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Peter Steele (1794-1871) (Greek inscription)

John Hastie (1881-1915) (C'wealth War Grave)

Peter Steele (to left of this marker)

Peter Steele's memorial is one of five in the Grange Cemetery which include an inscription in Greek.

Peter Steele was born on 15 February 1794 at Coldingham, where his father, William Steele, was a merchant. He was educated at Edinburgh High School and Edinburgh University. He was appointed Rector of Dalkeith Grammar School in 1826 but lost his position in 1843 when he joined the Free Church of Scotland following the Disruption. He opened a school in Dalkeith but in 1848 was appointed to the staff of the new Moray House [Free Church] Training College in Edinburgh, where he taught Latin, Greek and English Literature until his death in 1871.

Peter Steele married Elizabeth Peddie in 1825 and they had seven children. Eliza's youngest brother, John Smart Peddie (1816-c.1848), was an officer and naval surgeon on Sir John Franklin's ill-fated expedition which sailed to the Arctic in May 1845 in search of a northwest passage to the East.

After Steele's death an appeal was made to former pupils and friends to provide a suitable memorial and was so successful that enough money was raised not only to erect the tombstone in the Grange Cemetery but also to establish two prizes for students in Moray House Training College.

John Hastie (to right of this marker)

Grange Cemetery has 40 official WW1 and WW2 war graves but only two are marked by the usual upright Commonwealth War Graves Commission stones. One in the extension area commemorates James Jude, the other, next to Peter Steele's monument, honours **John Hastie**.

John Hamilton Hastie was born in Edinburgh on 24 July 1881, the third son of Robert Hastie, a baker, and Agnes Hamilton. Hastie was a career soldier initially enlisting in the Gordon Highlanders but in the First World War serving as a private in the Black Watch. He was among the first troops sent to France in late August 1914. He was wounded in November 1914 and again in May 1915, and died in Edmonton Military Hospital, Middlesex, on 12 June 1915.



Edinburgh Evening News, Wednesday 23 June 1915, Scots who have died for their country