Dunardry," states that he died at Edinburgh, and identifies "Mary Loch my beloved wife," also recorded by her married name as Mary McTavish, as his relict, sole executrix, and universal legatee. The testament directs £500 sterling to each of four children—Dugald, John, Margaret, and Flora. It does not state Lachlan's birth date or birthplace; "late of Dunardry" is a

¹Clan MacTavish, 'Royal Pedigree - Cenel nDuach and the MacTavish Chiefs,' PDF pedigree, entry for Lachlan MacTavish of Dunardry (died 1796), identified as nineteenth chief, Clan MacTavish, <https://clanmactavish.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Royal-Pedigree-Cenel-nDuach-and-The-MacTavish-Chiefs-.pdf> (accessed 4 August 2026); Clan MacTavish, 'History of Clan MacTavish,' <https://clanmactavish.org/history> (accessed 4 August 2026).

²John R. Harrison to Emma Maxwell, email, 30 May 2026; Emma Maxwell to John R. Harrison, emails, 2 and 24 June 2026; correspondence privately held by Harrison-Stevenson; transcript and composite image prepared by the author in Appendix A.

designation, not evidence that he was born there. These details link the Edinburgh death directly to the chiefly family of Dunardry.³

Research Question, Scope and Standard

The focused question is: Where was Lachlan MacTavish of Dunardry buried in September 1796, and does the supplied monument photograph depict his personal tomb? The enquiry compared the original parish burial register, its derivative name index, the testamentary record, a contemporary newspaper clipping, published monumental inscriptions, heritage records, modern orientation material, and Maxwell's commissioned research report. Conflicts were identified and resolved by giving greatest weight to the legible image of the original burial entry and to identity details that agree across independently created records.

The conclusion is presented as a proof summary consistent with the Genealogical Proof Standard: reasonably exhaustive research within the stated scope, source citations sufficient to relocate the evidence, analysis and correlation, resolution of the index-name conflict, and a written conclusion. The surviving register establishes that Lachlan was buried at Greyfriars, in the area recorded as the "Middle of Kincaids Ground." An exact modern grave position would require a narrower second-stage study, including item-level examination of Edinburgh City Archives series SL92 and relevant historic plans or conservation material.⁴

The Newspaper Clue

The initial chronological clue was a notice attributed to The Edinburgh Advertiser of 20 September 1796. It described Lachlan as Surveyor of the Window Tax and an ensign in the Royal Edinburgh Volunteers, and reported that members of the corps accompanied his body to the grave with military honours. The supplied clipping does not preserve its page, column, or originating repository. The newspaper title and date are therefore retained as an attribution, not represented as independently verified issue-level metadata.⁵

³Edinburgh Commissary Court, register of testaments, testament testamentar and inventory of 'Lauchlane McTavish Esquire late of Dunardry,' recorded 4 August 1797; National Records of Scotland (NRS), CC8/8/130, digital images 1513–1520, especially images 1513, 1516–1517; digital images, ScotlandsPeople; author-held PDF reproduced in Appendix E. Image 1513 identifies Mary McTavish as Lachlan's relict and executor; image 1516 names the four children Dugald, John, Margaret, and Flora; and image 1517 identifies 'Mary Loch my beloved wife.' The reason Margaret is omitted from the later tutory clause naming Dugald, John, and Flora is not stated.

⁴Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards*, 2nd ed., rev. (Nashville: Ancestry, 2021), standards 1-5; Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, 4th ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2024), especially the source-layering and historical-analysis principles in chapters 1-3.

⁵'On Friday died ... Lauchlan M'Tavish,' notice attributed to The Edinburgh Advertiser (Edinburgh, Scotland), 20 September 1796; author-held clipping supplied by John R. Harrison-Stevenson to Emma Maxwell, 30 May 2026; reproduced in Appendix C. The item carries an Edinburgh dateline of 17 September 1796 but preserves no page or column. For title and surviving-run

"On Friday died, at Edinburgh, much regretted, Lauchlan M'Tavish, Esq; Surveyor of the Window Tax, and an Ensign in the Regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers. His body was attended yesterday to the grave by a great number of that respectable Corps, and interred with Military Honours."

The notice is datelined Edinburgh, 17 September 1796, but its relative expressions - "On Friday" and "yesterday" - are awkward in a reprinted item. Friday fell on 16 September and Saturday on 17 September. The newspaper therefore establishes the death, occupation and character of the funeral, but the burial register is the better authority for the precise interment date. It explicitly gives 17 September 1796.

Why the Burial Appeared to Be Missing

Before civil registration began in Scotland in 1855, Church of Scotland parishes did not employ a uniform format for recording deaths and burials; surviving registers are incomplete and vary considerably in content.⁶ Derivative name indexes can introduce an additional obstacle when a handwritten name is mistranscribed, as occurred in this case.

Maxwell initially found no MacTavish entry in the ScotlandsPeople death and burial index despite extensive searches under Lauchlan, Lachlan, MacTavish, McTavish, M'Tavish and related forms. In her preliminary reply she considered Old Calton Burial Ground because the Greyfriars register appeared to survive without containing him. That was a reasonable working hypothesis, but it depended on the accuracy of the modern index.⁷

The Misindexed Entry

The breakthrough came when Maxwell searched the ScotlandsPeople index for all Edinburgh burials in 1796 without entering a surname and then navigated to the relevant days in September. The index returned only one Greyfriars burial for 17 September, attributing the entry to "William Smith." Upon examination, however, the handwriting in the microfilm-derived register image did not resemble that

context, see University of Illinois Library, 'Edinburgh Advertiser,' Historical Newspaper Database, https://www.library.illinois.edu/hpnl/newspapers/results_full.php?bib_id=37729; and Google News Archive, Edinburgh Advertiser, title ID VoB_afVdn6EC, https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=VoB_afVdn6EC (both accessed 13 August 2026). The Google viewer contains no September 1796 issue; the originating copy and any reprint source remain unverified.

⁶ScotlandsPeople, 'Church Registers,' section 'Old Parish Registers,' <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/help-and-support/guides/church-registers> (accessed 4 August 2026); National Records of Scotland, 'Old Parish Registers,' <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/learning-and-events/research-guides/old-parish-registers/> (accessed 4 August 2026); NRS, 'Coverage of the Old Parish Registers,' <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/learning-and-events/research-guides/coverage-of-the-old-parish-registers/> (accessed 4 August 2026).

⁷Emma Maxwell, Search Report: Lachlan MacTavish (unpublished client report, Scottish Indexes, 23 June 2026), 1-2, 5; Emma Maxwell to John R. Harrison, email, 2 June 2026; report reproduced in Appendix B.

indexed name and appeared instead to read “Lauchlane McTavish.” The burial entry had survived; the obstacle to locating it under Lachlan’s name was the derivative index’s erroneous transcription⁸

The source volume is the Edinburgh Old Parish Register of deaths and burials, National Records of Scotland reference OPR 685/1/98, covering 1785 to 1803. The microfilm title frame records that the volume was filmed on 30 July 1983. That date identifies the filming event; it does not establish when a later derivative name index was created. A newly supplied color scan of the register page resolved the doubtful handwriting. The clearer color image confirmed that the surviving entry contained substantial identifying information: the name “Lauchlane McTavish,” his association with the Window Tax Office, the burial date of 17 September 1796, and the place of interment, “Middle of Kincaids Ground.”⁹

“Lauchlane McTavish, Window Tax Office; 17 [September 1796]; Middle of Kincaids Ground.”¹⁰

Four details converge: the unusual forename and surname, the Window Tax Office designation, the date fixed by the military funeral notice, and a place of interment within Greyfriars. Together they leave no reasonable doubt that this is the burial of Lachlan MacTavish of Dunardry. The index entry under William Smith is a transcription error, not evidence for a different burial.

Impact of the Derivative Index Error

The 30 July 1983 date belongs to the microfilm title frame, not to the derivative index. The evidence therefore does not support describing the erroneous index entry as having been made on that date or measuring its duration from 1983.

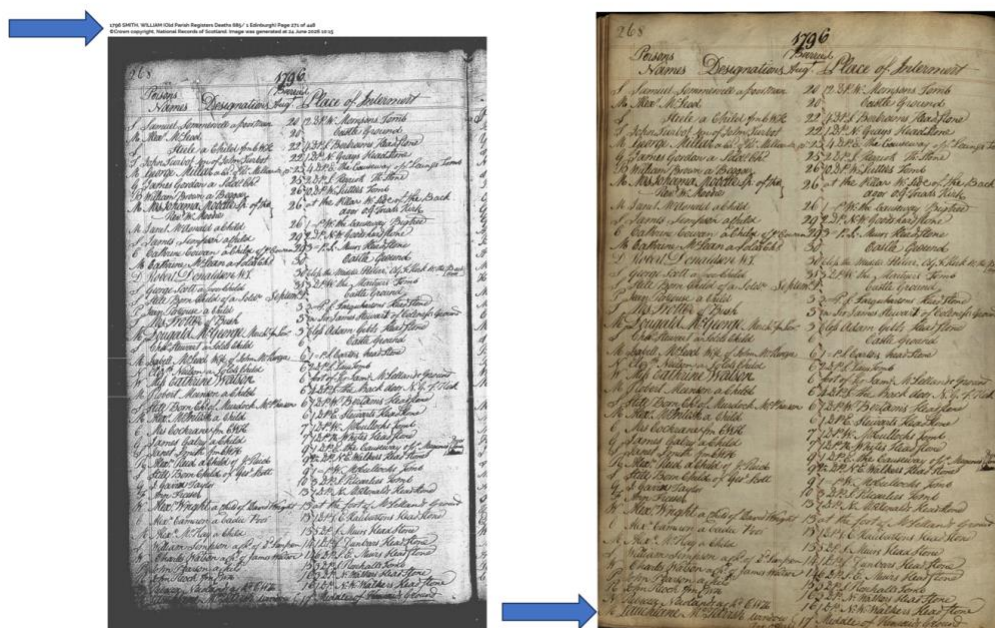
The practical effect is nevertheless clear. A name search for MacTavish and its variants could not retrieve an entry indexed as 'William Smith,' directing researchers away from Greyfriars and making a surviving original record appear absent. The error obstructed name-based discovery until Maxwell identified the entry in June 2026. The date on which the erroneous derivative entry first became publicly searchable has not been established.

⁸ScotlandsPeople search result, “1796 Smith, William,” derivative index entry for an Edinburgh burial dated 17 September 1796, citing NRS OPR 685/1/98, digital page 271; working comparison prepared by the author and reproduced in Appendix D3, p. 24; Emma Maxwell, *Search Report: Lachlan MacTavish* (unpublished client report, Scottish Indexes, 23 June 2026), 5, reproduced in Appendix B5, p. 18.

