

## **5: The Burgh**

### **Making a Living**

The early craftsmen in Elgin seem to have worked near Elgin Cathedral and at the east end of the High Street. Names like Glover Street, Shuttle Ra' (*now Collie Street*) and Weaver Place are reminders of that time.

### **Potting Industry**

#### **1. Kiln Furniture**

Fragment of Kiln furniture, probably late 17th century, locally made. Found at Lazarus Lane during archaeological excavation work prior to the 1976 relief road being constructed. Lazarus Lane is near Elgin Cathedral, across the road from the Museum.

ELGNM: uncatalogued (*LL76 300A. NB*)

#### **2. Crucible**

Late Medieval hand-made crucible (*crucible - hollow receptacle, usually of clay or metal used for melting metals*) showing industrial use. From South College Street archaeological excavation.

ELGNM: 1977.250.24 (*SC77 214A 1019 BBQ*)

#### **3. Safety spectacles**

Horn-rimmed with clear glass lenses and probably used by an Elgin craftsman for safety reasons when working.

ELGNM: 1978.748

### **Silversmithing**

The Silversmiths belonged to the Hammermen's trade.

#### **4. Hammermen's Crest**

Carved oak, coat of arms of the Hammermen of the Incorporated Trades of Elgin, carved '*Our Art Ore All Mechanicks, Hes Renoun Our Arme, Are the Hammer and the Crown, 1686*'.

ELGNM: 1928.3

## **5. Elgin Silver Spoons**

From left to right:

- Joseph Pozzi, 1789-1871 (*Purchased with grant from National Fund for Acquisitions*)
- Charles Fowler, 1790-1820
- Thomas Stewart, 1784-1856, production date c1830
- William Ferguson, (1802-1875), production date c1835
- Thomas Stewart, 1784-1856, production date c1830

ELGNM: 1993.27, 1977.39, 1968.6, 1966.10, 1966.15

## **Shoemaking**

### **6. Stone carving**

Stone carving depicting St Crispin, patron saint of shoemakers, circa 17-18th century, found at the junction of Collie Street and North College Street, Elgin. The stone may originally have been painted as traces can be seen on parts of the carving.

ELGNM: 1939.1

### **7. Shoemaker's tools and lasts**

The tools displayed include:

- A welt knife - used when removing the old sole to cut the stitching on the welt, the strip of leather on the edge of the upper.
- An awl - used for making holes in the leather
- A bruiser - used for burnishing shoe heels with wax.

ELGNM: 1981.9.5,6,8 and 1996.18.1,3, 5,6

### **8. Goatskin boots**

This pair of white goatskin or kid boots was made by Mr Anderson, Shoemaker in South Street, Elgin circa 1870.

ELGNM: 1969.3

## **9. Child's leather boot**

Child's leather, lace-up boot, found in the debris of a building, formerly Hall's Greengrocer shop, on the corner of South Street and Harrow Inn Close, Elgin.

ELGNM: 1990.44

## **10. Child's boot**

Worn boot of a very small child, found in the rafters of a house at the harbour head in Buckpool.

ELGNM: 2003.3

## **11. Male shoe**

Found in the roof space of the Museum during renovations in 2003. It may have been placed there for good luck when the Museum was built in 1842.

ELGNM: 2003.31

## **Weaving**

### **12. Weaver's Box, 1658**

The boxmaster of the Trade was in charge of the weavers' box which could hold important documents and money. The Trades owned land in Elgin and distributed money for the relief of widows and the sick. In addition to initials, a heart and a shuttle are inscribed on the lid.

ELGNM: 1994.25

## **Weights and Measures**

Correct measures were important from medieval times.

### **13. Stone Weight**

Stone weight with iron handle on top, weighing 18lbs, and engraved XVIIIIP. From Braco's Banking House, 7 High Street, Elgin, still arcaded and now a bicycle shop.

