



The Dalkeith Town Trail is the result of a joint initiative by the Dalkeith Business Renewal Company and the Dalkeith History Society, and made possible through the generous financial assistance of the Heritage Lottery Board 'Awards for All' scheme.

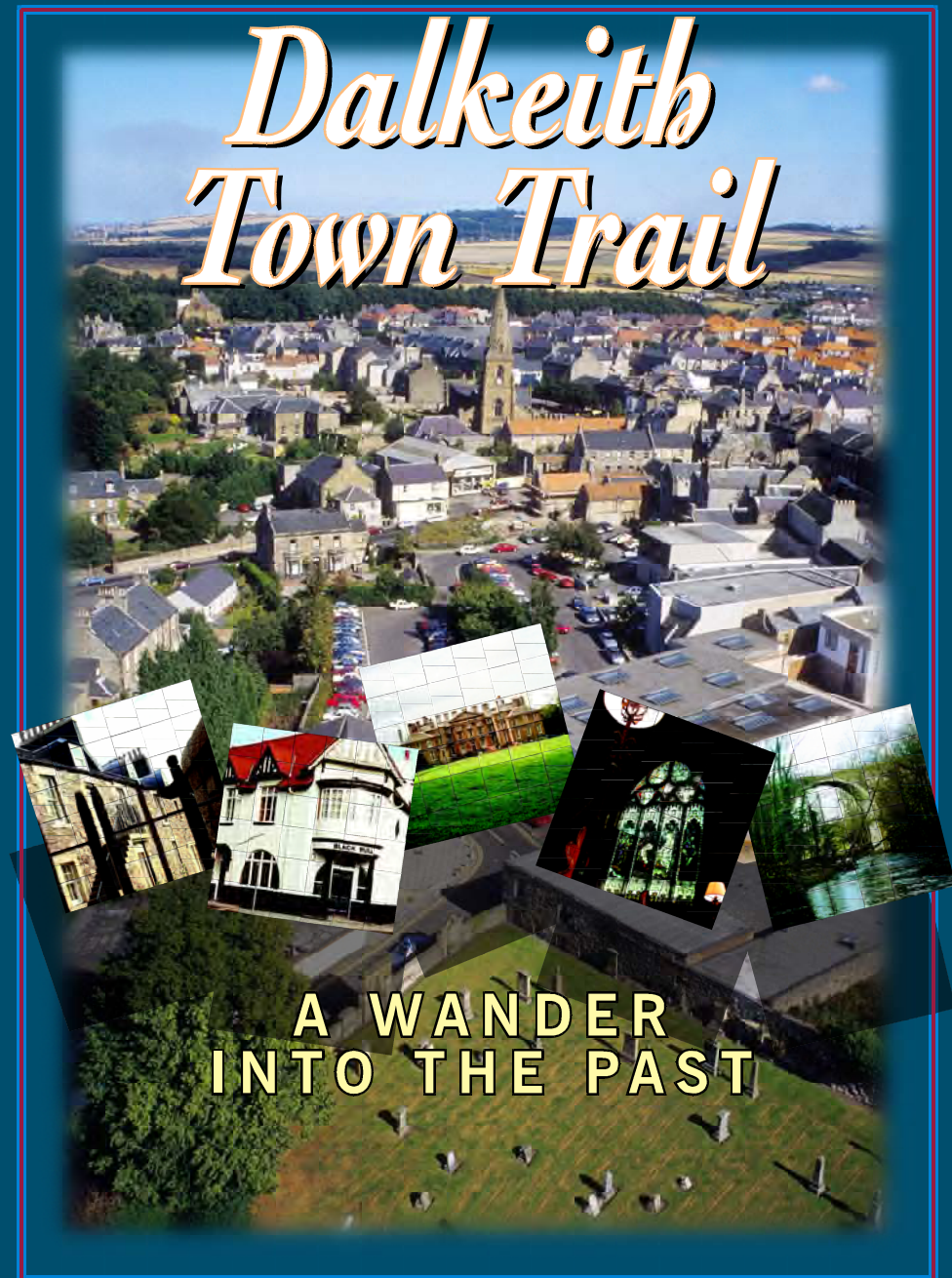
At its peak, Dalkeith was the most important grain market town in Scotland and its agricultural position was reinforced by a wide variety of local manufacturing plants and workshops. The shops provided a comprehensive retail service to a significant surrounding population. Dalkeith, too, made a considerable contribution to the political, social and military history of the nation.

The History Trail is intended to stimulate interest in Dalkeith's past. It is hoped that residents and visitors will use the Trail to experience the spirit of the town's surviving historical buildings. Despite the intrusion of modern development, much of the townscape is basically what it was many generations ago.

The Trail is also a contribution to schemes under consideration for the revitalisation of the commercial sector of the town. There is a need to attract shops and customers.