⁹Edinburgh parish, Greyfriars burial register, entry for “Lauchlane McTavish, Window Tax Office,” 17 September 1796, “Middle of Kincaids Ground,” folio 268, digital page 271 of 448; National Records of Scotland, Old Parish Registers, OPR 685/1/98; high-resolution color image supplied by NRS/ScotlandsPeople through Scottish Indexes, filename OPR685_010_0980_0271Z; reproduced in Appendix D2, p. 23.

¹⁰Edinburgh parish, Greyfriars burial register, entry for 'Lauchlane McTavish, Window Tax Office,' 17 September 1796, 'Middle of Kincaids Ground,' folio 268, digital page 271 of 448; NRS, Old Parish Registers, OPR 685/1/98; high-resolution color image supplied by NRS/ScotlandsPeople through Scottish Indexes, filename OPR685_010_0980_0271Z; reproduced in Appendix D.

Figure 1. Working comparison prepared by the author, showing the derivative ScotlandsPeople index/microfilm image and the color scan supplied from the National Records of Scotland. The comparison is illustrative; the original record is NRS OPR 685/1/98, folio 268, digital page 271. The archival reference, image number, and digital provider are sufficient to relocate the source; an account-bound person-result URL is not required.



What 'Middle of Kincaids Ground' Means

The register used existing graves, headstones and named burial grounds as spatial references. Entries on the same page include such descriptions as "Morrison's Tomb," "Castle Ground," a stated number of paces from a headstone, and the "Middle of McLellands Ground." In that context, "Middle of Kincaids Ground" denotes a defined burial area associated with the Kincaid family or its monument. It is more specific than merely saying Greyfriars, but it is not a modern numbered plot or a coordinate.

The surviving landmark is commonly called the Kincaid, Kinkaid, or Young/Kincaid Monument. Modern Greyfriars orientation material and Maxwell's comparison place it toward the side of the kirkyard fronting George Heriot's School, between the areas commonly described as the South and West Yards. The defensible locational statement is therefore that Lachlan was buried in Kincaid's Ground, close to the Kincaid/Young Monument. It would be too strong to claim that the surviving monument itself covers his individual grave.¹¹

¹¹Emma Maxwell, Search Report, 6-7; Greyfriars Kirk, 'Kirkyard,' including virtual tour, <https://greyfriarskirk.com/visit/kirkyard/> (accessed 4 August 2026); Historic Environment Scotland, 'Greyfriars Place, Greyfriars Churchyard, Including Monuments, Lodge Gatepiers, Railings and Walls,' listed building LB27029, Category A, designated 13 December 1970, last updated 29 March 2019, <https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/apex/?p=1505:300:::VIEWTYPE,VIEWREF:designation,LB27029> (accessed 4 August 2026).

The Photographed Monument

The photograph supplied with the enquiry had been identified within clan tradition as Lachlan's tomb. The historical inscriptions rule that out. James Brown's nineteenth-century transcription and the Royal Commission's later architectural inventory identify the elaborate wall monument with Dr Michael Young, the Reverend Robert Young, Mary Young, and Mary's husband Thomas Kincaid of Auchinreoch. The inscription commemorates deaths in 1675, 1677, 1679 and 1691 - roughly a century before Lachlan's burial.¹²

No known MacTavish relationship is stated in the inscription or in the research report. The monument is nevertheless central to the burial enquiry because the register uses Kincaid's Ground as its location. In other words, the photograph shows the landmark that helps locate Lachlan's burial area, not a monument erected to Lachlan.¹³

¹²James Brown, *The Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions in Greyfriars Churchyard, Edinburgh*, introduction and notes by David Laing (Edinburgh: J. Moodie Miller, 1867), 184, Hathi Trust Digital Library, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.hn3n2m?urlappend=%3Bseq=298%3Bownerid=27021597765907183-324> (accessed 4 August 2026); Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, *An Inventory of the Ancient and Historical Monuments of the City of Edinburgh with the Thirteenth Report of the Commission* (Edinburgh: HMSO, 1951), inventory no. 7, monument no. 36, p. 66, HES archive item WP 003950, official PDF, <https://i.rcahms.gov.uk/canmore-pdf/WP00003950.pdf> (accessed 13 August 2026); Emma Maxwell, Search Report, 2-4.

¹³Maxwell, Search Report, 3-5. The report's transcription names Michael Young, Robert Young, Mary Young, and Thomas Kincaid of Auchinreoch and states that no connection is known between the Young/Kincaid and MacTavish families. See also AOC Archaeology Group, 'Greyfriars Kirkyard - Dr Michael Young C27,' 3D model, Sketchfab, <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/greyfriars-kirkyard-dr-michael-young-c27-1c68a03262cb4f3fae176becaa81f10a> (accessed 4 August 2026).

Figure 2. Screenshot captured by the author on 4 May 2026 from Greyfriars Kirk, 'Kirkyard,' embedded virtual tour, <https://greyfriarskirk.com/visit/kirkyard/>. The carved wall monument is the Young/Kincaid Monument. It is relevant as the landmark for Kincaid's Ground, not as Lachlan's personal memorial.



Is There a Surviving Grave Marker?

No MacTavish inscription was found in the standard published transcriptions examined by Maxwell, including Brown's 1867 collection and the Scottish Genealogy Society's Greyfriars volume. That absence does not show that Lachlan was buried elsewhere. Burial registers record many more interments than there are surviving inscribed stones, and stones may never have been erected, may have weathered beyond legibility, or may have been removed or displaced.¹⁴

A Historic Environment Scotland photograph from the Edinburgh Photographic Society collection, reference DP 088513, appears to show a smaller stone in front of the Kincaid monument. Maxwell noted that this stone may no longer stand in the same position. The image is worth checking during an on-site survey, but neither its inscription nor any connection to Lachlan has been established. The HES catalogue page was unavailable during the present review, so its exact title, creator, and date remain unverified.¹⁵

¹⁴Brown, *Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions*, 184; John F. Mitchell, *Edinburgh Monumental Inscriptions (Pre-1855)*, vol. 4, Greyfriars Burial Ground (Edinburgh: Scottish Genealogy Society, 2003), ISBN 1-904060-18-8; Maxwell, Search Report, 2, 6.

¹⁵Historic Environment Scotland, Records of the Edinburgh Photographic Society, ref. DP 088513, image record, <https://www.trove.scot/image/1214177> (consulted 13 August 2026; catalogue page unavailable during review); Emma Maxwell, Search Report, 6. The catalogue title, creator, and date have not been independently verified.

Evidence Assessment

Confirmed. Lachlan MacTavish of Dunardry died in Edinburgh in September 1796; he was the Window Tax official and volunteer ensign described in the newspaper; and he was buried at Greyfriars Kirkyard on 17 September in the place recorded as the Middle of Kincaids Ground.

Strongly supported. Kincaid's Ground was the burial area associated with the surviving Young/Kincaid Monument, making the vicinity of that monument the best modern location for the interment.

Not established. The precise position of Lachlan's coffin within the ground, the existence or survival of a personal headstone, and any identification of the smaller stone visible in an old photograph remain unproved.

Ruled out. The prominent monument in the supplied photograph is not Lachlan's monument. Its inscriptions commemorate members of the Young and Kincaid families.

Conclusion

The burial mystery is resolved at the level the surviving record permits. A digital image of the original parish burial register, read from a modern color scan and corroborated by a contemporary newspaper notice and an independently created testamentary record, confirms Greyfriars Kirkyard and names the burial area. The discovery also explains why earlier name searches failed: the derivative index attributed the entry to William Smith.

Recommended commemorative wording: "Lachlan MacTavish of Dunardry, 19th Chief of Clan MacTavish, was buried at Greyfriars Kirkyard, Edinburgh, on 17 September 1796, in the area then recorded as the Middle of Kincaids Ground, near the Young/Kincaid Monument. His individual grave marker has not been identified as surviving."

For the Kinship Stones Project or any public interpretation, the words "near the Young/Kincaid Monument" are preferable to "at the Kincaid Monument." That wording preserves the important discovery while respecting the limits of the evidence.¹⁶

Further Work

A focused site inspection should document the ground immediately around the Young/Kincaid Monument, compare current conditions with the historic photograph, and look for displaced or recut stones whose hidden faces may preserve lettering. Edinburgh City Archives series SL92, 'Greyfriar's Church Burial records, 1771-1864,' overlaps the year 1796 and should be examined at item level for any

¹⁶This formulation follows the evidentiary distinction in Maxwell, Search Report, 6: the register proves burial in the 'Middle of Kincaids Ground,' while the surviving monument provides a nearby landmark rather than a demonstrated personal tomb.

duplicate entry, spatial annotation, plan, or administrative context not present in OPR 685/1/98. These steps may refine the modern position, but they are not required to sustain the principal conclusion.

Authorial Responsibility and Editorial Assistance

John R. Harrison-Stevenson conducted the research synthesis, evaluated and correlated the cited evidence, prepared the comparative figures, and is solely responsible for the article's analysis and final conclusions. Emma Maxwell conducted the commissioned archival search, located the misindexed burial entry, and authored the search report reproduced with permission in Appendix B.¹⁷

AI-use disclosure and verification. Harrison-Stevenson used OpenAI Codex, GPT-5, on 3–4, 13, and 22 August 2026 to organize evidence, locate public source metadata, draft and edit prose, format citations, and prepare the Word publication. On 22 August 2026 he used OpenAI's image-generation tool in Codex to create Figure F2; the specific image-model version was not disclosed. The prompts concerned Lachlan MacTavish's burial, the derivative-index conflict, the Young/Kincaid Monument, the testamentary family identities, authorship, and publication documentation. AI output was not treated as historical evidence. Harrison-Stevenson checked substantive assertions against the reproduced records, Maxwell's report, and the archival, bibliographic, and institutional sources cited in the footnotes, and he remains responsible for the final analysis and wording.

Status and remaining matters. The final page distinguishes the two outstanding research opportunities—issue-level newspaper metadata and the exact modern grave position—from the resolved permission to reproduce Emma Maxwell's report.

¹⁷Nicole Elder Dyer and Diana Elder, AG, *Research Like a Pro with AI: Genealogy Workbook*, 1st ed. (Family Locket Books, 2025), 35; Family Locket, 'Research Like a Pro with AI Workbook - Digital Only,' <https://familyloket.com/product/research-like-a-pro-with-ai-workbook-digital-only/> (accessed 13 August 2026).

Documentary Appendices

The appendices reproduce the supplied evidence set so that readers can distinguish original records, professional analysis, correspondence and later working graphics. Duplicate attachments have been included only once.

