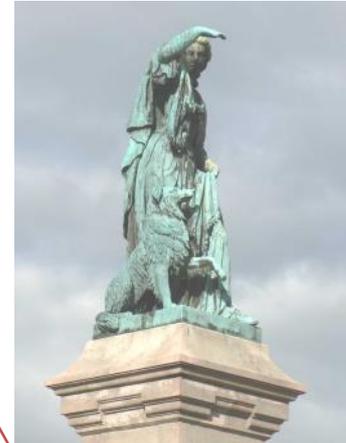


2 Inverness City

Inverness, which has long been described as the capital of the Highlands, is set alongside the River Ness, with its Castle and St Andrew's Cathedral located on opposite sides of the river. The city holds many Davidson historical references, not only about Davidsons from the city itself, but also about Davidsons who moved from across the surrounding region and from elsewhere in Scotland to make Inverness their family home.



Inverness Castle



Flora MacDonald statue,
sculpted by Andrew Davidson

The firm of **D & A Davidson**, monumental masons and sculptors, was established in the 1860s and was based in Academy Street for almost a century. **Donald and Andrew Davidson** were brothers, sons of a local weaver; their Davidson company name tag continued to be used long after they died, and one can find their tag on many headstones and important civic memorials across the region. The sculpture work of **Andrew Davidson** can be seen in the statue (unveiled in 1899) of Flora MacDonald, which is located in the forecourt of Inverness Castle. Other examples of his work can be found on the restored Mercat Cross located outside the Town House. At one time there was also a fine ornamental fountain created by **Andrew Davidson** but this was later removed to make way for road traffic improvements.

Inside the Town House there are examples of memorial busts of some important Inverness civic leaders of the time sculpted by **Andrew Davidson**. He was also responsible for the Three Virtues Statue, Faith Hope and Charity, now restored and re-sited on Ness Bank, as well as the Inverness War Memorial in Cavell Gardens.



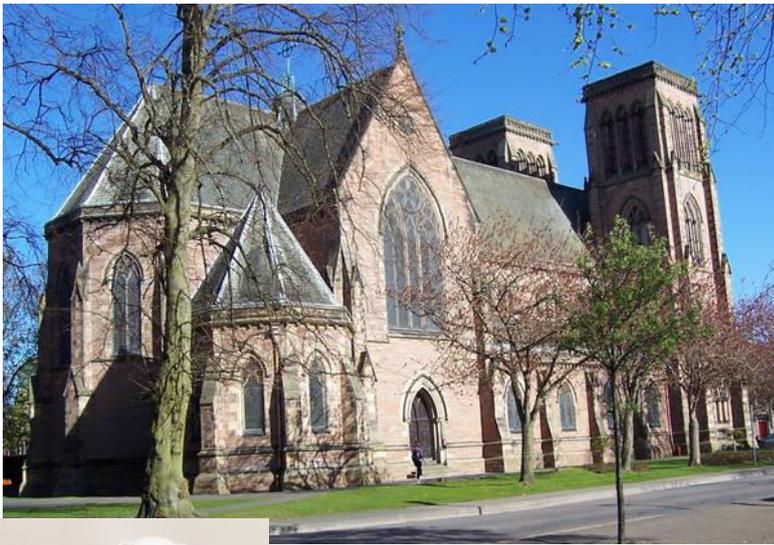
The Three Virtues:
Faith, Hope & Charity



Inverness War Memorial



Inverness Town House



St Andrew's Cathedral



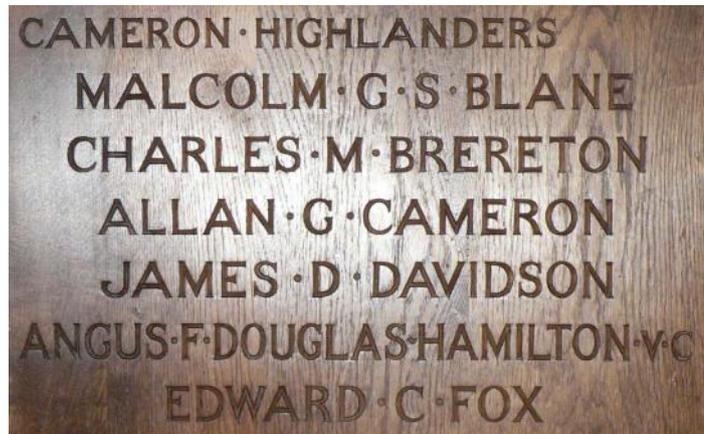
Pulpit, St Andrew's Cathedral



Bishop Eden

Across the River Ness from the Castle, St Andrew's Cathedral was being built at the time the Davidson brothers were practising their craft, so it is no surprise that their work is represented here. **Andrew Davidson** carved the pulpit within the Cathedral using local stone, and also made the memorial bust of Bishop Eden, founder of the Cathedral.

