

Notes for Walking in the Footsteps tour of Edinburgh's Old Town

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| James and Margaret |
|  | Information | Bibliography for specific fact |
| 1 | Shared the same horse |  |
| 2 | Black velvet trimmed with cloth of gold |  |
| 3 | Earl of Surrey and 200 knights |  |
| 4 | Candlemaker Row is ancient route. 1496 it was called the King's Road called the Longyng. Broad way with wide grassy margins leading eventually to pastures south. Also known as Society Wynd. 1654 the council move the Candlemakers out here. The name Candlemaker Row applied to their workshops but when they built there hall here in 1728 it became the name of the street. | Place names of Edinburgh – Stuart Harris |
| 5 | He was thirty when a small, dumpy thirteen-year-old from England, daughter of Henry VII, reached Scotland for a wedding which a hundred years later would put a Scottish king on the English throne. | http://www.historytoday.com/richard-cavendish/marriage-james-iv-scots-and-margaret-tudor |
| 6 | On Monday August 7th, they made a state entry into Edinburgh, both of them in cloth of gold trimmed with black velvet or black fur. To tremendous cheers and the clamour of bells they rode in on one horse, with Margaret riding pillion behind the King, escorted by two hundred knights and pausing to witness numerous pageants.  | http://www.historytoday.com/richard-cavendish/marriage-james-iv-scots-and-margaret-tudor |
| 7 | 'The royal party were met at the western entrance to the city by the whole of the Greyfriars – whose mnastery was on the south side of the Grassmarket – bearing in procession their most valued relics, which were presented to the royal pair to kiss; and thereafter they were stayed at an embattled barrier, erected for the occasion, at the windows of which appeared angels singing songs of welcome to the English bride, while one presented her with the keys of Edinburgh. | Grants Old and New EdinburghChapter 30 – The Grassmarket |
| 8 | His corpse, disfigured by arrow and bill, was identified after the battle and taken to Berwick, where it was embalmed and placed in a lead coffin before being transported to London. | http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-23993363 |
| 9 | So it was that the body of James was left to moulder in the woodshed of Sheen monastery, even after the Pope had granted permission for burial.Eventually, the desiccated corpse was forgotten about and by some act of carelessness the head became detached.The story then goes, for there isn't much hard evidence for some of this, that workmen played football with it, some time after which it was nabbed as a trophy by Elizabeth I's master glazier, who took it home. | http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-23993363 |
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| Maggie Dickson |
|  | Information | Bibliography for specific fact |
| 1 | From the Restoration down to 1784 the place of public execution was in the Grassmarket, and whether the place of previous confinement had been the Tolbooth or the Castle, it behoved the ghastly procession to pass the Bow-head house and down the Bow.If the sufferer was deemed of gentle blood, however, as in the case of Morton, Argyll, Montrose, Guthrie, and others, the 'Maiden', or the Gibbet, was erected at the Mercat Cross in the High Street. For twenty-eight years after the Restoration those 'passers-by who never returned' were chiefly the Covenanters, who, desiring to worship the God of their fathers according to their conscience, sealed their testimony with their blood, and, to use the ribald words of the Duke of Rothes, one of their judges, litteraly 'glorified God in the Grassmarket'. | The Book of Old EdinburghDunlopP30 |
| 2 | When Margaret Dickson grew up, she was marriedto a fisherman, but there being a demand for seamen he wasimpressed on board one of the ships of war.As the time of her delivery drew near, she endeavouredto conceal it the more, and at last the child was born, butwhether alive or not, cannot be certainly known ; onlythat she was apprehended on suspicion, and committed toEdinburgh Gaol. The surgeon, who examined the bodyof the child, made the usual experiments, by putting thelungs into water, but according to the opinion of someeminent physicians, that experiment is not always to bedepended upon, it is impossible for men to know every thing;and it often happens, that gentlemen, who have made the lawtheir study, and obtained seats on the bench, are obliged,in taking evidence, to abide by the opinion of a surgeon.The surgeon deposed, that when the lungs of the childwere put into water they swimmed, so that it was theiropinion that it had breathed ; for as they said, unless a childhas breathed, so as air could be drawn into the lungs thoseparts of the body will not swim. Upon the whole the evi-dence was believed by the