The ten reproduced NRS record images are within ScotlandsPeople's published allowance of no more than twenty NRS Crown-copyright images in a publication, provided that the images are accurate, not misleading, and acknowledge NRS.¹⁸

Appendix A - Correspondence. John R. Harrison's enquiry of 30 May 2026 and Emma Maxwell's replies of 2 and 24 June 2026, followed by a clean transcript.

Appendix B - Research report. Emma Maxwell, Search Report: Lachlan MacTavish (unpublished client report, Scottish Indexes, 23 June 2026), reproduced in full.

Appendix C - Newspaper clue. Author-held presentation image reproducing the attributed 1796 death and military-burial notice; issue-level source metadata remains unverified.

Appendix D - Burial register evidence. The microfilm title frame, color register page, and working comparison graphic prepared by the author. NRS images are reproduced with Crown-copyright acknowledgment under the ScotlandsPeople permitted-use provision for up to twenty images in a publication.

Appendix E - Testamentary record. Edinburgh Commissary Court testament, NRS CC8/8/130, digital images 1513-1520, reproduced in full under the same Crown-copyright acknowledgment.

Appendix F - Monument and supplementary working visuals. The author-captured monument screenshot and corrected AI-assisted infographic are derivative visual aids. They are included for orientation and communication, not as independent historical evidence.

¹⁸ScotlandsPeople, 'Copyright,' section 'Restricted use,' <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/copyright> (accessed 4 August 2026). The page permits individuals and organizations to reproduce up to twenty NRS Crown-copyright images in a publication without specific written permission, provided that the material is accurate, not misleading, and acknowledges NRS.

Appendix A - Correspondence and Research Enquiry

A1. Composite screenshot prepared by the author, showing John R. Harrison's enquiry and Emma Maxwell's replies, May-June 2026.

30 May 2026

Dear Emma,

I hope Graham and you are well. I am a regular attendee of the Scottish Indexes Conferences held throughout the year, and I greatly appreciate the work you both do to support careful, source-based Scottish family-history research.

I am writing to ask whether Scottish Indexes may be able to assist with a focused Edinburgh burial inquiry concerning **Lauchlan / Lachlan M'Tavish**, also rendered **MacTavish**.

I have a newspaper death notice said to be from *The Edinburgh Advertiser*, published **20 September 1796**, which reports that he died in Edinburgh on Friday and was buried with military honours. The notice reads, in modernized form:

On Friday, Lachlan MacTavish, Esquire, died in Edinburgh and was much regretted. He had served as Surveyor of the Window Tax and as an ensign in the Regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers. Yesterday, many members of that respected corps accompanied his body to the grave, where he was buried with military honors. Edinburgh, 17 September 1796.

The original notice identifies him as:

"Lauchlan M'Tavish, Esq; Surveyor of the Window Tax, and an Ensign in the Regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers."

Family information suggests that he was buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard / Greyfriars Cemetery, Edinburgh.

I am enclosing a photograph taken from the Greyfriars website listed below on 4 May 2026, which was identified by Chief Steven MacTavish of Dunardry, Chief of the Name and Arms of Clan MacTavish, that is believed to be Lachlan's tomb or grave monument.

I would like to determine whether the location can be confirmed through available records, monument inscriptions, cemetery plans, burial registers, lair records, or other Edinburgh sources.

Could you please advise whether you offer research services to:

1. Locate and confirm the burial site of Lachlan M'Tavish / MacTavish in Greyfriars.
2. Determine whether the photographed monument corresponds to him or his family.
3. Identify any surviving burial, lair, monumental inscription, or churchyard records connected to him.
4. Provide a source-based report with citations and, if available, images, map references, plot/lair details, and transcription of any relevant inscription.
5. Search for variant spellings, including **Lauchlan, Lachlan, M'Tavish, M'Tavish, McTavish, MacTavish**, and possible long-s typeface variants.

On Jun 2, 2026, at 5:59 AM, Emma Maxwell <emma@scottishindexes.com> wrote:

Dear John,

Nice to hear from you. I've had a quick look at this and can't see a quick answer for you. I can certainly review available records and even go physically to the kirkyard if need be to investigate this.

My instinct is telling me that Lachlan M'Tavish was buried in the Old Calton burial ground. One reason is that the burial register for Greyfriars seems to survive and he's not in it. I would like to check to see if this is a register of deaths or burials, as that can sometimes explain missing entries.

Wikipedia identifies the monument in Greyfriars as the Kincaid monument: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greyfriars_Kirkyard#media/File:The_Kincaid_monument,_Greyfriars_Kirkyard.jpg. I think this would be worth investigating to see if we can rule it out.

Of course, if the original registers have been lost and the gravestone has crumbled, it may be that we cannot answer this question conclusively.

EM

Emma Maxwell

Re: Research Inquiry: Burial Location of Lachlan M'Tavish, Greyfriars, Edinburgh, 1796

To: John R. Harrison

June 24, 2026 at 7:20 AM

#

Hide

Hi John,

I am delighted to tell you that I have found the burial record of Lachlan MacTavish. I have attached a report along with supporting documents.

As I mentioned in the report, it could be worth physically checking the area, but I suspect the stone is long gone.

Kind regards,

Emma Maxwell
Genealogist at www.scottishindexes.com

Clean Transcript

John R. Harrison to Emma Maxwell, 30 May 2026

Dear Emma,

I hope Graham and you are well. I am a regular attendee of the Scottish Indexes Conferences held throughout the year, and I greatly appreciate the work you both do to support careful, source-based Scottish family-history research.

I am writing to ask whether Scottish Indexes may be able to assist with a focused Edinburgh burial inquiry concerning Lauchlan / Lachlan M'Tavish, also rendered MacTavish.

I have a newspaper death notice said to be from *The Edinburgh Advertiser*, published 20 September 1796, which reports that he died in Edinburgh on Friday and was buried with military honours. The notice reads, in modernized form:

On Friday, Lachlan MacTavish, Esquire, died in Edinburgh and was much regretted. He had served as Surveyor of the Window Tax and as an ensign in the Regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers. Yesterday, many members of that respected corps accompanied his body to the grave, where he was buried with military honors. Edinburgh, 17 September 1796.

The original notice identifies him as: 'Lauchlan M'Tavish, Esq; Surveyor of the Window Tax, and an Ensign in the Regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers.'

Family information suggests that he was buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard / Greyfriars Cemetery, Edinburgh.

I am enclosing a photograph taken from the Greyfriars website listed below on 4 May 2026, which was identified by Chief Steven MacTavish of Dunardry, Chief of the Name and Arms of Clan MacTavish, as what is believed to be Lachlan's tomb or grave monument.

I would like to determine whether the location can be confirmed through available records, monument inscriptions, cemetery plans, burial registers, lair records, or other Edinburgh sources.

Requested scope - burial site. Locate and confirm the burial site of Lachlan M'Tavish / MacTavish in Greyfriars.

Requested scope - monument. Determine whether the photographed monument corresponds to him or his family.

Requested scope - surviving records. Identify any surviving burial, lair, monumental inscription, or churchyard records connected to him.

Requested scope - report. Provide a source-based report with citations and, if available, images, map references, plot or lair details, and transcription of any relevant inscription.

Requested scope - variants. Search Lauchlan, Lachlan, M'Tavish, M'Tavish, McTavish, MacTavish, and possible long-s typeface variants.

Emma Maxwell to John R. Harrison, 2 June 2026

Dear John,

Nice to hear from you. I've had a quick look at this and can't see a quick answer for you. I can certainly review available records and even go physically to the kirkyard if need be to investigate this.

My instinct is telling me that Lachlan M'Tavish was buried in the Old Calton burial ground. One reason is that the burial register for Greyfriars seems to survive and he's not in it. I would like to check to see if this is a register of deaths or burials, as that can sometimes explain missing entries.

Wikipedia identifies the monument in Greyfriars as the Kincaid monument. I think this would be worth investigating to see if we can rule it out.

Of course, if the original registers have been lost and the gravestone has crumbled, it may be that we cannot answer this question conclusively.

Emma Maxwell to John R. Harrison, 24 June 2026

Hi John,

I am delighted to tell you that I have found the burial record of Lachlan MacTavish. I have attached a report along with supporting documents.

As I mentioned in the report, it could be worth physically checking the area, but I suspect the stone is long gone.

Kind regards, Emma Maxwell, Genealogist at Scottish Indexes.

Appendix B - Emma Maxwell's Research Report

B1. Emma Maxwell, Search Report: Lachlan MacTavish (unpublished client report, Scottish Indexes, 23 June 2026), page 1 of 7.

Search Report: Lachlan MacTavish

23 June 2026

Search Objectives:

The purpose of this search was to:

1. Locate and confirm the burial site of Lachlan M'Tavish / MacTavish in Greyfriars Churchyard. Lachlan died in Edinburgh in 1796.
2. Determine whether the photographed monument supplied by the client corresponds to him or his family.
3. Identify any surviving burial, lair, monumental inscription, or churchyard records connected to him.

Background:

A report published in The Edinburgh Advertiser on 20 September 1796 stated, "On Friday died, at Edinburgh, much regretted, Lauchlan M'Tavish, Esq; Surveyor of the Window Tax, and an Ensign in the Regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers. His body was attended yesterday to the grave by a great number of that respectable Corps, and interred with Military Honours. - EDINBURGH, 17th Sept. 1796."¹

In 1796, people were generally buried very soon after death. The 16th of September was a Friday, so the newspaper entry indicates that Lauchlan died and was buried on Friday, 16th September 1796. Many newspaper announcements and articles were reprinted in other newspapers; as the paper is dated 20th September, it appears that this was first published by another newspaper on 17th September 1796, then reprinted in The Edinburgh Advertiser on the 20th.

Pre-1855 Scottish death records can be challenging to locate. Church records are a mix of registers of deaths, burial records and accounts (showing the fees paid for a funeral). As with all paper records from the 18th century, survival is not guaranteed.

Extensive transcriptions have been made of gravestones (monumental inscriptions); however, these are only of surviving stones, and given the Scottish climate, not all have served for 230 years; that is, of course, if one was erected in the first place.

¹ Provided by the client.

B2. Emma Maxwell, *Search Report: Lachlan MacTavish (unpublished client report, Scottish Indexes, 23 June 2026), page 2 of 7.*

Research:

A search was made in the first instance of the index to church death records on ScotlandsPeople. This included spelling variants such as Lauchlan, Lachlan, M'Tavish, M'Tavish, McTavish, MacTavish and a thorough use of wildcards. No entry was located.

The will of Lachlan MacTavish was consulted to confirm that the 1796 death was that of Lachlan MacTavish, formerly of Dunardry.² It was felt this was important as the newspaper entry provided did not name any family members and Dunardry was not mentioned. Consulting the will confirmed that this was the correct Lachlan but shed no further light on the situation. Occasionally, funeral instructions are written in wills, but this was not the case in this instance.