If the Trail helps – however little – to meet that need, it will have served its purpose.

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11 South Street
Dalkeith.

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VISIT

DALKEITH HISTORY SOCIETY



WORKSHOP / MUSEUM

On display is a large collection of photographs,
newspapers, documents and artifacts of old
Dalkeith

4 BUCCLEUCH STREET, DALKEITH
(Old Council buildings, above the Citizens Advice Bureau)
OPEN TUESDAY ONLY ~ 10AM TO 12.00PM
FREE ADMISSION

Dalkeith Business Renewal

The History Trail has been partly funded by the Dalkeith Business Renewal Company (the DBR) in the hope that it will stimulate an interest in the town centre and lead to increased trading activity.

The Trail Notes point to Dalkeith's past as an important market town, serving the needs of an area well beyond its own boundaries.

A rich and colourful general history reinforced the town's commercial activities. In recent times as a result of competition from outside shopping precincts, Dalkeith's services have seriously declined.

The DBR has been established as part of an effort to reverse the trend. Working in close association with other agencies, the Company will seek funding in support of an overall strategy to revitalise the town centre.

As a first stage in the operation the DBR rescued from demolition an interesting and historic building at 11 South Street, and this will be a base for the promotion

of new initiatives. The Company is composed of persons experienced in local government, banking and other business and professional areas. The DBR believes that Dalkeith is on the verge of significant change.

Emerging economic factors could have a beneficial impact on the town provided there is sufficient public confidence and the internal strategy is correct. Although the DBR is limited in scope and resources, it will do what it can to re-establish Dalkeith as the main economic hub of the county.

In the meantime, visitors and residents are invited to use the History Trail to explore the town centre, consider its history, and support its revival by using its shops and other services.

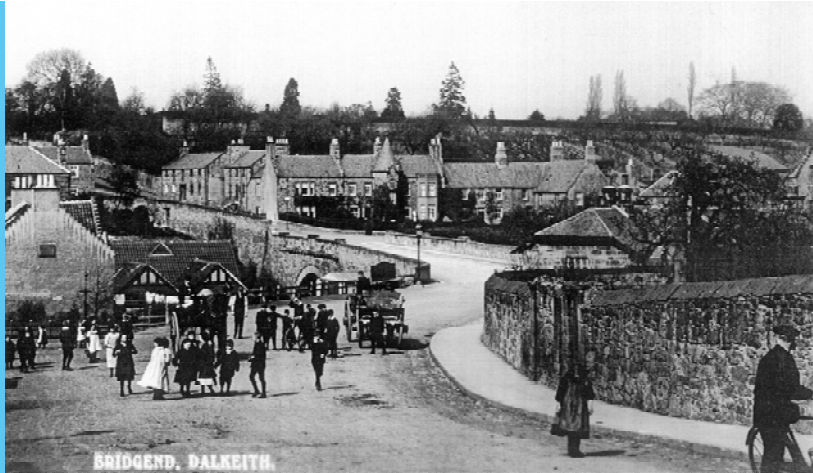
Dalkeith Town Trail

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DALKEITH



Some kind of settlement existed before the twelfth century but it was in 1142 that Dalkeith first appeared in the written records. In a charter of that year 52 acres of land at Dalkeith were acquired by Holyrood Abbey.

A witness to the foundation of that Abbey in 1128 was William de Graham, a powerful Anglo-Norman baron, and it was the Graham Family who were given the Manor of Dalkeith around the middle of the 12th century. The lordship remained in their hands for more than 200 years before passing through marriage to the even more powerful Douglas family.



Sir James Douglas became First Lord of Dalkeith in 1369. In 1377 he built a Chapel which formed the nucleus of what later became the Collegiate Church of St Nicholas.

A Douglas of different disposition was the Fourth Earl of Morton, “the cruel and grasping”, who, in 1575 built at Dalkeith a magnificent palace “richly adorned with pictures and tapestries”. It was known by the local people as “The Lion’s Den”.

This Douglas played a part in the murder of Darnley, husband of Mary, Queen of Scots, and for some time he was the ruler of Scotland.

Rebuffed in his effort to wed his son to the infant Mary, Henry VIII resolved to invade Scotland. After the disastrous defeat of the Scottish army in 1547, crowds of fugitives fled to the safety of Dalkeith castle but many were slaughtered in the nearby fields. The Scots defended the castle but after a great resistance the garrison was forced to surrender. The English intruders set fire to the town which then consisted of wooden houses.

In 1650 Cromwell’s army came to the town and the parish church was used as stables. Cromwell’s officer, General Monck, was appointed Commander in Scotland and the government of the country was conducted from Dalkeith castle. Cromwell attempted to unite Scotland and England by means of a common Parliament, and it was to Dalkeith that Commissioners came to declare the terms of the Commonwealth. These terms included the appointment of Scottish representatives to the Parliament in London. After the death of Cromwell there was a successful plot to restore Royalty and it was General Monck at Dalkeith who instigated it.

