

**Name of memorial:** John Nicholson Memorial

**Inventory No. 1203**

**Place:** Lisburn (Christ Church) Cathedral

**Address and map reference:** Lisburn (Christ Church) Cathedral,  
24A Castle Street, Lisburn, Co. Antrim.  
Map reference: J 268 643 (Sheet 20).  
Co-ordinates: N 54.5111°; W 6.0431°.

**Access:** check locally.. **Parking:** adjacent streets. **Disabled access:** yes.

**Position:** South nave.

**Description and dimensions:** white marble plaque on black marble. A scene in relief of soldiers attacking a breach in a wall.

Height: appx. 200cms. Width: appx. 300cms.

**Recorded by:** Edward Bourke. 2 August, 2019.

**Text:**

THE GRAVE OF BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN NICHOLSON. C.B. IS BENEATH  
THE FORTRESS WHICH HE DIED TO TAKE.

THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED BY HIS MOTHER, TO KEEP ALIVE HIS  
MEMORY AND EXAMPLE AMONG HIS COUNTRYMEN.

COMRADES WHO LOVED AND MOURN HIM, ADD THE STORY OF HIS LIFE. HE  
ENTERED THE ARMY OF THE H.E.I.C.\* IN 1839, AND SERVED IN FOUR GREAT  
WARS: AFGHANISTAN 1841\_42.

SUTLEJ 1845\_46. PUNJAB 1848\_49. INDIA 1857.

IN THE FIRST HE WAS AN ENSIGN, IN THE LAST A BRIGADIER-GENERAL AND  
COMPANION OF THE BATH. IN ALL, A HERO.

RARE GIFTS HAD MARKED HIM FOR GREAT THINGS IN PEACE AND WAR. HE  
HAD AN IRON MIND AND FRAME, A TERRIBLE COURAGE, AND INDOMITABLE  
WILL.

HIS FORM SEEMED MADE FOR AN ARMY TO BEHOLD. HIS HEART, TO MEET  
THE CRISIS OF AN EMPIRE. YET WAS HE GENTLE EXCEEDINGLY; MOST  
LOVING; MOST KIND.

IN ALL HE THOUGHT, AND DID, UNSELFISH, EARNEST, PLAIN AND TRUE.  
INDEED, A MOST NOBLE MAN;

IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS HE WAS THE PUPIL OF THE GREAT AND GOOD SIR  
HENRY LAWRENCE, AND WORTHY OF HIS MASTER.

FEW TOOK A GREATER SHARE IN EITHER THE CONQUEST OR  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB. PERHAPS NONE SO GREAT IN BOTH.

SOLDIER AND CIVILIAN HE WAS A TOWER OF STRENGTH; THE TYPE OF THE  
CONQUERING RACE.

MOST FITLY, IN THE GREAT SIEGE OF DELHI, HE LED THE FIRST COLUMN OF  
ATTACK AND CARRIED THE MAIN BREACH, DEALING THE DEATH-BLOW TO  
THE GREATEST DANGER THAT EVER THREATENED BRITISH INDIA.

MOST MOURNFULLY, MOST GLORIOUSLY, IN THE MOMENT OF VICTORY, HE  
FELL MORTALLY WOUNDED ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> AND DIED ON 23<sup>RD</sup> OF SEPTEMBER  
1857 AGED ONLY 34.

\*Honourable East India Company.