A search was made in a number of published transcriptions of the monuments in Greyfriars Burial Ground and other Edinburgh burial grounds which were in use in 1796. This was done in the first instance using the 'Scotland Monumental Inscriptions' on Findmypast.com, which includes transcriptions published by the Scottish Genealogy Society. Again, spelling variants were checked, and wildcards were utilised. When this was not successful a variety of printed publications were searched.

- Brown, J. (1867). *The Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions in Greyfriars Churchyard, Edinburgh*. United Kingdom: J. Moodie Miller.
- *Edinburgh monumental inscriptions (pre 1855). Vol. 1. Old Calton Burial Ground New Calton Burial Ground*. Edinburgh: Scottish Genealogy Society, 2003.
- *Edinburgh monumental inscriptions (pre 1855). Vol. 2. Canongate Churchyard, & Holyrood Chapel Royal*. Edinburgh: Scottish Genealogy Society, 2003.
- *Edinburgh monumental inscriptions (pre 1855). Vol. 4. Greyfriars Burial Ground*. Edinburgh: Scottish Genealogy Society, 2003.
- *Edinburgh monumental inscriptions (pre 1855). Vol. 3. St. John's Episcopal Churchyard, Buccleuch Burial Ground, Jewish Burial Ground, & Quaker Burial Ground*. Edinburgh: Scottish Genealogy Society, 2003.

'Lachlan's Tomb Greyfriars Cemetery'



The photograph left was provided by the client, 'Lachlan's Tomb Greyfriars Cemetery'. As no burial information had so far been located, an investigation was made as to whose tomb this was.

In 2022, the City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH), as a part of the Making Lasting Impressions Project, commissioned AOC Archaeology to create a 3D record of carved wall monuments from the Greyfriars Kirkyard in Edinburgh. The 3D recording at Greyfriars will aim to create a

² ScotlandsPeople_CC000800008-00130-01513- Testament of Lachlan MacTavish.

B3. Emma Maxwell, *Search Report: Lachlan MacTavish (unpublished client report, Scottish Indexes, 23 June 2026)*, page 3 of 7.

benchmark for the conservation monitoring of gravestones, and allow the extraction of new information from the remaining carvings.

Seven monuments are available to view online at sketchfab.com. One monument is labelled as the grave of Dr Michael Young, and this corresponds with the photograph provided.³ This monument is also known as the Kinkaid Monument or the Thomas Kincaid Monument.⁴ Here is a translation of the inscription⁵:

To the most pious memory of Mr. Michael Young, most famous doctor of medicine; of Mr. Robert Young, most faithful preacher of the gospel ; of whom, this dyed in the moneth of January 1677, and that in the month of October 1675 ; and to the memory of their most beloved sister, Mary Young, who exchanged life with death, in February 1679. Thomas Kinkaid, chirurgeon and apothecarie at Edinburgh, surviving husband to the said Mary, caused this monument to be erected. At length here lyes the said Thomas Kinkaid of Auchinreoch, who exercised chirurgery and pharmacie in this city, for the space of 45 years, with equal success and skill. Good was he in his life, prudent and honest in his actions, ingenuous and without guile in his words, whence he lived most acceptable to all good men, and purchast wealth, renown, honour, and friends ; and having left seven children of one wife, with fifteen grandchildren. He dyed much lamented, 13 February, the year of our LORD 1691, and of his age 72. Chirurgeon skilful, pastour faithful too, Famous physician, loving wife as due, Are all here met, as in a common grave ; When neither art nor learning could them save. Nor piety nor modesty prevaile. Them to rescue, when death did them assail. All offices of life they serv'd so well, Their fame fills earth, their souls in heaven dwell.

An earlier reference is also made regarding this tombstone in "The Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments of Scotland. An inventory of the ancient and historical monuments of the city of Edinburgh with the thirteenth report of the Commission. Edinburgh (1951)".⁶ Here is a transcription of the entry:

Dr. Michael Young, the Reverend Robert Young, Mary Young, and Thomas Kincaid of Auchinreoch. Dr. Michael Young's monument stands recessed between two panelled piers of ashlar. Constructed in three parts, it has scrolled trusses at each side. At each end of the base is a panelled pedestal, displaying a cherub's head surmounted by a scroll, and flanking a central horizontal cartouche, enriched with a cherub's head but uninscribed. From the pedestals rise caryatid figures supporting an entablature which is no longer complete. From the bellied frieze projects a central corbel carved with fruits. Below the entablature and between the figures is an inscribed panel handsomely framed at the sides and bottom with strapwork, and at the top with a

³ View a 3D image of the grave of Dr Michael Young:
<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/greyfriars-kirkyard-dr-michael-young-c27-1c68a03262cb4f3fae176becaa81f10a>

⁴ Brown, J. (1867). *The Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions in Greyfriars Churchyard, Edinburgh*. United Kingdom: J. Moodie Miller. Page 184:
<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/hvd.hn3n2m?urlappend=%3Bseq=298%3Bownerid=27021597765907183-324>

⁵ Scotland Monumental Inscriptions, [Findmypast](https://findmypast.co.uk).

⁶ <https://www.trove.scot/archive/1471339>

B4. Emma Maxwell, *Search Report: Lachlan MacTavish (unpublished client report, Scottish Indexes, 23 June 2026)*, page 4 of 7.

sculptured scene. In this the central figure is the deceased seated at a table. Two angels hover above him holding a crown above his head and bearing scrolls, the legends on which are illegible. A hand issuing from a cloud in the upper left-hand corner points to a figure of Death below, who is balanced on the right of the panel by Time.

The inscription, scarcely legible to-day, runs: PIAE MEMORIAE / D(OMINI) MICHAELIS YOUNG MEDECINAE DOCTORIS CLARISSIMI / D(OMINI) ROBERTI YOUNG EVANGELII PRAECONIS FIDELISSIMI / QUORUM HIC MENSE JANUARI 1677 ILLE OCTOBRI [1675 Fatis functi sunt / Eorumque sororis DILECTISSIMAE MARIAE YOUNG / QUAE VITAM CUM MORTE CUMMUTAVIT, FEB 1679 / MONUMENTUM HOC QUAECUNQUE / THOMAS KINKAID CHIRURGUS ET PHARMACOPOEUS EDINBURGENUS / MARITUS MARIAE SUPERSTES PONI CURAVIT / TANDEM HIC RECUBAT IPSE THOMAS KINKAID AB AUCHINREOCH / QUI CHIRURGIA ET PHARMACIA HAC IN URBE NOVEN LUSTRA / NON MINORI CUM SUCCESSU QUAM PERITIA EXERCUIT / MORIBUS FUIT PROBUS / ACTIONIBUS PRUDENS ET HONESTUS / DICTIS INGENUUS ABSQUE FUCO / UNDE BONIS OMNIBUS PERGRATUS VIXIT / . OPES DECUS AMICOSQUE COMPARAVIT / ET LIBERIS SEPTEM UNA EX UXORE CUM QUINDECIM NEPOTIBUS / RELICTIS PLURIMUM DESIDERATUS OBIIT / IDIBUS FEBRUARII, AN(NO) DOM(INI) 1691 AETATIS SUAE 72].

("To the pious memory of Mr. Michael Young, a distinguished doctor of medicine, and of Mr. Robert Young, a faithful preacher of the Gospel, of whom the latter died in the month of January 1677 and the former in October 1675, and also to that of their beloved sister Mary Young, who exchanged life for death in February 1679, Thomas Kincaid, surgeon and apothecary of Edinburgh, the husband and survivor of Mary, had this humble monument set up.

At long last here rests the said Thomas Kincaid of Auchinreoch, who practised surgery and pharmacy in this city for forty-five years with a success that equalled his skill. He was upright in character, prudent and honourable in action, and frank and sincere in speech, wherefor he lived beloved by all good men, acquired wealth, honour, and friends, and died, grievously mourned, leaving seven children by one wife and fifteen grand-children, on the 13th of February A.D. 1691, aged 72").

CHIR[URGUS PASTOR MEDICUS MATRONA PERITUS I FIDUS CLARUS AMANS HAC TUMULANTUR HUMO / NON ARS NON PI ETAS DOCTRINA MODESTIA SEXUS / IMMITIS FATI PELLERE TELA VALENT / OMNIBUS AT VITAE OFFICIIS CUM SINT BENE FUNCTI / FAMA ORBEM REPLET MENTIBUS ASTRA TENENT.]

("Surgeon, preacher, physician, and matron-the skilled, the faithful, the famous and the affectionate are laid together in this ground. Not art nor piety nor learning nor womanly virtue can resist the shafts of cruel fate. But, all life's duties well discharged, their fame fills the world and in spirit they dwell in Heaven").

B5. Emma Maxwell, *Search Report: Lachlan MacTavish (unpublished client report, Scottish Indexes, 23 June 2026), page 5 of 7.*

No connection is known between the Young/Kincaid families and the MacTavish family.

Further Church Records Search

A broader search was made for Lachlan MacTavish throughout Scotland; no results were found.

Although the records for this period are well indexed, errors are possible, and it has been observed that names such as Lachlan which are less familiar to indexers can be mistranscribed.

Although Lachlan MacTavish could have been buried in any Edinburgh burial ground (or further afield) we began looking closely at the Greyfriars Kirkyard as that is where he is believed by many to have been buried.

The volume which covers Greyfriars Kirkyard for the year 1796 has the archival reference National Records of Scotland (NRS) OPR 685/1/98. These are indexed on ScotlandsPeople simply as 'Edinburgh'. A search was made on ScotlandsPeople for burials in Edinburgh in the year 1796, with no name in the search, resulting in 586 entries.

Navigating to September 1796, it was observed that, according to the index, only one burial took place in Greyfriars Kirkyard on 17 September 1796, which is the date Lachlan was buried according to the newspaper entry. According to the index, the entry was for William Smith.⁷

The entry for 'William Smith' is at the foot of the page. On viewing the image on ScotlandsPeople, it was immediately evident that the entry did not say William Smith but looked a lot like Lachlan MacTavish.⁸

The images on ScotlandsPeople are taken from microfilm scans of the original register; this particular register was filmed on 30 July 1983.⁹ These microfilms have been used by Family Search, ScotlandsPeople and others to index pre-1855 Scottish death records. Even though the indexes vary, the indexers have used the same images. Although good quality in 1983, they are not up to modern standards.

A colour scan of the register was therefore requested from the National Records of Scotland/ScotlandsPeople. This scan allowed us to read the entry correctly.¹⁰ [Note, ScotlandsPeople will be made aware of this indexing error].

