

MMT News

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Newsletter of The Mausolea and Monuments Trust, Registered Charity No 1063416

The Heathcote Mausoleum is one of the five buildings owned by the Mausolea and Monuments Trust. We are delighted to print a short history of the building, accompanied by photographs – see below. The MMT has recently engaged the services of an architect who is drawing up a schedule of works for the building, which will shortly go out to tender. We welcome all contributions, large or small, to help pay for repairs to this eloquent edifice.

The Heathcote Mausoleum

The old church crypt at Hursley, Hampshire (now sealed off) contains the remains of Richard Cromwell and his family plus a number of other Parliamentarian families. Thomas Heathcote bought the estate off the Cromwells in 1712. He thought the old church crypt was too small to accommodate *his* family so in 1771 he had the Mausoleum built in the churchyard. Those Heathcotes already in the crypt were transferred.

On entering the Mausoleum there are 35 spaces on each side, left and right; 38 are filled, each with an inscription, one of which is to Vice Admiral Francis Drake who died 1787 – he married an Elizabeth Heathcote. In the floor is a memorial to the Rev. Thomas Heathcote who died in 1811 and his wife Letitia, who died in 1802.



The Heathcote Mausoleum with Keble's tomb in the foreground

There is an anomaly with the inscription for William Heathcote 3rd Bt. According to the book "The Family of Heathcote", 1899, William was born 21 June 1746 which would make his age on death 73 not 72.

The family funeral hatchment was at one time affixed to the inside of the south wall. It was taken into the church and placed above the Victorian memorial to the 5th Bt. under the tower.

Thomas Heathcote's brother Samuel gave instructions that on his death he be