jury, who found her guilty, andshe received sentence of death.While she lay in confinement she was extremely penitent,and acknowledged that she had in many instances, neglectedher duty, and likewise that she had been guilty of fornica-tion ; but to the last denied murdering the child, or that shehad the least intention of so doing. Her reason for conceal-ing the birth of the child was for fear of being made a publicexample in the church, and a laughing-stock to all her neigh-bours. She said she was suddenly taken in labour, soonerthan she expected, and her agonies not only prevented herfrom getting assistance, but also left her in a state of insen-sibility, so that what became of her child she could not say.When she was brought to the gallows she behaved in themost penitent manner, but still denied her guilt, after whichshe was turned off, and hung the usual time.When cut down her body was given to her friends, whoput her into a coffin, in order to carry it to Musselburgh, forinterment; but the men who had charge of the corpse stop-ped at a village, called Pepper Mill, about two miles fromEdinburgh, in order to get some refreshment, leaving thecart with the body near the door. While they were drinkingone of the men thought he saw the lid of the coffin move, andgoing towards the cart, uncovered it, when he could per-ceive the woman to move, and she arose upright in her coffin;upon which he and others took to their heels, almost killedwith fear. A gardener who was drinking in the house wentup to the coffin, and had the presence of mind to open avein, and within an hour afterwards she was so well recoveredas to be able to go to bed. Next morning she walked hometo Mussleburgh. It is necessary to observe that much of theScottish law is built on Roman Pandects, and according tothem every person upon whom the judgment of the court hasbeen executed, has no more to suffer, but must be for everdischarged. Another maxim in the same institution is, thatthe executed person is dead law, so that the marriage is dis-solved. This was the case with M. Dickson, for the King'sadvocate could not pursue her any further, but filed a bill inthe High Court of Justicary against the Sheriff, for not seeingthe judgment executed, | NLS broadsheet |
| 3 | …in defence of that Church, every stone of which may be said to have been cemented by the blood of the people.Grassmarket is the chief rendezvous of carriers and farmers, and persons of various classes connected with the county horse and cattle markets…Weekly market dates from 1477 – James IIIFriday market – wood and timber | Grant's Old and New EdinburghChapter 30 – The Grassmarket |
| 4 | ...a sword, as in France and elsewhere on the continent, was used, before the introduction of the Maiden, for beheading. Thus we find that in 1564, the magistrates, because the old beheading sword had become worn out, received from William Macartnay "his tua-handit sword, to be usit for ane heiding sword," and gave him the sum of five pounds therefore.In the time of Charles II, Alexander Cockburn, the city hang-man, having murdered a King's Bluegown, died here the death he had so often meted out to others. | Grant's Old and New EdinburghChapter 30 – The Grassmarket p231 |
| 5 | In 1724 the same place was the scene of the partial execution of a woman, long remembered in Edinburgh as 'Half-hangit Maggie Dickson.' She was a native of Inveresk and was tried under the Act of 1690 for concealment of pregnancy, in the case of a dead child: and the defence that she was a married woman, though living apart from her husband, who was working in the keels at Newcastle, proved of no avail, and a broadside of the day details her execution with horrible minutenessl how the hangman did the usual office of dragging down her legs, and how the body, after handing the allotted time, was put into a coffin, the looms?? Of which were nailed firmly to the gibbet-foot.After a scuffle with some surgeon-apprentices who wished to possess themselves of the body, her friends converey it away by the Society Port, but the jolting of the card in which the coffin lay had stirred virality and set the blood in motion. Thus she was found to be alive when passiong Pefermill, and was completely restored at Musselburgh, where flocks of people came daily to see her. She had several children after this event, and lived long as the keeper of an ale-house and as a crier of salt in the streets of Edinburgh. |  |
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| Charlie and the West Bow |
|  | Information | Bibliography for specific fact |