⁷ ScotlandsPeople Screenshot - copy supplied

⁸ ScotlandsPeople_OPR685_010_0980_0271Z _ Burial of Lachlan MacTavish, 1796 - copy supplied

⁹ ScotlandsPeople_OPR685_010_0980_0001Z - copy supplied

¹⁰ ScotlandsPeople/National Records of Scotland OPR685_010_0980_0271Z _ Burial of Lachlan MacTavish, 1796 - copy supplied.

B6. Emma Maxwell, *Search Report: Lachlan MacTavish* (unpublished client report, Scottish Indexes, 23 June 2026), page 6 of 7.

The entry reads:

"Lauchlane McTavish, Window Tax Office; 17 [September 1796]; Middle of Kincaids Ground".

Conclusion:

Volume NRS OPR 685/1/98 is the burial register for Greyfriars Kirkyard. The register shows that Lauchlane was buried in the 'Middle of Kincaid's Ground'. Other burial plots on the same page are described in relation to existing or significant monuments, e.g. '12 D[ouble] P[aces] W[est of] Morrisons Tomb'. We would therefore conclude that Lauchlane was buried near to the Kincaid Monument.

Consulting the plan available at greyfriarskirk.com,¹¹ the Kincaid monument therefore lies in front of the grounds of Heriot's School between the South Yard and the West Yard.

Photographs of Edinburgh Photographic Society also show the Kincaid monument. In their historic photo, there is another smaller stone in front of the monument.¹² From the photographs, it appears as if this stone may now have been removed, although it is difficult to be conclusive about this due to the angles from which the photographs have been taken..

A comparison with the number of entries in the burial register and the number of surviving stones demonstrates that there is no gravestone for many of those buried in Greyfriars Churchyard.

We therefore conclude that Lachlan MacTavish was buried close to the Kincaid Monument.

Further research:

A close inspection of the graveyard near to the Kincaid Monument could be made for any evidence of a stone; however, as no transcription has been made in published works, it seems very unlikely that one survives. If a smaller stone from in front of the monument has been moved, it is possible that the side with an inscription cannot be seen and therefore was not transcribed.

Edinburgh monumental inscriptions (pre 1855). Vol. 4, Greyfriars Burial Ground. Edinburgh: Scottish Genealogy Society, 2003, includes a plan of the graveyard. As this is in copyright, a copy of the plan cannot be provided with this research, however, a copy can be purchased from the Tay Valley Family History Society:
<https://tayvalleyfhs.org.uk/product/edinburgh-mis-pre-1855-greyfriars-burial-ground-vol-4/>.

¹¹ See 'Can't visit in-person? Here is a virtual tour of the Kirkyard' on <https://greyfriarskirk.com/visit/kirkyard/>. The Kincaid monument is visible when you click the interactive dot next to 'stone 46' which is that of William Carstairs.

¹² HES (Records of Edinburgh Photographic Society, Edinburgh, Scotland) Reference: DP 088513; available to view online: <https://www.trove.scot/image/1214177>

B7. Emma Maxwell, Search Report: Lachlan MacTavish (unpublished client report, Scottish Indexes, 23 June 2026), page 7 of 7.

A copy is also available at the Family Search Library in Salt Lake City, UT:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/1187496>

There is also a plan available on <https://greyfriarskirk.com/visit/kirkyard/>

An in-person visit to the graveyard is recommended just in case there are any further clues, but it is doubtful that any will be found.

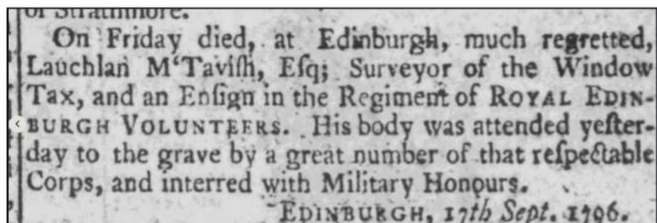
The scope of this research focused on locating Lachlan MacTavish's burial place. There are a great number of sources that could be consulted to learn more about Lachlan MacTavish's family history. For example, this is a family that will appear in deeds, sasines, and other legal records, all of which could add detail to the MacTavish family history and give more information on the wives of the MacTavish men.

Appendix C - The Newspaper Clue

C1. 'On Friday died ... Lauchlan M'Tavish,' death notice attributed to *The Edinburgh Advertiser* (Edinburgh, Scotland), 20 September 1796; author-held clipping supplied by Harrison-Stevenson to Emma Maxwell on 30 May 2026. The clipping is an evidentiary clue; the burial date is taken from the parish register. Page, column, originating repository, and any earlier reprint source remain unverified.

NEWSPAPER CLUE

Starting clue: a military burial notice



The death notice identifies Lachlan as:

- Surveyor of the Window Tax
- Ensign, Royal Edinburgh Volunteers
- Died at Edinburgh
- “attended yesterday to the grave”
- Interred with military honours

Interpretive point: the dateline “Edinburgh, 17th Sept. 1796” made 16–17 September the key search window.

Source: The Edinburgh Advertiser, 20 September 1796; quotation supplied in Scottish Indexes report

Appendix D - Burial Register Evidence

D1. Edinburgh parish, Greyfriars deaths and burials register, 1785-1803, microfilm title frame, filmed 30 July 1983; National Records of Scotland (NRS), Old Parish Registers, OPR 685/1/98; digital image OPR685_010_0980_0001Z, ScotlandsPeople. © Crown copyright, NRS.

1785 SIMPSON, THOMAS (Old Parish Registers Deaths 685/ 1 Edinburgh) Page 1 of 448
©Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image was generated at 24 June 2025 10:29

MICROFILMED BY THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH AT:		LOCALITY OF RECORD	
NEW REGISTER HOUSE		COUNTY	EDINBURGH
EDINBURGH SCOTLAND			MIDLOTHIAN
OPERATOR	REDUCTION X	PARISH	EDINBURGH
H. WITHINGTON	18	TITLE OF RECORD	OLD PAROCHIAL REGS.
DATE FILMED	LIGHT METER SETTING		DEATHS
30 JUL 1983	64+ 4		
FILM EMULSION NUMBER	FILM UNIT SER. NO.	VOLUME/S	
037/3533/06.05	D 3226	OPR 685' 1 / 98	
PROJECT NUMBER	ROLL NUMBER	YEAR/S INCLUDED	
SCTL 8A	1205	1785 - 1803	ITEM 1

D2. Edinburgh parish, Greyfriars burial register, entry for 'Lauchlane McTavish, Window Tax Office,' 17 September 1796, 'Middle of Kincaids Ground,' folio 268, digital page 271 of 448; NRS Old Parish Registers, OPR 685/1/98; high-resolution color image supplied by NRS/ScotlandsPeople through Scottish Indexes, filename OPR685_010_0980_0271Z. © Crown copyright, NRS.

268	1796	Persons	Designations	Aug.	Place of Interment
		S Samuel Semmence	a poor man	20	12 S.P.W. Morrisons Tomb
		M Alex. McLeod		20	Castle Ground
		S Steele a Child	Am b Wife	22	4 S.P.S. Bertrams Head Stone
		S John Swirl of	son of John Swirl	22	1 S.P.W. Grays Head Stone
		M George Millar	a Ch. of M. Millar	23	4 S.P.E. the Causeway of St. Leungs Tomb
		G James Gordon	a Sold. Ch?	25	2 S.P.S. Kenrick Th. Stone
		B William Brown	a Beggar	26	10 S.P.W. Lutties Tomb
		M Mrs Thomas Noble	Sp. of the	26	at the Pillar N. side of the Back door of the Kirk
		M Janet McDonald	a Child	26	1 - P.W. the Causeway by the
		S James Simpson	a Child	29	2 S.P.W. Goods Head Stone
		C Catharine Cowan	a Child of P. Cowan	29	3 - P.S. Muirs Head Stone
		M Catharine McLean	a Sold. Ch?	30	Castle Ground
		D Robert Donaldson	N.T.	30	at the Middle Pillar, Opp. F. Mark N. the Back
		S George Scott	a poor Child	31	3 S.P.W. the Maitlands Tomb
		S Kate Brown	Child of a Sold.	Sept. 1	Castle Ground
		P Mary Torrance	a Child	3	2 - P.S. Farquhasons Head Stone
		S Mrs Miller	of Bush	3	in Sir James Stewart of Colonsburghs Ground
		M Douglas McGeorge	March. Sp. Son	3	6 S.P. Adam Gibbs Head Stone
		S Chas Stewart	a Sold. Child	6	Castle Ground
		M Agnes McLeod	Wife of John Mc. Argyr	6	1 - P.S. Carters Head Stone
		N Chas. Nelson	a Sold. Child	6	2 S.P.S. Lays Tomb
		M Miss Catharine Watson		6	foot of Sir James M. Sellar's Ground
		M Robert Morrison	a Child	6	1 S.P.S. the Back door N. of F. Kirk
		S Kate Brown	Ch. of Murdoch M. Morrison	6	2 S.P.W. Bertrams Head Stone
		M Alex. McPulish	a Child	6	1 S.P.E. Stewarts Head Stone
		C Mrs Cockrane	Sp. M.W.	7	1 S.P.W. McCullochs Tomb
		G James Galry	a Child	7	1 S.P.W. Whites Head Stone
		S Janet Smith	Am b Wife	9	1 S.P.E. the Causeway of St. Margarets Tomb
		M Alex. Reid	a Child of J. Reid	9	2 S.P.W. Walkers Head Stone
		S Kate Brown	Child of J. Scott	9	1 - P.W. McCullochs Tomb
		G S. Gaird	Taylor	10	3 S.P.S. Ricchies Tomb
		G Ann Fraser		13	1 S.P.W. McDonalds Head Stone
		M Alex. Wright	a Child of David Wright	13	at the foot of M. Sellar's Ground
		C Alex. Cannon	a Cadet Poor	13	1 S.P.S. E. Kaitbertons Head Stone
		M Alex. McHay	a Child	15	5 S.P.S. Muirs Head Stone
		S William Simpson	a Sp. of J. Simpson	14	1 S.P.S. Tumrars Head Stone
		M Charles Watson	a Ch. of James Watson	14	6 S.P.S.E. Muirs Head Stone
		P John Pearson	a Child	15	3 S.P.S. Rochalls Tomb
		B John Ruch	Sp. M.W.	16	2 S.P.S. N. Walters Head Stone
		N Rebecca Scotland	a Ch. E.W.	16	1 S.P.S. N. Walters Head Stone
		M Lauchlane M. McTavish	Window Tax Office	17	Middle of Kincaids Ground