ELGNM: 1889.2

## **14. Pewter Measures**

Two small ½ pint pewter measures, possibly from the Plough Inn, which later became the Palace Hotel, Elgin. Stamped on rim 'James Yates' and 'D. ELGIN G.S.' Possibly by the Birmingham based pewterer, James Yates circa 1837-1902, but made for Elgin.

ELGNM: 1999.9 (1-2)

## **Law and Order**

The Tolbooth was the centre of law and order, although there are no records of the building before 16th century.

It was the meeting place of the Town Council and the Courts and it contained separate prisons for debtors, criminals and disturbers of the peace. The last Tolbooth was taken down in 1843.

## **15. Town drum**

William Edward was appointed drummer at an annual salary of 24 pounds Scots in 1762. He had to beat the drum at four o'clock in the morning and at nine o'clock at night as he walked up the High Street and along South Street. Those who misbehaved might be '*drummed out of town*'.

ELGNM: 1978.427

## **16. Tolbooth keys and padlock, High Street, Elgin**

ELGNM: 1933.5, 1975.37, 1978.685

## **17. Burgess Acts**

These documents gave evidence of being a Freeman of the Burgh. The example on parchment is in favour of John Brander of Elgin, dated 19th October 1785.

ELGNM: 1915.13

## **Reform of the Burgh**

The life of the Burgh changed with the Reform Bill of 1832. However, voting was still restricted to men who occupied homes with a value of £10, and only one in seven men gained the vote. The Trades' influence declined from this time.

## 18. Objections to new voters, 1832

A collection of 55 letters of claim and objection regarding voting in Moray in the 19th century was bought at an antique fair and donated to the Museum.

ELGNM: 2002.25.2,4,5

## 19. Reform Medal

Medal commemorating Grey, Russell and Brougham by name, engineers of the Reform Act which was passed on 7th June 1832, and also of the Scottish Reform Act passed in the July. It was an Act of Parliament that introduced wide ranging changes to election laws in Scotland. The reverse of the medal is stamped '*The confidence of the people. Corruption destroyed, Purity restored*'.



Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Gray (1764-1845), Prime Minister, 1830-1834.

Henry Brougham (1778-1868), lawyer, slavery abolitionist, Whig MP.

John Russell, First Lord Russell (1792-1878), Prime Minister 1846-1852 and 1865-1866.

ELGNM: 1936.20

## The Tourist Trade

### 20. Plaster model of John Shanks (circa 1758-1841), Keeper or Cicerone of Elgin Cathedral

After John Shanks, sometimes referred to as "The Drouthy Cobbler", cleared away the rubbish from Elgin Cathedral, it became the major tourist attraction of the Burgh.

The silver snuff box displayed in the peep hole on the right was awarded to Shanks for his efforts at Elgin Cathedral by the people of Elgin.

ELGNM: 1856.3

## **21. Portrait of John Shanks**

Oil portrait of John Shanks: conserved and restored in February 2016, with thanks to the Woodmansterne Art Conservation Award.

ELGNM: 2014.29

## **22. Tourist trinkets**

Loving cup and plate, cups and saucers, paper knife and napkin ring: tourist souvenirs from a visit to Elgin. Although the Coat of Arms of Elgin is known to have existed from earlier times, it was not formally registered with the Lord Lyon until 1888. It was used on souvenirs and trinkets as the 19th century tourist trade developed.

ELGNM: 1987.8, 2001.8, uncatalogued, 1987.13, 2001.31

## **In the Peephole**

### **John Shanks' Snuffbox**

The work that John Shanks carried out in the Cathedral was recognised by the Burgh of Elgin when he was presented with this fine silver snuffbox made by Elgin Silversmith, William Ferguson in the late 1830s.

Inscribed with an image of Elgin Cathedral on the front and on the reverse with a vote of thanks, as follows:

*“From the inhabitants of Elgin as a reward to JOHN SHANKS keeper of the Cathedral. For his attention and care of it generally and in particular for discovering on the 23rd Sept. 1833 four steps in front of the GRAND ENTRANCE which has been hid by rubbish for centuries and have now restored this noble part of the Building to its just PROPORTION”.*

ELGNM: 1943.6