

John Bartholomew 1805-1861

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Engraver and Map-maker



John Bartholomew was the second generation of what became six generations of cartographers. He was born to George Bartholomew (1784-1871) and Anne McGregor (1791-1849), George being an engraver apprenticed to Lizars in Edinburgh in 1797 and whose work included engraving a map of 1825 Edinburgh.

John Bartholomew followed in his father's footsteps as an engraver and in 1826 founded what became a world-famous map-making firm. It originally published a range of material, including election literature, but also maps, of which Black's *General Atlas* of 1846 was a notable example. John was said to be a shy man, with very high standards.

His son, also John (1831-1893), and his grandson, John George (1860-1920), developed the company into a prosperous business that produced excellent maps. From about 1890, the company devoted almost all of its efforts to cartography. The company went from strength to strength with further generations of Bartholomews involved in the business. John George's son, John (Ian) Bartholomew (1890-1962), was in charge of the 1922 *Times Survey Atlas of the World* and the mid 20th century *Times Atlas of the World*. John (Ian) had three sons who all played a continuing role in the family firm - John Christopher (1923-2008), Peter (1924-1987) and Robert (Robbie) (1927-2017). They took on many new ventures, such as *Bartholomew's Family Atlas of the World* (1983), but were the last generation to run the family business of John Bartholomew & Son Ltd. They were bought out by *Reader's Digest*, one of their clients, in 1980. The company eventually became part of HarperCollins but its name is still remembered in the Collins Bartholomew cartographic database.

This stone remembers John; his wife Margaret McGregor (1796-1864); two children who pre-deceased him - Margaret and George; and his son John, his wife and their daughter. The reverse of the stone marks great-great grandson Robert (Robbie) and his wife Jean (1931-2013). Three other stones in the cemetery commemorate family members and there is a bench in memory of Robbie Bartholomew near the west gate.



The last three Bartholomews to run the family firm