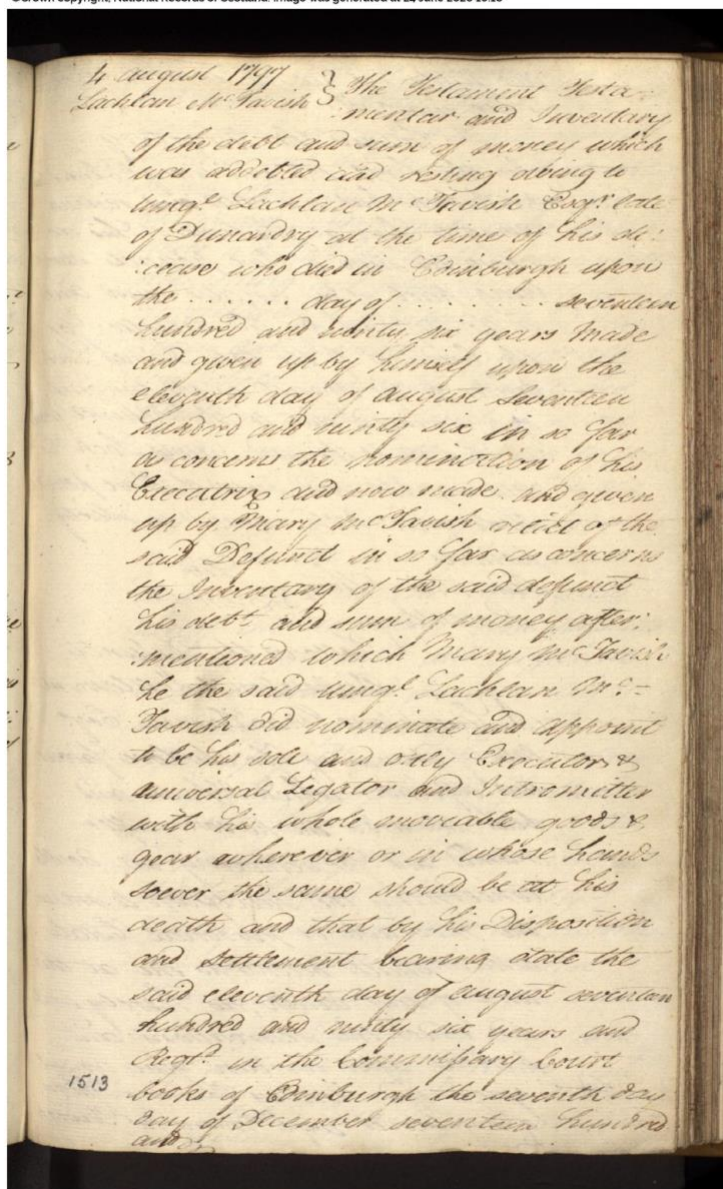
D3. Working comparison prepared by the author, showing the derivative ScotlandsPeople search result '1796 Smith, William,' the microfilm image, and the clearer color scan of NRS OPR 685/1/98, folio 268/digital page 271. The arrows point to the same entry.



Appendix E - Testament of Lachlan MacTavish

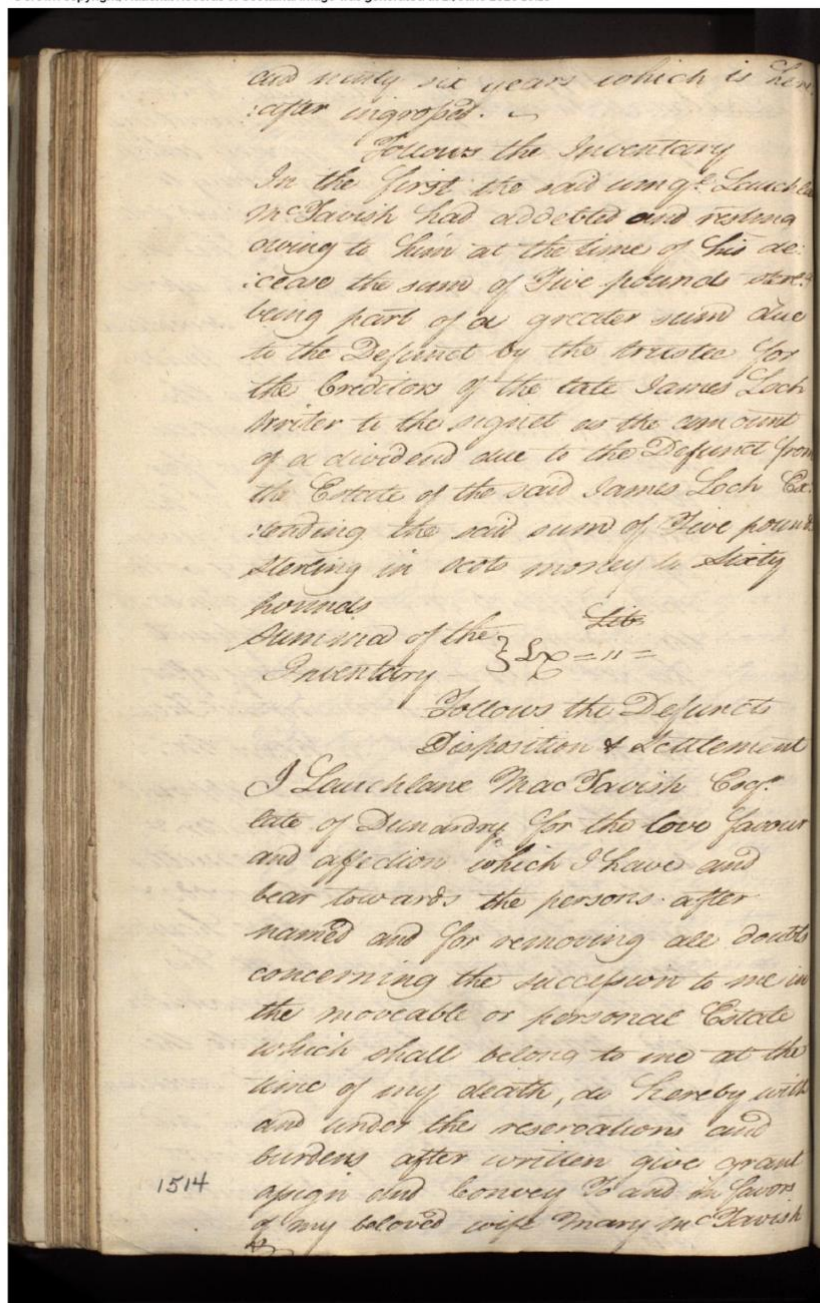
E1. Edinburgh Commissary Court, register of testaments, testament testamentar and inventory of 'Lauchlane MacTavish Esquire late of Dunardry,' recorded 4 August 1797; NRS CC8/8/130, digital image 1513 of 1513-1520; ScotlandsPeople. © Crown copyright, NRS.

1797 MacTavish, Lachlan (Wills and testaments Reference CC8/8/130, Edinburgh Commissary Court) Image 1513 Last image 1520
© Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image was generated at 24 June 2026 10:16



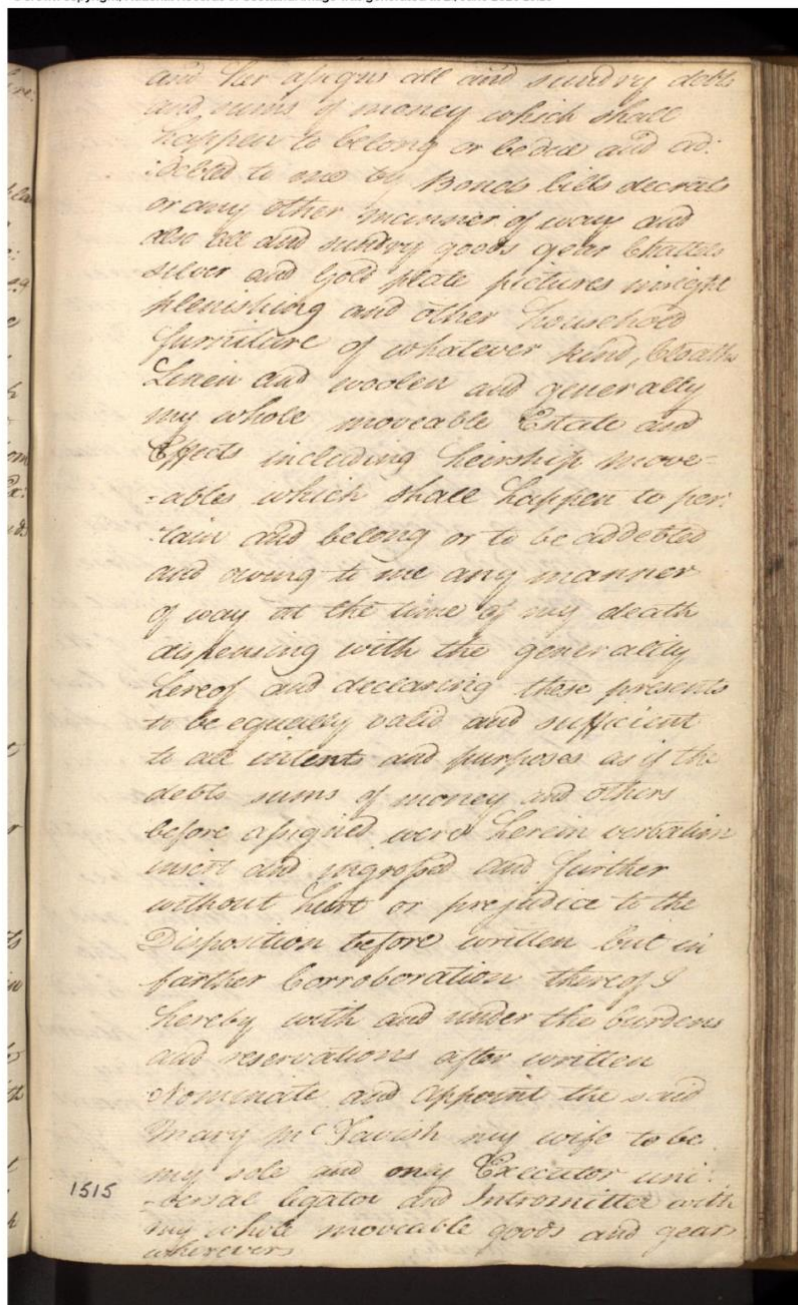
E2. Edinburgh Commissary Court, register of testaments, testament testamentar and inventory of 'Lauchlane MacTavish Esquire late of Dunardry,' recorded 4 August 1797; NRS CC8/8/130, digital image 1514 of 1513-1520; ScotlandsPeople. © Crown copyright, NRS.

