

THE BOSWELL MAUSOLEUM 1

Alexander Boswell, Lord Auchinleck, eighth Laird of Auchinleck and James' father, enlarged the mausoleum in 1754 for his family to rest privately in peace together. For this reason there is no public access to the mausoleum today.



James Boswell, biographer, his father and grandfather, together with his son and grandson, all Lairds of Auchinleck and the women who ably helped managed the estate business, lie here.

Closest to James Boswell is Margaret Montgomerie, his wife and cousin, of Lainshaw. His mother, Euphemia Erskine, directed the household economies in Edinburgh and Ayrshire while Lord Auchinleck pursued his judicial duties.

The frugal management of his grandmother, Lady Elizabeth (Bruce), helped her husband revive the estate almost ruined by earlier lairds.

His daughter-in-law Grace (Cuming), Lady Boswell, superintended the estate for decades after the untimely death of her husband Sir Alexander Boswell, killed in a duel.

The last Boswell to be buried here (1884), whose many generous gifts to the estate, town and parish were commemorated with a window in the church, was Jessie Jane Montgomerie Cuninghame, the widow of James' grandson, Sir James Boswell.

Auchinleck Old Church, 5 Church Hill,
Auchinleck, KA18 2AB

JAMES BOSWELL: FATHER OF MODERN BIOGRAPHY 1

Auchinleck came to the attention of the wider world through James Boswell (1740-1795), the ninth Laird. James was an advocate by profession but earned greater renown for his trailblazing literary talents.

With *The Life of Samuel Johnson* (1791) Boswell invented the art of modern biography; *An Account of Corsica* (1768) made him a literary hero in both Britain and Corsica; whilst *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides* (1785) and his re-discovered diaries published 1950 onwards established him as one of the greatest diarists in the English language.

Boswell was a mass of contradictions, deeply proud of his Ayrshire roots but he could not resist the high and low life of London, much to his father's disapproval. His devotion to Auchinleck is summed up by his close relationship with the Bruce family 13, including his first unrequited love for Bruce's daughter.



The **Boswell Book Festival** is inspired by Boswell's writing, being dedicated to biography and memoir, and takes place annually in May.
www.boswellbookfestival.co.uk

The **Boswell Trust** was formed in 2010 to raise the profile of James Boswell with the ultimate aim of restoring the Boswell Mausoleum and opening a visitor attraction in the adjoining Old Church. The Boswell Project and Boswell Book Festival are the first steps in fulfilling this aim.

For further information, please visit
www.jamesboswell.scot



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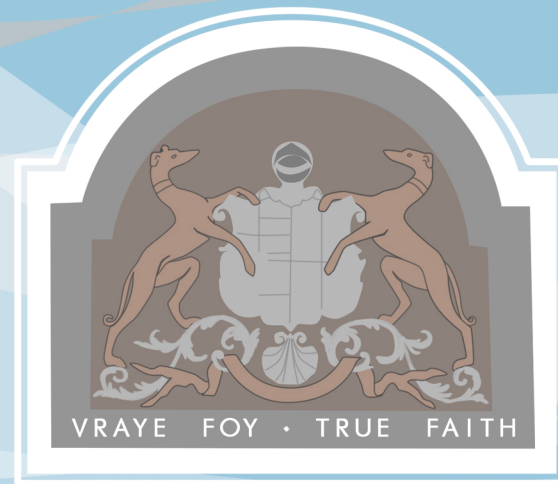


