



Volunteers Daniel Stevens and Dean Hewitt with Historylinks curator Lynne Mahoney (left) and Mary Schouten who visited the monument regularly as a child.

# Memorial to sheriff is restored

IN January Historylinks in Dornoch embarked on a project to renovate the Sheriff McCulloch Memorial Stone at Proncy Croy just outside the town.

The project was funded by Museums Galleries Scotland and public donations.

Museum partners Dornoch Academy along with youth worker D J MacLeod and museum volunteers completed the project.

As well as renovating the memorial, Dr Elizabeth Ritchie from the University of the Highlands and Islands wrote three blog posts about the life and times of Sheriff Hugh McCulloch.

The sheriff was born in Dornoch

in 1741 and spent his life serving the community as a sheriff and a lay preacher.

He was the most prominent person to die during the tragedy at Meikle Ferry when a boat overturned on its way to the Lammas Fair in Tain in August 1809.

It was a mystery as to why the memorial to the sheriff was placed at Proncy Croy until research discovered that he preached the Gospel in the field to the north-west of the monument.

He was a much-loved figure in Dornoch and was highly esteemed by people who gathered on a Saturday at noon and a Sunday evening from all over

the parish to hear him preach.

The condition of the memorial was first brought to the notice of Historylinks curator Lynne Mahoney by Ruth Daubney, neé MacLennan.

She used to visit the stone as a child along with her sister Mary and their father who was the Presbyterian missionary to Dornoch. She was lately disappointed to see the memorial in disrepair and asked if anything could be done about it.

The restoration project was completed in August and a small crowd turned out recently to witness the unveiling of the renovated memorial.