This was not the first time that the affairs of Scotland were discharged at Dalkeith. In 1637 Charles I ordered every member of the Privy Council

to attend meetings in Dalkeith every Tuesday and Thursday, with no allowance for absence except sickness.

After Cromwell, Dalkeith did not figure as a place of national military importance until the Jacobite uprising of 1745 when Charles Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charles) attempted to regain the throne for his dynasty. The Government troops were routed at Prestonpans and without much resistance the rebels took command of Edinburgh. The Prince spent two nights at Dalkeith and it was there that he split his army into two divisions for the purpose of invading England.

A blemish on Dalkeith’s history was its treatment of “witches”. As early as 1629 a traveller had described the town as a “borough where all the witches are burned”, and in 1648/9 no fewer than five women were thus done to death. The populace seems to have become panic-stricken over these imaginary crimes and we are told that the church minister became distracted immediately after reproving a witch. So prevalent were witchcraft trials around 1661, Parliament found it necessary to ordain a high legal authority to attend to Dalkeith at least once a week.

There is little evidence before the middle of the 16th century that Dalkeith had any economic importance. The situation changed in 1540 when the town was given some exclusive rights of manufacture and control over local trade in return for the merchants paying a tax to the feudal landowner. In the 1570’s Dalkeith was producing its own money, its mint in rivalry with one in Edinburgh. In 1581 an Act of Parliament ordered Dalkeith to change its weekly corn market from Sunday to Thursday because “people had stopped listening to the Word of God”, an indication of the growing importance of the market.

Later on there were attempts by the “royal burghs” to stifle the economic development of Dalkeith. In 1693 they took legal action against Dalkeith. There was a compromise whereby Dalkeith agreed to pay a special tax in return for increased channels of trade. Dalkeith failed to honour its side of the bargain; in 1716 the local traders were threatened with prosecution for falling behind in the payment of their annual quota. The struggle between the contending economic forces dragged on until finally the whole system of trade restriction collapsed.

During the middle of the 19th century Dalkeith was looked upon as an important market town, with the best grain market in Scotland, supplying Edinburgh and the Borders. The streets were lined with carts on market day. A writer of the period reported that “few towns are better supplied with bread, butcher-meat, groceries and garden produce. We have an

extensive iron foundry, a gas works, a brewery, several curriers and tanners, builders, carpenters, and cabinet-makers in good employment; manufacturers of felt and beaver hats, straw-hats, and woollen stuffs: besides extensive dealers in meal, flour, and barley, tobacco, saddlery, drapery, shoes, hardware, and earthenware; in short, almost everything that the present improved condition of society requires may be obtained here in abundance, and of the most approved description”.

For centuries the government of Dalkeith rested with the feudal superior. In 1642 the rights passed from the Douglas family to the Scotts of Buccleuch.

Through his baron-baillie the Duke of Buccleuch controlled local trade and had the right to impose a tax on goods entering the town. His own court was the instrument of local discipline, and every trade guild was required to obtain his seal of approval.

The defeat of the Jacobite rebellion in 1746 led to a major reduction of those feudal powers and it became necessary to devise a new method of government. An Act of Parliament, which came into force in 1760, stated that the streets of Dalkeith were in a ruinous condition, and the inhabitants were in great want of fresh and wholesome water. As there was no public revenue to deal with these matters, fifteen Trustees were appointed with the power to levy a duty on beer brewed and sold within the town. This did not mean that the inhabitants received any share of the government of the town. The first Trustees were specified in the Act of Parliament and it was provided that future vacancies were to be filled by the surviving members.

The Trustees used the new revenue to pave the streets and install wells for the supply of water. They introduced regulations for improving sanitary conditions and they had the power to punish violators although very often they lacked the means to carry out the penalties.

