

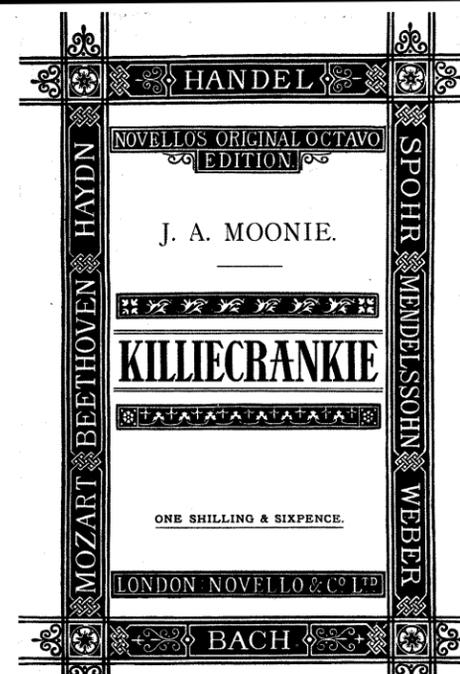
James (1853-1923) & WB (1883-1961) Moonie

Click the name to see more information about this burial on our Cemetery pages

Musicians, teachers and choirmasters

This attractive stone with its musical motif commemorates four lives, including two respected musicians.

James Anderson Moonie was born in Edinburgh in 1853, becoming a teacher of singing, a conductor, vocal composer and music arranger. From 1896, he conducted Edinburgh University Musical Society chorus and orchestra and founded Mr. Moonie's Choir. He had 68 musical works published. He is listed as a member of the Lodge Dramatic & Arts No. 757 (Edinburgh) and undertook in 1890 to organise a choir of 100 voices for a "Grand Lodge Bazaar" at St Giles Cathedral.



Soon after retiring from teaching, James died in 1923 of pneumonia while holidaying in Nice from his home in Salisbury Road. In 1926, the Moonie Memorial Singing Prize and Trophy was set up at the Ladies' College, Watson's and Stewart's in honour of William who had taught singing in the three schools.

Between 1881 and 1889, James had five children from his marriage in 1880 to Clementina Greenaway (1856-1913), an Edinburgh secretary. His second and fourth sons and his only daughter, who died in the USA, feature on his memorial - W. B. (William Walter Beaton) (1883-1961), Charles White (1890-1971) and Lillian Esme (1885-1967).

WB Moonie was born prematurely in 1883 in Stobo, where his family was on holiday, but was brought up in Edinburgh and went to Daniel Stewart's College. At the age of seven he composed a march for the family coming to the dinner table, so it was no surprise that he followed his father into a career in music to the extent that he took over Mr. Moonie's Choir after his father's death. He gained a B.Mus. at Edinburgh University in 1902 and attended the Hock Conservatoire in Germany from 1905 to 1908 where he studied composition and piano. In 1915 he became music master at his old school before being appointed music master at George Heriot's School in 1919. From 1948, he taught at Dean College.

WB's compositions include three operas, two symphonies, organ and piano pieces, overtures, chamber music and songs; but he is probably most remembered for his works based on Scottish melodies.



W.B. Moonie

The Harvesters

For two pianos