| 1 | The upper floors of the house which looks down into the Grassmarket formed the mansion of Mr Archibald Stewart, Lord Provost of Edinburgh in 1745. This is an abode of singular structure and arrangements, having its principal access by a close out of another street, and only a postern one into the Bow, and being full of curious little wainscoted rooms, concealed closets, and secret stairs. In one apartment there is a cabinet, or what appears a cabinet, about three feet high. This, when cross-examined, turns out to be the maskof a trapstair. Only a smuggler, one would think, or a gentleman conducting treasonable negotiations, could have bethought him of building such a house. Whether Provost Stewart, who was a thorough Jacobite, was the designer of these contrivances, I cannot tell.Fireside gossip used to have a strange story as to his putting his trap-stair to use on one important occasion.It was said that, during the occupation of Edinburgh by the Highland army in '45, his lordship wsa honoured one evening with a secret visit from the Prince and some of his principal officers. The made an approach by the usual access from the Castle-hill Street, but an alarm preceded them, and before they obtained admission, the provost's visitors had vanished through the mysterious cabinet, and made their exit by the back-door. What real foundation there may have been for this somewhat wild-looking story, I do not pretend to say. | Traditions of EdinburghChambers |
| 2 | Prince Charles had his guard at the Weigh-house when blockading the Castle, using , however, for this purpose, not the house itself, but a floor of the adjacent tall tenement in the Lawnkarket, which appears to have been selected on a very intelligible principle, in as far as it was the deserted mansion of one of the city clergy, the same Rev George Logan…in which he took unfavourable views of the title of the Stuart family to the throne, not only then, but at any time. It was, no doubt, as an additional answer to a bad pamphlet that the Highlanders took up their quarters at Mr Logan's. | Ibid |
| 3 | Mrs Irving, when she was a small girl had this happen to her…In the year of 1745, when Prince Charlse's army was in possession of the town, she, a child of four years, walked with her nurse to Holyrood Palace, and seeing a Highland gentleman standing in the doorway, she went up to him to examine his peculiar attire. She even took the liberty of lifting up his kilt a little way; whereupon her nurse, feering some danger, started forward for her protection. But the gentleman only patted her head, and said something kind to her.  | Traditions of Edinburgh,Chambers,P39 |
| 4 | Mrs Irving – NOT A DRESS WORN BY CHARLIEBut my excitement was brought to a higher pitch when, on ascending to the drawing-room, I found the general's daughter, a pretty young woman recently married, sitting there, dressed in a suit of clothes belonging to one of the nonagenarian aunts, a very fine one of flowered satin, with elegant cap and lappets, and silk shoes three inches deep in the heel – the same having been worn by the venerable owner just seventy years before at a Hunter's Ball at Holyrood Palace. | Traditions of Edinburgh,Chambers,P39 |
| 5 | Trial of Stewart lasted from 27 October to 2 November, when the Provost was acquitted by a unanimous verdict of the jury.Main entrance to Stewart's house was at foot of Donaldson's Close. Building stood immediately to the west of Free St John's Church.Last owner was James Donaldson – Donaldson's school for the deaf. | Daniel WilsonHistorical Incidents after the restoration (chapter title – not book title)P149 |
| 6 | In this street resided the notorious Major Weir…it was alleged that , by magical incantations, he had intercourse with the nether world. It is possible that the poor old Major Weir was slightly insane, and that under the cruelties inflicted upon him he confessed to impossible offences.He was strangled and burnt between Edinburgh and Leith. The Major's sister, an undoubted lunatic, was also tried at the same time and sentenced to be hanged in the Grassmarket.After the death of the Major, a halo of superstition surrounded the house, and no one would occupy it as a dwelling.Dr Robert Chambers states that at the beginning of the 19th century the house succeeded in obtaining as a tenant William Patullo, a poor man of dissipated habits. He says Patullo and his wife saw an apparition of a calf, and they lef the house "next morning". The house sat empty for 50 years. | Shepherd/StevensonP10 |
| 7 | Total nonsenseMatching tradition that Charlie visited the aging Countess of Eglinton at her house near the Netherbow Gate. Hard to accept.What is known as fact is that Lord Provost Stewart was kept in custody by the Highland Army for the first week of the city's occupation. | Edinburgh in the '45 Sibbald GibsonP44 |
