Buildings & Graves in England

Our discoveries in Northern England have been a wonderful surprise. We suspect there is much more to find and research.

Most of the armorial detail refers to Davisons. The quality found has been unusually good because most of the items were located inside churches and thus have not suffered from the environmental pollution.

Much more research work needs to be done across both sides of the Anglo-Scottish border.

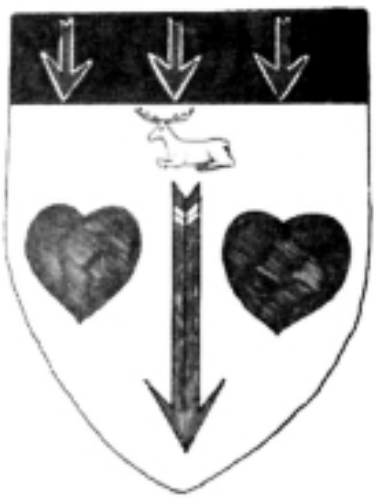
Davidson Arms at Stapleton Church

Stapleton Church near Bewcastle in the Western Borders

At Stapleton Church near Bewcastle, north-east of Carlisle, there is a large group of Davidson graves dating mainly from 18th & 19th centuries. One of these has a local variation of the Davidson Arms [*see above*].

Stapleton Church

Another variation of Davidson Arms as found in a Local History booklet at Bewcastle



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St Cuthbert's Chapel, Beltingham, Northumberland

This remote chapel is hidden away in the South Tyne valley. It holds a fine set of Davidson armorials.

St Cuthbert's Chapel, Beltingham

John Davidson inherited nearby Ridley Hall. Susan Davidson was descendant of the Bowes-Lyon family hence the Strathearn family armorial references.

This Davidson family was prominent in Newcastle Civic Affairs and had been using the Davidson Arms on their bookplates for many decades.

John Davidson d.1840

Susan Davidson d.1877

St Nicholas Cathedral

St Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle

This Cathedral has many surviving armorial monuments and gravestones with at least two important Davison armorial items. There is a large wall mounted monument to Sir Alexander Davison, who died in 1644 aged 81, during the Siege of Newcastle by the Scots troops fighting for Cromwell. He was granted arms in the 1630s and many subsequent generations of this Davison family have used the same design incorporating six cinquefoils.

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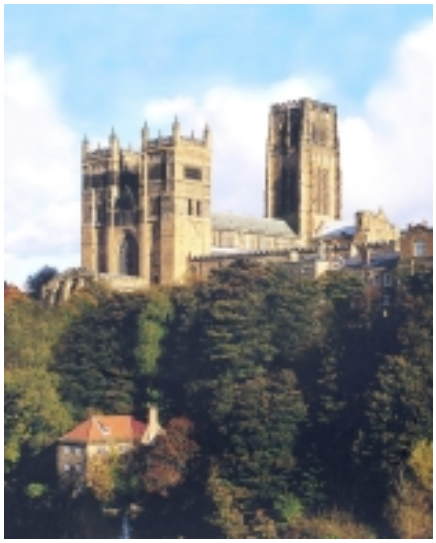
Memorial to Sir Alexander Davison

Detail of Alexander Davison's Arms

The damaged armorial gravestone of Timothy Davison who died in 1696 which includes details of his family. The Davison heraldry is just visible even after the crude repair work; only two of the six cinquefoils are still visible.



Durham Cathedral

Durham Cathedral

There is an important Davison grave located in the Chapel of the Nine Altars which may well have armorial detail on it. Unfortunately it now lies hidden under a carpet and the altar staging.

This large gravestone apparently includes the details of Ann Davison who died in 1790 and her sister Elizabeth Davison who died in 1762. They were first females to be buried inside this major historical site.

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St Oswald's Church

St Oswald's Church Durham

St Oswald's is one of Durham's historic churches. It contains several Davison graves one of which is that of Elizabeth Davison who died in 1712.

Elizabeth Davison's Armorial gravestone at St Oswald's Church

St Margaret's Church, Tanfield … a few miles north-west of Durham

A visitor today will hardly be aware of the scale of the coal mining industry which used to dominate this locality. The Church lies just above underground workings.

There are two armorial Davison gravestones inside this church; both date from the early part of the 18th Century. Only one is still visible; the other lies beneath a recently replaced carpet.

Armorial Gravestone
St Margaret's Church
for William Davison
who died in 1734

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Detail on William Davison's grave
The six cinquefoils are visible

St Michael & All Angels Church, Felton, near Morpeth, Northumberland

This historic church includes a large gothic memorial to Alexander Davison, Nelson's friend and agent.

Alexander Davison's Swarland estate was located nearby.

Alexander Davison was never granted Arms; he simply copied the earlier designs of the Davisions from the same region to whom he may or may not have had any family connection.

Alexander was not buried here as is sometimes incorrectly stated, but at the family vault located at St Gregory's Church, Kirknewton, further north.

Armorial Detail

St Mary the Virgin Church, Norton, near Stockton-on-Tees

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There is a wonderful collection of Davison armorial items both inside and outside this historic church. The outside ones are barely discernable, but the ones inside are superb.

Armorial Monumental Inscription for Thomas Davison of Blakiston

The Armorial Monumental Inscription for Jonathan Davison of Blakiston

St Gregory's Church, Kirknewton, Northumberland

Detail of the Davison Crest

Kirknewton is the ancestral home of Alexander Davison, Nelson's agent and friend. This remote village is just inside the English border, close to the site of the battle of Flodden Field.

The family of Alexander Davison has a major family vault in the graveyard here, as well as several memorials inside the church, one of which includes a crest.

St Olave's Church, City of London

Monkhouse Davison, who originally came from Cumberland, later became a major City of London merchant. He was never granted arms in London but his memorial clearly shows the arms of the Davisons of Blakiston. Monkhouse Davison had no connection with the Blakiston family as far as we know. This vast armorial grave monument was destroyed in the Blitz in World War 2.

Monkhouse Davison's armorial grave which used to be located in St Olave's Church

The rebuilt church is well worth visiting as it includes many surviving and restored armorial items.

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