Also to be found within the Cathedral are reminders of the great sacrifices made by the young men from this area who died in the First World War. On the south wall is a memorial plaque placed by the parents of 25 year old **Private James Donald Davidson** who died in 1915 in France. Close by, his name is repeated engraved in a wooden panel of the Choir screen which forms part of the regimental memorial to the men of the Cameron Highlanders who fell in the same conflict.



Memorials to James Donald Davidson inside St Andrew's Cathedral

James Davidson's family originated from Elgin and Croy, where they were farmers and saw millers; his father, **Donald Davidson**, was the owner of the Waverley National Temperance Hotel in Inverness. Donald was a founder member of the Clan Dhail Association, formed in 1909, forerunner of the Clan Davidson Association. The family has a fine memorial in the **Tomnahurich cemetery**.



Tomnahurich Cemetery is the final resting place for the many Davidsons who made their home in Inverness. This major 19th and 20th century public cemetery is set around the Tomnahurich hill, which overlooks the city and is surrounded by the River Ness and the Caledonian Canal. The many sculptured monuments in this cemetery provide a key reference point for anyone researching their Inverness family history.

Tomnahurich Cemetery, Inverness

Inverness is located at the eastern end of the **Caledonian Canal**, which links the east and west coasts of Scotland via Loch Ness. This ship canal was built under the overall direction of Scottish civil engineer Thomas Telford between 1804 and 1822; it is considered one of Scotland's greatest engineering projects.



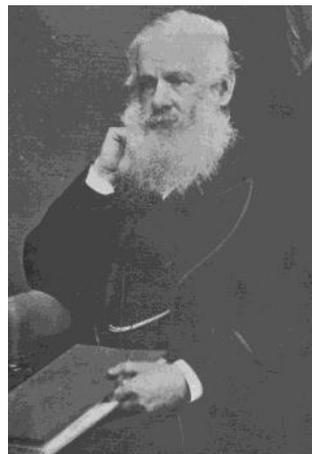
Matthew Davidson

The superintendent engineer for the Inverness end of this project was **Matthew Davidson**, *"a man perfectly qualified for the employment by inflexible integrity, unwearied industry, and zeal to a degree of anxiety, in all the operations committed to his care"*.

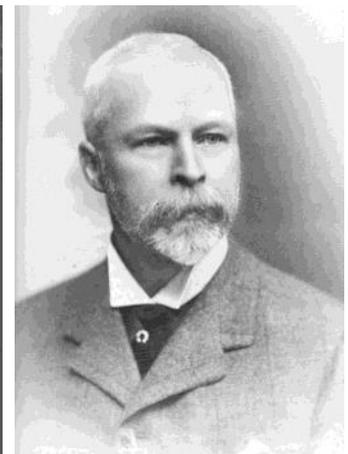
Matthew Davidson was not a Highlander; he was born in Dumfries as was Thomas Telford. He made his home at Clachnaharry where the canal enters the Moray Firth. Matthew died aged 69 in 1819 before this great engineering project was completed, and he lies in the Chapel Yard cemetery in the centre of Inverness.



Muirtown Locks, Caledonian Canal, Inverness



James Davidson



John Davidson

Matthew's son, **James Davidson**, became the first resident engineer for the whole canal. Later still, his grandson, **John Davidson**, was also the resident engineer...a unique and extraordinary sequence of family engineers.

Inverness is the home of the **Highland Archive Centre**, which is housed in purpose built premises located in Bught Park on the banks of the River Ness.

www.highlifehighland.com/highland-archive-centre



Highland Archive Centre, Inverness

The Archive collection comprises both official and family collections of historical documents which can be accessed in the Search Room.

An example of the items held is the scrap-book created by **Mary Gwendoline Davidson**, wife of **Duncan Davidson**, last Laird of Tulloch Castle.



Mary Gwendoline Davidson

The Archive collection also includes many other documents relating to a wide range of different Davidson families. On the same floor the **Family History Centre** with its excellent library, is an access point to the Scotland's People network, and to advice facilities from professional genealogists.

The Highland Family Society maintains an information desk in the Family History Centre together with copies of all their publications. www.highlandfhs.org.uk

Also based within the Archive Centre is **Am Baile**, the on-line database. www.ambaile.org.uk

Am Baile was founded in 2000 to create a digital archive of the history and culture of the Scottish Highlands and Islands, comprising material which had hitherto been difficult to access. Since then Am Baile has digitised material from archives, libraries, museums and private collections, making tens of thousands of items available, including many with Davidson connections. The archive also includes an invaluable on-line historical newspaper index.

The Inverness Museum and Art Gallery is located in the city centre close to the historic Town House.

This is an attractive museum with good displays covering the social history of the Highlands and its people.

www.highlifehighland.com/inverness-museum-and-art-gallery



Inverness Museum and Art Gallery