The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas



THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JAMES BOSWELL BIOGRAPHER

A Gravestone Spotter's Guide
to Auchinleck Churchyard



THE BOSWELL TRUST
www.jamesboswell.scot

THE PEOPLE OF THE AUCHINLECK ESTATE

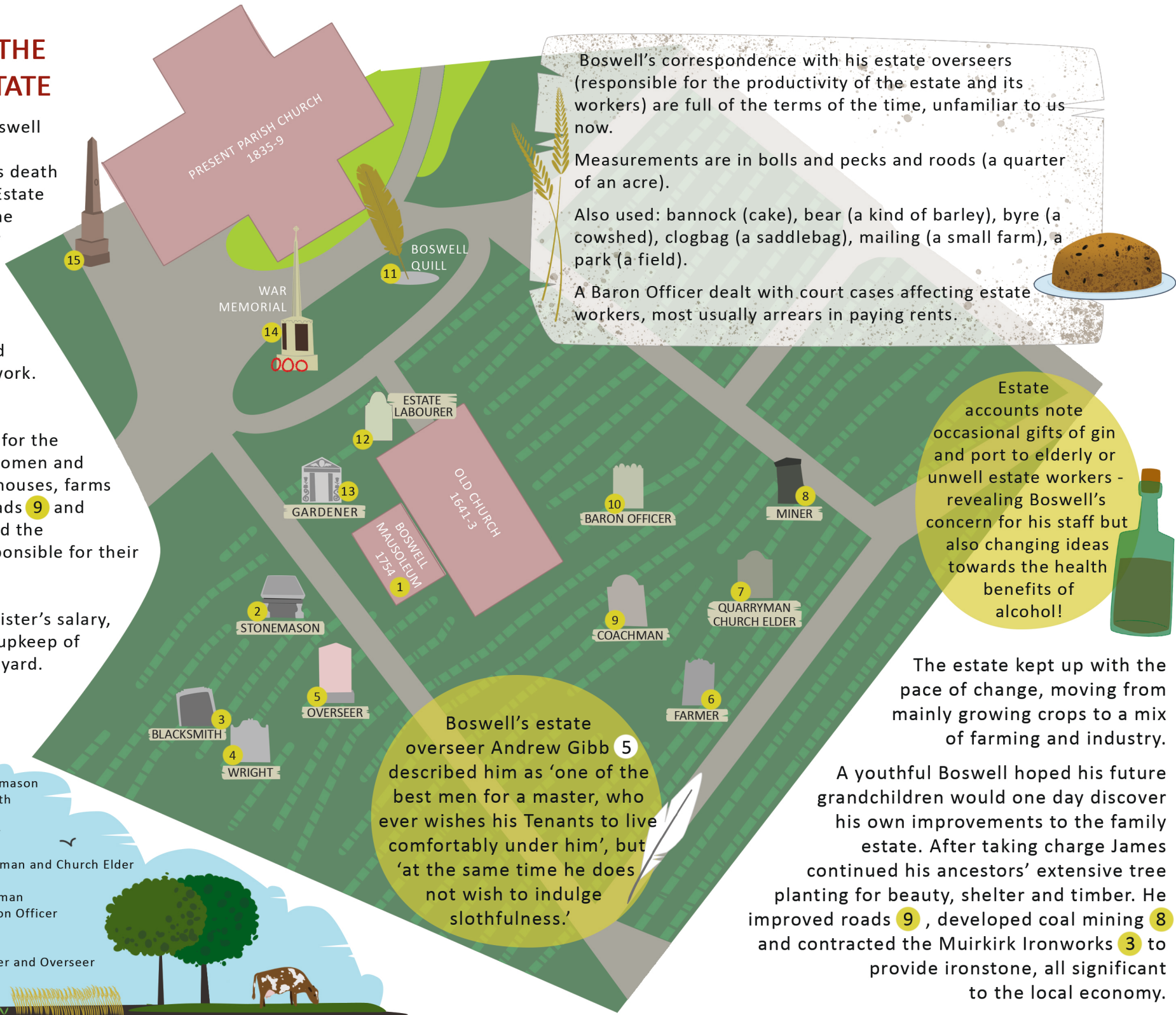
The biographer James Boswell became the 9th Laird of Auchinleck on his father's death in 1782. The Auchinleck Estate was originally gifted to the Boswell family in 1504 by King James IV.

Running the Auchinleck Estate required close cooperation as it involved many different areas of work. **2 - 10 12 13**

The Boswell family cared for the material welfare of the women and men employed **12** in its houses, farms **6**, mills **4**, mines **8**, roads **9** and quarries **7** and supported the Auchinleck ministers responsible for their spiritual wellbeing.

As well as paying the minister's salary, the Boswells funded the upkeep of the church and its churchyard.

- 1 Boswell Mausoleum, 1754
- 2 Andrew Morton, d. 1784, Stonemason
- 3 James Wilson d. 1832, Blacksmith
- 4 Alexander Peden, Wright
- 5 Andrew Gibb, d. 1839, Overseer
- 6 Hugh Reid d. Nov 1796, Farmer
- 7 William Murray d. 1807, Quarryman and Church Elder
- 8 William Yulle d. 1856, Miner
- 9 William Lennox, d. 1795, Coachman
- 10 Andrew Dalrymple d. 1809, Baron Officer
- 11 The Boswell Quill
- 12 Hugh Hair, Estate Labourer
- 13 Andrew Bruce, d. 1741, Gardener and Overseer
- 14 War Memorial 1921-22
- 15 Ayrshires Notables' Monument



Boswell's correspondence with his estate overseers (responsible for the productivity of the estate and its workers) are full of the terms of the time, unfamiliar to us now.

Measurements are in bolls and pecks and roods (a quarter of an acre).

Also used: bannock (cake), bear (a kind of barley), byre (a cowshed), clogbag (a saddlebag), mailing (a small farm), a park (a field).

A Baron Officer dealt with court cases affecting estate workers, most usually arrears in paying rents.



Estate accounts note occasional gifts of gin and port to elderly or unwell estate workers - revealing Boswell's concern for his staff but also changing ideas towards the health benefits of alcohol!



Boswell's estate overseer Andrew Gibb **5** described him as 'one of the best men for a master, who ever wishes his Tenants to live comfortably under him', but 'at the same time he does not wish to indulge slothfulness.'

The estate kept up with the pace of change, moving from mainly growing crops to a mix of farming and industry.

A youthful Boswell hoped his future grandchildren would one day discover his own improvements to the family estate. After taking charge James continued his ancestors' extensive tree planting for beauty, shelter and timber. He improved roads **9**, developed coal mining **8** and contracted the Muirkirk Ironworks **3** to provide ironstone, all significant to the local economy.