| 8 | The West Bow entry to the CastleThe law of precedent, always powerful in Court ceremonials, was to enter the Grassmarket by the West Port, thence up the steep zigzag of the Bow into the High Street, then to pass slowly down thetween the then unbroken lines of its towering houses to the Nether-bow Gate, thence by the burgh of Canongate to the royal home at Holyrood. In some instances the Castle was visited. This was done by Queen Mary on her state entry on the 2nd September 1561. She entered her capital on horseback, followed by a great retunue of French and of Scottish nobles, having ridden from Holyrood, along the Lang Gait (Princes Street) – sweeping round the strength of the grey Castle Rock; and right loyally did the old city and its rulers receive their young Queen.James IV in 1579 with Ann of Denmark, King James comes back in 1617 when he came home and Charles I came up here for his Scottish coronation at Holyrood. | DunlopOld Edinburgh StreetP26 |
| 9 | Bowhead HouseThis house, taken down in 1878, was one of the fnest of the old timber-fronted burgher dwellings in the old city, and, from its prominent situation, the best known. It had two elevations – one towards the Lawnmarket, the other towards the West Bow. The street floor only had a stone wall, the cimneys being carried up in the gables of the houses on either side. A piazza was on the ground floor towards the Bow, and the beams of the upper floors projected ovr it, and over each other, with a boldness with made a stranger hold his breath. Perhaps this seeming over-weighting of the house is best described in the words of one of its own tnants – an old man who had been born and who lived for more than seventy years literally under its roof, for to him belonged the small attic windows in the gable towards the Bow. 'Feared to bide up here on a windy night?', said he, 'no' me! The hoose was built afore Sir Isaac Newton invented gravity!" | DunlopOld Edinburgh StreetP23  |
| 10 | Mary, Queen of Scots getting the keysA little further down, at the Lawnmarket, the procession passed under a brightly coloured triumphal arch, to the accompaniment of a choir of children. Here, a little boy descended on a rope from a mechanical cloud. He handed her the keys to the city, a bible and a psalter. This, however, was a pointed gesture; these were symbols of Protestant worship.At the 'Butter Trone', hard by the Bow-head house, and near the upper Bow Port of the first city wall, she was presented with the keys of the city – not by the Chief Magistrate, as is now the wont, but – by 'ane bonny bairn'.  | Footsteps of Mary Queen of Scots book, black paperback cover.P49DunlopOld Edinburgh StreetP26 |

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| Riddle's Court |
|  | Information | Bibliography for specific fact |
| 1 | **Pend** is a [Scottish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland) architectural term referring to a passageway that passes through a building, often from a street through to a [courtyard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Courtyard) or 'back court', and typically designed for vehicular rather than exclusively pedestrian access.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pend#cite_note-1)A pend is distinct from a [vennel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vennel) or a [close](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alley), as it has rooms directly above it, whereas vennels and closes tend not to be covered over and are typically passageways between separate buildings. However a 'close' also means a common entry to [multi-dwelling tenement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenement) properties in Scotland.The [OED](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford_English_Dictionary) suggests that the etymology of the word is probably related to the archaic verb *pend* - "arch, arch over, vault", this in turn being derived from the [French](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Language) *pendre*, Latin*pendēre* "to hang"[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pend#cite_note-2) |  |
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| The Tolbooth |
|  | Information | Bibliography for specific fact |
| 1 | Summary of facts from GrantLeft only 14 feet in breadth for High Street.  |  |
| 2 | Criminals either went to the Grassmarket or to the Mercat Cross.Robert II gave, granted and confirmed to the Burgesses and Community of the Burgh of Edinburgh and their successors in time to come ‘sixty feet in length and thirty feet in breadth of land lying in the market place of the said burgh, on the north side of the street thereof…to construct and erect houses and buildings on the forsaid land for the ornament of the said burgh and for their necessary use.’Originally a taxing office or taxhouse in existence in about 1145.Seems to be a new bellhouse was built to replace one burned to the ground by the English in 1385.Old Tolbooth and New Tolbooth.New Tolbooth - ‘The building appears to have been three storeys high, starkly utilitarian and with no great architectural attractions, and its demolition in 1811-1812 caused little comment.Old TolboothThe ground floor, says