1797 MacTavish, Lachlan (Wills and testaments Reference CC8/8/130, Edinburgh Commissary Court) Image 1514 Last image 1520
©Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image was generated at 24 June 2026 10:16



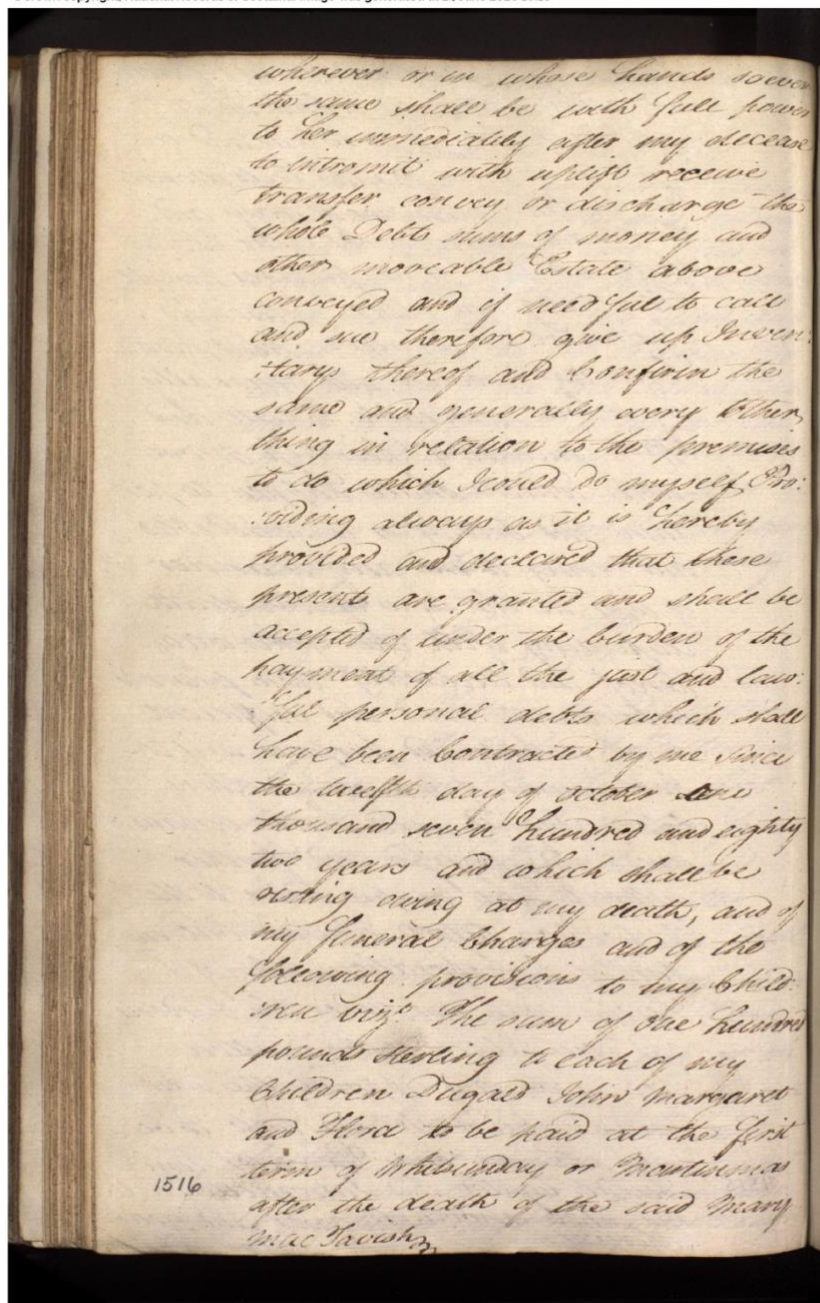
E3. Edinburgh Commissary Court, register of testaments, testament testamentar and inventory of 'Lauchlane McTavish Esquire late of Dunardry,' recorded 4 August 1797; NRS CC8/8/130, digital image 1515 of 1513-1520; ScotlandsPeople. © Crown copyright, NRS.

1797 McTavish, Lachlan (Wills and testaments Reference CC8/8/130, Edinburgh Commissary Court) Image 1515 Last image 1520
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E4. Edinburgh Commissary Court, register of testaments, testament testamentar and inventory of 'Lauchlane McTavish Esquire late of Dunardry,' recorded 4 August 1797; NRS CC8/8/130, digital image 1516 of 1513-1520; ScotlandsPeople. © Crown copyright, NRS.

1797 McTavish, Lachlan (Wills and testaments Reference CC8/8/130, Edinburgh Commissary Court) Image 1516 Last image 1520
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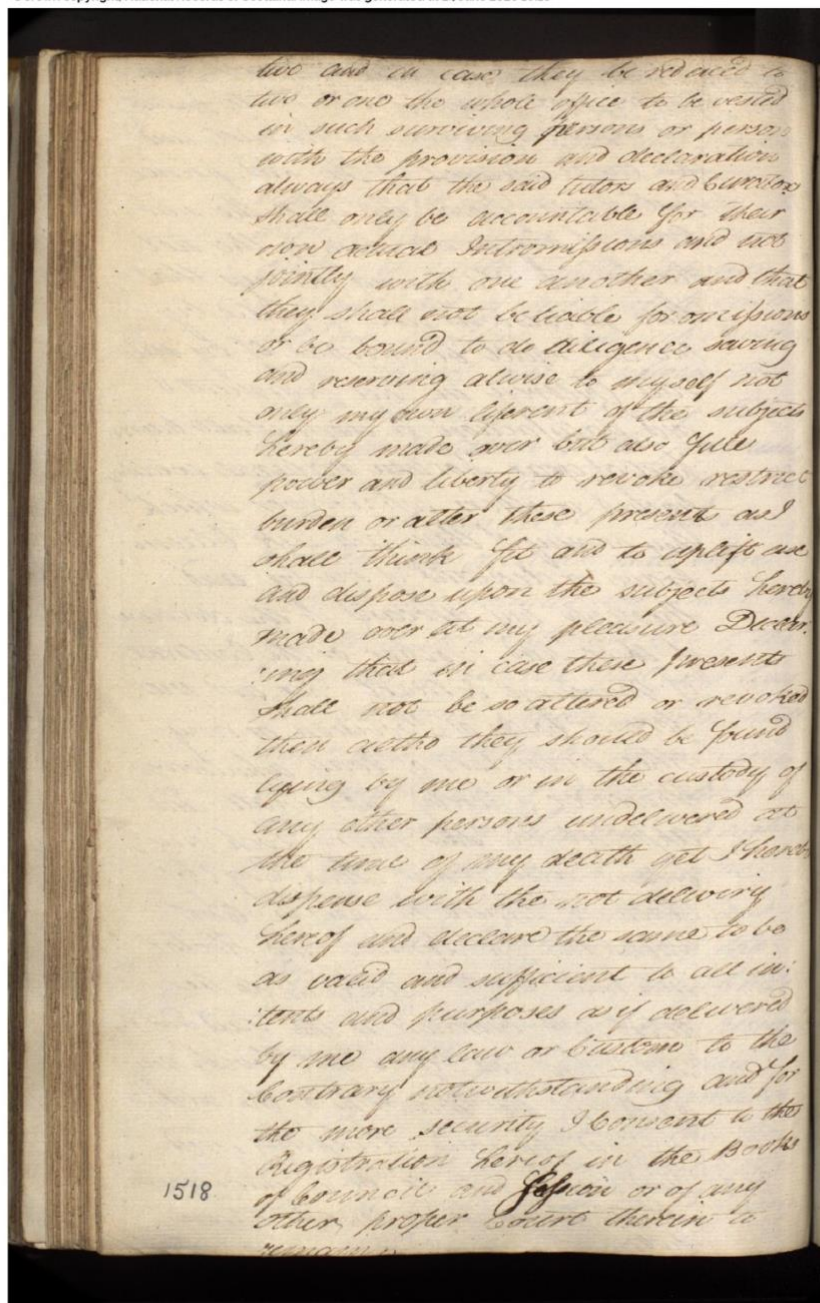
E5. Edinburgh Commissary Court, register of testaments, testament testamentar and inventory of 'Lauchlane McTavish Esquire late of Dunardry,' recorded 4 August 1797; NRS CC8/8/130, digital image 1517 of 1513-1520; ScotlandsPeople. © Crown copyright, NRS.

1797 McTavish, Lachlan (Wills and testaments Reference CC8/8/130, Edinburgh Commissary Court) Image 1517 Last image 1520
© Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image was generated at 24 June 2026 10:16

in Lachlan's then mother, with one
fifth part more of liquidate principal
and expenses in case of failure and
the legal interest of the said principal
paid sums from and after the said
term of payment during the said
payment. Declaring always that
these provisions are granted by
me and shall be accepted of by my
said Children in full payment
and satisfaction to them of all claims
part of gear, portion, natural, ordinary
legitim or others whatsoever which
they or any of them can ask claim
have or demand of me by and
through my decease or the decease
of their said mother or the Contract
of Marriage between her and me
former bonds of Provision or any
other manner of way whatsoever.
Moreover I hereby nominate and
appoint the said Mary Lock my
beloved wife John Lock Esq^r of
Katharine Street in Norwich Esq^r
Merchant in London and Hector
my Esq^r of Legation to be
tutors and curators to the said Leg.
said John and Hector my
Children the Majority of the above
named persons accepting, and
surviving me to be a quorum
while there are more than
two.

E6. Edinburgh Commissary Court, register of testaments, testament testamentar and inventory of 'Lauchlane McTavish Esquire late of Dunardry,' recorded 4 August 1797; NRS CC8/8/130, digital image 1518 of 1513-1520; ScotlandsPeople. © Crown copyright, NRS.