Arnot in 1779, let out as shops and cut off from the rest of the premises. ‘The three stories above are all places of restraint, destined for the wretched.’Many were debtors but there was still a condemned cell.Of conditions in the Old Tolbooth, Arnot relates: ‘In the heart of a great city it is not accommodated with ventilation, with water-pipes, with privy. The filth collected in the jail is thrown into a hole within the house, at the foot of the stair, which, it is pretended, communicates with a drain: but, if so, it is completely choked, as to serve no other purpose but that filling the jail with disagreeable stench.’BIG quote comes next.Three rooms, one above the other, second room was the iron room. Three boys, one might have been 14, the others about 12. In there three weeks, thievish practices. Room above, two miserable boys, not yet 12. “But there we had no leisure for observation: for, no sooner was the door opened, than such an insufferable stench assailed us, from the stagnant and putrid air of the room, as, not withstanding our precautions, utterly overwhelmed us.’Old Tolbooth extended out into the High Street ad by 1817 it was demolished.Sir Walter Scott had the door from the condemned cell placed in his house in Abbotsford. | Lost Edinburgh p19 |
| 3 | At the West end of the Tolbooth a modern addition existed, as appears in our engraving, rising only to the height of two stories. This was occupied as shops, while the flat rood formed a platform whereon all public executions took place, adter the abandonment of the Grassmarket as the place of execution in the year 1785.The west gable of the old building bore the appearance of rude and hasty construction; it was without windows, notwithstanding that it afforded the openest and most suitable aspect for light, and seemed as if it had been so left for the purpose of future extension. Ground floor of old building, on north side was used by town guard after 1785.“The main floor of the more ancient building in its latter days formed the common hall for all prisoners, except those in irons, or incarcerated in the condemned cells. It had an old oak pulpit of curious construction, for the use of any one who took upon him the duties of prison chaplain...”“The room immediately above the common hall may be presumed to have been “the upper chamber of the Tolbooth,” in which James V held his first council after escaping in 1528 from his durance in Falkland Palace in the hands of the Douglas faction. Its later use was as a dungeon for the worst felons, whose security was further ensured by an iron bar placed along the floor. Here also the condemned criminal generally spent the last wretched hours of life, often chained to the same iron bar, and surrounded with the reckless and depraved, whose presence forbade a serious thought. It was indeed among the worst features of this miserable abode of crime that its dimensions entirely precluded classification. It had no open area attached to it to which the prisoner might escape for fresh air, or even a glimpse of the light of day, and no solitary cell whither he might withdraw to indulge in the luxury of solitude and quiet reflection.  | Daniel WilsonP244 |
| 4 | In front of the door there always paraded, or rather loitered, a private of the town-guard, with his rusty red clothes, and Lochaber axe or musket. The door adjacent to the principal gateway was, in the final days of the Tolbooth, ‘Michael Ketten’s Shoe-shop,’ but had formerly been a thief’s hole. The next door to that, stepping westward, was the residence of the turnkey; a dismal unlighted den, where the grey old man was always to be found, when not engaged in unlocking or closing the door. The next door westward was a lock-up house, which in later times was never used.On passing the outer door – where the rioters of 1736 thundered with their sledge-hammers, and finally burnt down all that interposed between them and their prey – the keeper instantly involved the entrant in darkness, by reclosing the gloomy portal.A flight of about twenty steps then led to an inner door, which being duly knocked at, was opened by a bottle-nosed personage denominated Peter, who, like his sainted namesake, always carried two or three large keys. You then entered the hall, which, being free to all the prisoners except those of the East End, was usually filled with a crowd of shabby looking, but very merry loungers. A small rail here served as an additional security, no prisoner being permitted to come within its pale. Here also a sentinel of the city-guard was always walking, having a bayonet or ramrod in his hand. The Hall, being also the chapel of the jail, contained an old pulpit…’ At the right-hand side of the pulpit was a door leading up the large turnpike to the apartments occupied by the criminals, one of which was of plate-iron. The door was always shut, except when food was taken up to the prisoners. On the west end of the hall hung a board (THIS IS POEM HERE).More on page 98/99 | Traditions of EdinburghChambersP96/97 |
|  | 'The custom was for prisoners who had been set free to spit as they apsed through the door and out to liberty.'.1817 Sir Walter Scott watches the demolition of the Old Tolbooth.Scott was there with a young engineer called James Nasmyth and Nasmyth's father – when the place was demolished they saw rats skeletons, 'dry as mummies', James picks one up, wraps it in newspaper and keeps it as a souvenir.'Although the Luckenbooths were mainly permanent shops the Old Tolbooth, built in around 1386 and used variously as a meeting place for the Scottish Parliament, for the Town Council, as a tax collection office and, most memorably, as the town gaol, until its momentous demolition in 1817. The Luckenbooths dated from about 1460 and consisted of seven timber tenements between four and six storeys high. In 1728 Allan Ramsay opened the first circulating library in Britain on the first floor of the east end of the Luckenbooths and fifty-eight years later William Creech, publisher and book-sellerm set up his premises immediately below. | Curious Edinburgh p48 |
|  | Visitors were allowed into the jail from 9am to 30pm and then again from 4.30pm to 9pm. Doctors and lawyers could visit anytime.Visitors could bring prisoners 'victuals but no spirituous liquor'. Beer and porter were exempt from this rule and, until 1810, wine was allowed. If any spirits were required, they could be purchased from the in-house sutlery. Spiral staircase with 'greasy rope' as a handrail which was said to have been used in hanging a criminal.In 1645 debtors were released because of the plague. In the same year the Marquis of Montrose demanded the release of 150 royalist prisoners held there. George Wishart, Montrose's biographer and later Bishop of Edinburgh carried the scars left by rodent teeth for the rest of his life.If someone escaped the Jailer had 24 hours to get them back, if the prisoner was caught they would be fined £40. If he remained at liberty, the jailer would be liable to pay the fine – and settle the prisoner's debt, if that was why he had been incarcerated in the first place.'…the doomed were required to climb a ladder and were duly 'turned off' to be slowly strangled. Later still, around the eighteenth century, the trapdoor was devised but the offender was still more often than not throttled to death as he or she swung on the rope. Finally the short drop intended to snap the neck came into play, although it was not unknown for the hangman to miscalculate the length needed.' | Dark Hart p41P37P28 |
|  | It was reported on December 22nd, 1714, that extensive repaints were necessary, 'as also they find it necessary there should be an Iron Gad fixed the breadth of the room to which the orbbers is to be chained by the fooet and their hands behind their backs in the night time.' | Municipal Buildings of EdinburghP30 |
| 5 | Dowie's TavernDavid Hume and Robert Burns visited 'Dainty' John Dowie's Tavern.'Much of the business life of the city was carried out in taverns – some things never change – and it was even normal for doctors to consult their patients there.''A great portion of this house was without light, consisting of a series of windowless chambers, decreasing in size till the smallest was a mere box, or irregular oblong shape, designated 'the Coffin'. The largest room could accommodate fourteen people. The Coffin held four, at a squeeze, and only two of the rooms had windows. | Eccentric Edinburgh p38 |
| 6 | Peter Williamson 'Indian Peter'Born in 1730 near Aberdeen, his parents ('reputable, though not rich') sent him to live with an aunt in Aberdeen. 600 kids kidnapped between 1740 and 1746. Number of the Aberdeen Bailies were in partnership with the kidnappers.January 1743, at the age of 13, Peter was playing on the harbor when he was captured by two men. Shipped across the Atlantic to Philadelphia for £16."Peter established a coffee-house which became a favourite of lawyers and their clients. The coffee-house consisted of 'three or four very small apartments, one within another; the partitions oade of the thinnest materialsl some of them even of brown paper'.Robert Fergusson wrote a poem about lawyers leaving for their summer break and a verse mentions Williamsons' coffee-house.Sold copies of his book in the coffee-house, some lawyer customers encouraged him to take the Aberdeen magistrates to court.He became proprietor of famous tavern in Old Parliament Close – 'Peter Williamson, Vintner from the other world' (all caps).'Robust, stout, athletic man and a great wag, of very jocular manners'. Sometimes he dressed as a Delaware Indian. Used to have a wooden figure of him in Indian dress outside the tavern.Deid Chack took place here.1773 he made the first ever street directory. | Eccentric Edinburgh P30 |