1797 McTavish, Lachlan (Wills and testaments Reference CC8/8/130, Edinburgh Commissary Court) Image 1518 Last image 1520
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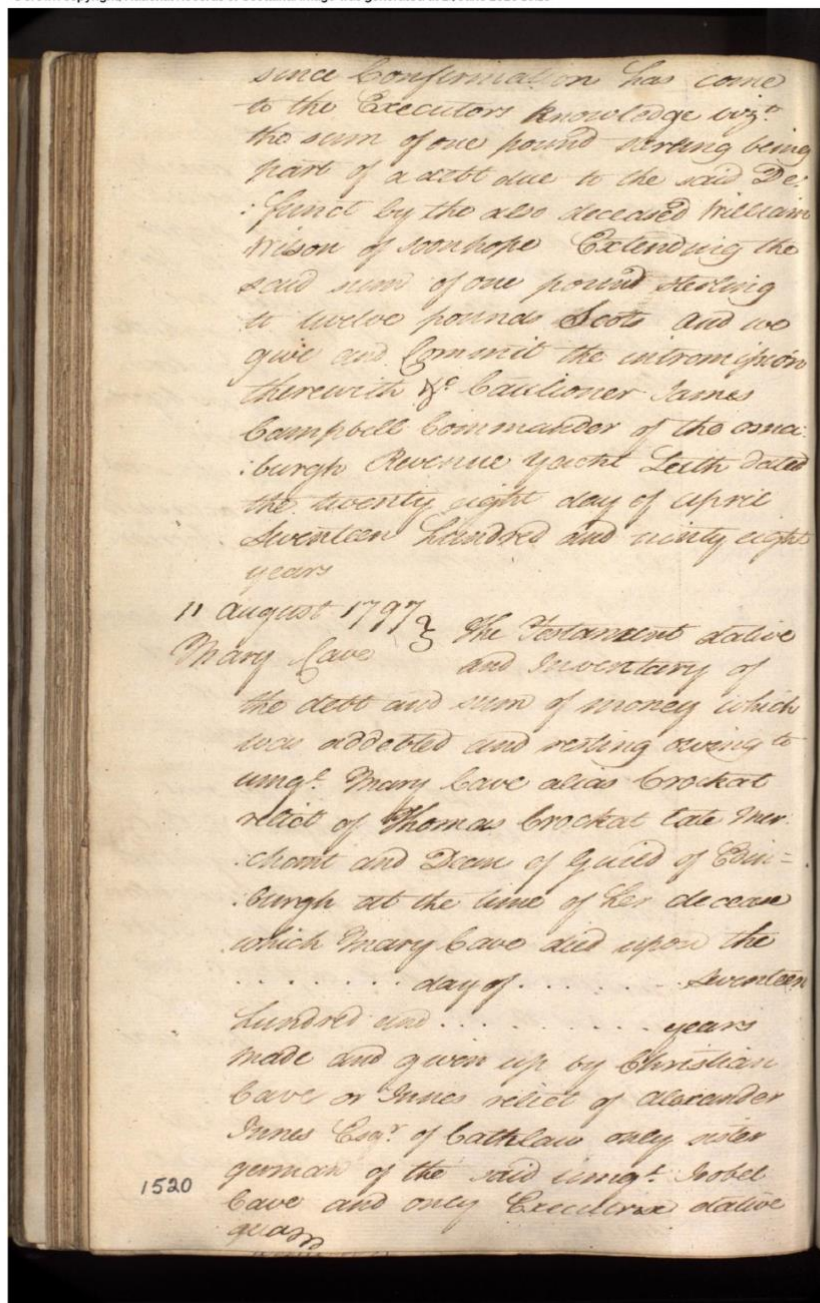
E7. Edinburgh Commissary Court, register of testaments, testament testamentar and inventory of 'Lauchlane McTavish Esquire late of Dunardry,' recorded 4 August 1797; NRS CC8/8/130, digital image 1519 of 1513-1520; ScotlandsPeople. © Crown copyright, NRS.

1797 McTavish, Lachlan (Wills and testaments Reference CC8/8/130, Edinburgh Commissary Court) Image 1519 Last image 1520
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residue for preservation and
constitution
My Trors for that purpose In wit:
ness whereof this presents consist:
ing of this and the three preceding
pages written on stamped paper
by Walter Scott apprentice to Jas
Gerrier Writer to the signet, are
subscribed by me at Edinburgh the
eleventh day of August seventeen
hundred and ninety six years before
these witnesses David Cleghorn
Forwer in Edinburgh and the said
James Gerrier witness of L. MacTavish
David Cleghorn witness Jas. Gerrier
Witness.
Witness Andrew Balfour of Glasgow
John Gerrier witness to the signet
dated the fourth day of August
seventeen hundred and ninety seven
years. List of a Forwer
Witness Andrew Balfour of Glasgow
approve and confirm Many more
Tavish widow of the said Lauchlan
MacTavish only Executrix Teste:
mentar to the said defunct and
in aid to the debt and sum of
money after mentioned which was
admitted and owing to the said
Defunct at his death admitted
out of his principal Testament
Testamentar before written and
signed.

E8. Edinburgh Commissary Court, register of testaments, testament testamentar and inventory of 'Lauchlane McTavish Esquire late of Dunardry,' recorded 4 August 1797; NRS CC8/8/130, digital image 1520 of 1513-1520; ScotlandsPeople. © Crown copyright, NRS.

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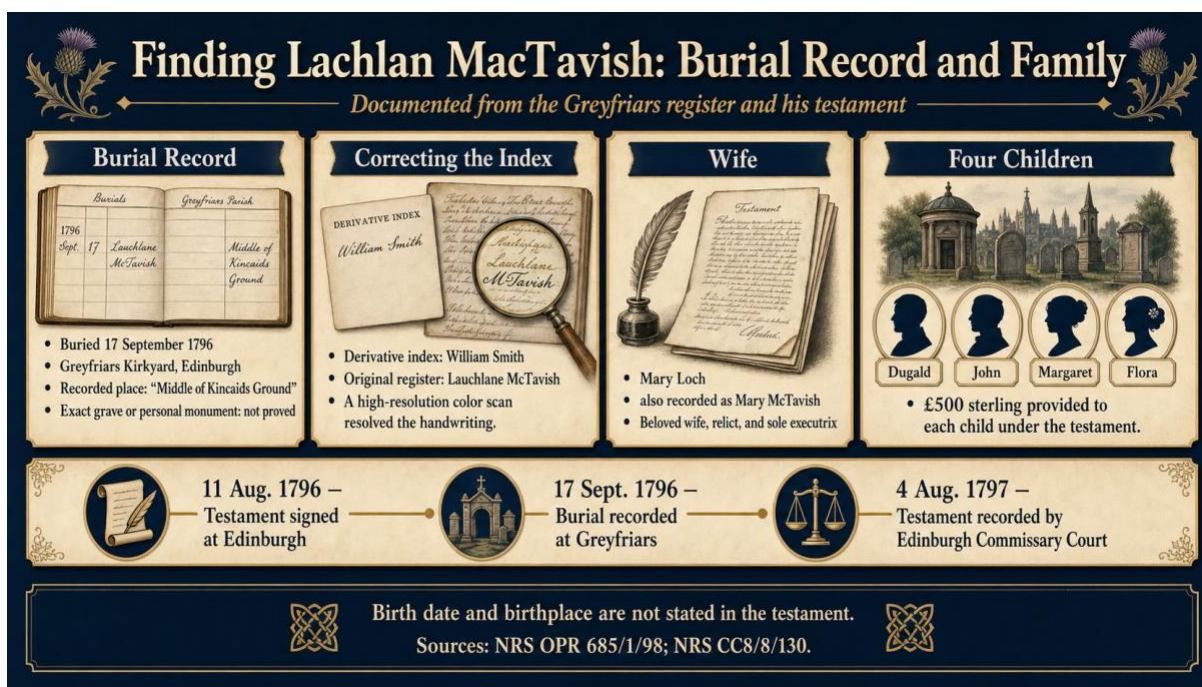
Appendix F - Monument and Supplementary Working Visuals

F1. Screenshot captured by the author on 4 May 2026 from Greyfriars Kirk, 'Kirkyard,' embedded virtual tour, <https://greyfriarskirk.com/visit/kirkyard/>. The evidence identifies the carved wall structure as the Young/Kincaid Monument. It is relevant as a landmark for Kincaid's Ground, not as Lachlan's personal monument.¹⁹



¹⁹ "Greyfriars Kirkyard," *Greyfriars Kirk* (<https://greyfriarskirk.com/visit/kirkyard/> : accessed 28 April 2026), image of structure then identified within clan tradition as Lachlan MacTavish's tomb; screen capture by John Harrison-Stevenson, Seannachie, 4 May 2026; subject identified by Chief Steven MacTavish of the Name and Arms of Clan MacTavish; privately held by John Harrison-Stevenson, St. George, Utah, United States.

F2. AI-assisted infographic created by John R. Harrison-Stevenson using OpenAI's image-generation tool in Codex on 22 August 2026, summarizing the documented burial and family findings. The visual is derivative and illustrative, not independent historical evidence; names, relationships, dates, and locations should be evaluated through the cited records. The family silhouettes are symbolic and do not represent known portraits.²⁰



²⁰John R. Harrison-Stevenson, 'Finding Lachlan MacTavish: Burial Record and Family,' digital infographic, created 22 August 2026 using OpenAI's image-generation tool in Codex, specific image-model version not disclosed, from a user-directed prompt to correct the family identities and distinguish documented findings from unproved claims; based on NRS, Edinburgh parish, Greyfriars deaths and burials register, OPR 685/1/98, folio 268/digital page 271, entry for 'Lauchlane MacTavish,' 17 September 1796, 'Middle of Kincaids Ground'; and Edinburgh Commissary Court, testament testamentar and inventory of 'Lauchlane MacTavish Esquire late of Dunardry,' NRS CC8/8/130, digital images 1513–1520; private digital file held by the creator.

Status and Remaining Research Opportunities

The following table distinguishes resolved publication permission from outstanding research opportunities.

Item	Status
Newspaper notice.	Unverified issue-level source metadata ²¹
Emma Maxwell report permission	Permission obtained ²²
Exact grave position	Optional future research. ²³

²¹ “[Death of Lauchlan M’Tavish],” *Edinburgh Advertiser* (Edinburgh), September 20, 1796, page and column undetermined; text preserved in a author-held attributed transcription, not verified against an archival image. The existence of the September 20 issue is independently corroborated by Jamaican Family Search Genealogy Research Library, “Excerpts from ‘The Edinburgh Advertiser,’ Scotland,” under “Tuesday, September 20, 1796,” in “Excerpts from London and Edinburgh Newspapers,” accessed August 15, 2026, <https://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/Members/epapers01.htm>. The University of Illinois History, Philosophy, and Newspaper Library records the newspaper as bi-weekly and identifies its freely accessible Google News Archive holdings for 1796–1799 as incomplete: “Edinburgh Advertiser,” *Newspaper Database*, record 37729, accessed August 15, 2026, https://www.library.illinois.edu/hpnl/newspapers/results_full.php?bib_id=37729. The notice’s page, column, precise wording, and possible derivation from an earlier newspaper remain unverified.

²² Emma Maxwell to John R. Harrison-Stevenson, email, 20 August 2026, “Re: Request for Permission to Use Your Lachlan MacTavish Research Report,” granting permission to reference her research, following Harrison-Stevenson to Maxwell, email, 11 August 2026, requesting permission to quote from, summarize, cite, acknowledge, reproduce, and publish Emma Maxwell, “Search Report: Lachlan MacTavish,” 23 June 2026; privately held by Harrison-Stevenson, St. George, Utah, United States.

²³ Edinburgh City Archives, SL Collections Index, SL92, ‘Greyfriar’s Church Burial records,’ 1771-1864, <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/24314/sl-collections-index>; City of Edinburgh Council, ‘How to find records we hold,’ noting that full item-level catalogues are available in the search room, <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/managing-information/edinburgh-city-archives-1/3>; and ‘Greyfriars Churchyard,’ <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory-record/1098650/greyfriars-churchyard> (all accessed 13 August 2026).