| 7 | 18th September – Old Jail, only part of the old Luckenbooths was begun to be demolished, 18th September. The criminal prisoners were removed to the New Calton Jail, and the debtors, twelve in number, were liberated, their debts having been generously paid by a subscription among the inhabitants.  | Edinburgh life in the 19th century p24 |
| 8 | Felons were housed on the Tolbooth's second floor. The Tolbooth's west ent which was reserved for debtors consisted of four storeys. The jailor was licenced to sell liquor and prisoners could buy drink from a tavern situated on the first floor. Poverty stricken prisoners who had been jailed for debt and had no chance of paying back the money were housed on the top floor.A room on the third floor had an aperture in the wall through which the wooden beam which served as the gallows was pushed. | Town Guard wee booklet with coloured cover |
| 9 | Deid-chackBailie James Torry, a high street cloth merchant, who, watching a criminal at his long-winded prayers and psalm-singing on the scaffold, whispered to a fellow magistrate, "I wish he would be done; that knuckle of veal will be roasted to a cinder!" | Old Taverns p35,36 |
| 10 | Libberton’s WyndMentioned as far back as 1474. Johnny Dowie’s Tavern, previously the Mermaid, was the meeting place of ‘the chief wits and men of letters’ in the 18th century. Here, figures such as the poet Robert Fergusson, author Henry Mackenzie, Court of Session judges and many other distinguished men would gather to drink, eat and discuss the worthy matters of the day.Dowie’s Tavern had the ‘coffin room’.Meridian – mid-day dramGentle convivialityOne of Dowie’s most popular deinks was Younger’s Edinburgh Ale – ‘a potent fluid which almost glued the lips of the drinker together, and of which few, therefore, could dispatch more than a bottle’. He also offered pub grub – ‘a bit of toasted cheese, a crum of tripe, ham, a dish o’ pease’.Robert Burns came here.Libberton’s Wynd went in 1834 but hangings took place until 1864. | Lost Edinburgh p98 |

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| Burns |
|  | Information | Bibliography for specific fact |
| 1 | Creech was elected as secretary to the Edinburgh Abolition Society in 1788. Creech was also Lord Provost of Edinburgh from 1811 to 1813.The Candlemakers of Edinburgh 'blushed' that such terrible things existed and 'regretted that a sense of right should have lain so long unawakened'. | Scotland and the Abolition of Black SlaveryP82P83 |
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| Fleshmarket Close |
|  | Information | Bibliography for specific fact |
| 1 | Here he was unfortunate enough to receive the scar which helped eventually to identify him during his flight from justice. The cause of this distinguishing mark was recalled when John Hamlton, a Portsburgh chimney-sweep, one night at Clark's forced his way into the fame of dice which Brodie was enjoying over a glass of punch with his friends Ainslie and Smith. The interloper insisted on playing, lost (so he said) six gunieas and on examining the dice found they were loaded. Ainslie and smith professed innocence, declaring that the dice belonged to the house and that, in any case, they had lost, Brodie adding that he had won but 7s. 6d. and that moreover the chimney-sweep was known as a cunning gambler.Own words – Hamilton took him to court recalling a previous incident when the man gave him 'a very handsome incision on the eye'. | Old Taverns p64 |
| 2 | Brodie had two mistresses and two families. Mistress Anne Grant of Cant's Close and Mistress Jeannie Watt of Libberton's Wynd. | Prime of William Brodie |
| 3 | Hamilton had met Brodie in an 'evil little tavern off the Fleshmarket Close'. This was known as the 'Club' –was this Lucky Clerks'? | Prime of William Brodie |
| 4 | And in the Club register one of the deacon's corines of the Cape drew a hanged man against his name. | Brodie – GibsonP119 |
| 5 | Deacon Brodie made his escape to Holland where he hoped to take a sailing ship to America and freedom. Unfortunately some letters he sent home allowed him to be traced. Before the ship set sail Brodie was captured and returned to Edinburgh as a prisoner. | Adam Lyall's Witchery TalesP22 |
| 6 | Viscount Melville, Henry Dundas, uncrowned King of Scotland, lived on the west side of the building.  | High Street (1950s book) |
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| Life in a Close |
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| Burke and Hare |
|  | Information | Bibliography for specific fact |
| 1 | In 1827 an old man called Donal died, owing £4 rent to his landlord, the Irishman Willian Hare. They were paid £7 10s and encouraged to bring more bodies if possible. | People of the Royal Mile book by Turnbull – very slim.P34 |
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