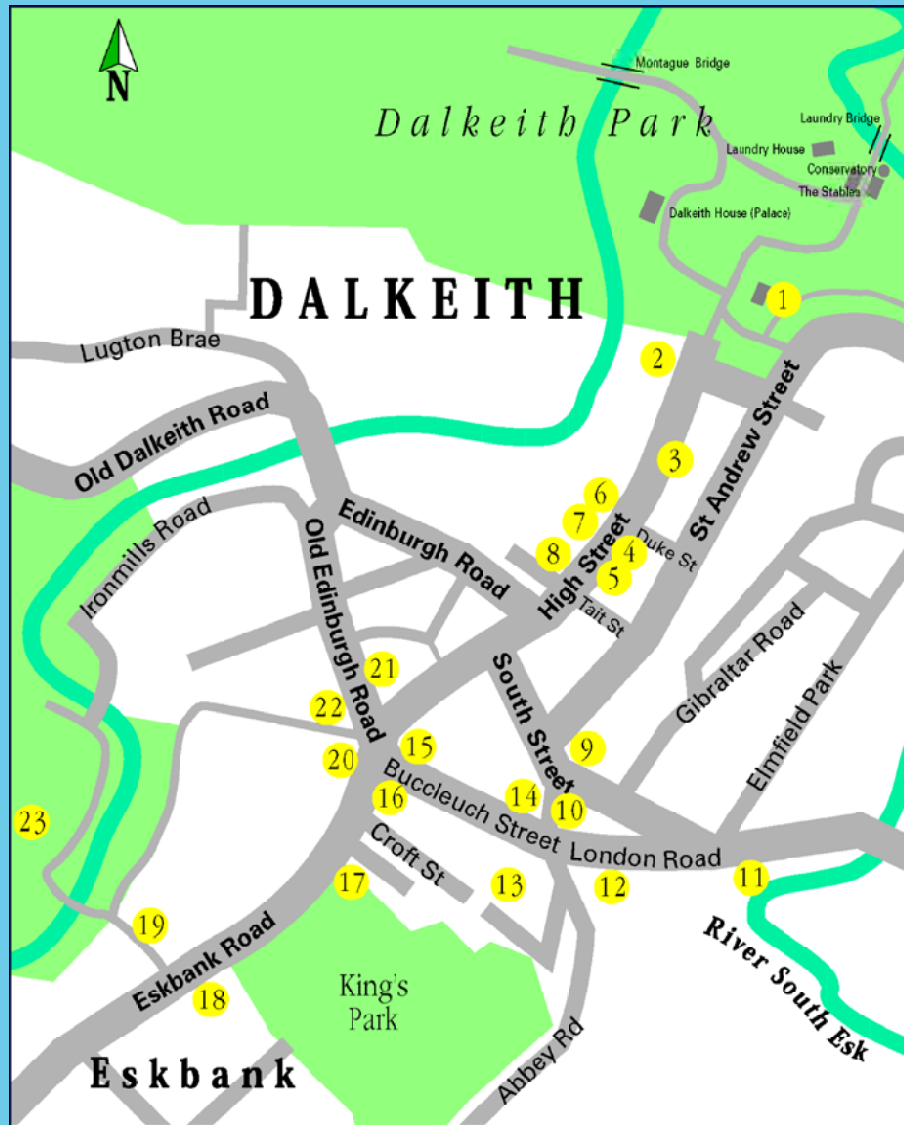
By the nineteenth century the Trustee system of administration was seen to be ill equipped to deal with the social and industrial problems of the age. There was a reluctance ... perhaps inability ... to widen the scope of the Trustees, particularly with regard to the appalling housing conditions. Moreover, the rising tide of democracy challenged the right of a few individuals to rule the town without accountability. A radical merchant class set into motion an agitation which was to last for many years. Not only did they criticise the town's unrepresentative form of government but also sparked off the challenge of radicalism in a variety of ways. Liberal attitudes led to the formation of bodies such as the Anti-Slavery Society



and a lively interest towards both national and international affairs was shown. The municipal reformers published the “Dalkeith Herald” as a vehicle for the expression of the need for democratic change.

Local democracy finally broke through in 1878 when the Trustees themselves realised that the town could progress no more on such a narrow base of both power and privilege, and arrangements were made for the election of Dalkeith's first town council. Dalkeith was the last place in Scotland to discard a non-elected system of government.

After the coming into being of local democracy the town began to advance at an accelerating pace so that by 1975 Dalkeith was able to claim that it was one of the most advanced and progressive small towns in Scotland. In that year, the Town Council was eliminated as a consequence of the re-organisation of local government, and Dalkeith merged into the wider framework of Midlothian. ❖



Dalkeith Park

(a) Dalkeith House (Palace)

Originally a 12th century castle, the building was completely reconstructed by James Smith for Anne, Duchess of Buccleuch, in 1702-11. Built of a warm sandstone and perched above the North Esk river, it is regarded as one of the grandest early classical houses in Scotland. The south front has an entrance featuring a giant order of Corinthian pilasters over which there is an enormously deep, bracketed pediment. The east range commands a low window inserted by James Playfair in 1786. The building was resurfaced by John Adam in 1762 and in 1832 William Burn built a new porch on the west side of the front. Parts of the old castle are embedded in the House. An internal feature is the large amount of marble introduced by Duchess Anne.

George IV was a resident visitor in 1822 and in 1842 Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were guests. The House was the principal home of the Buccleuch family until around 1916.

(b) Montague Bridge

Built in 1792, the bridge was designed by Robert Adam. It consists of one arch between parapets of droved ashlar, standing high over the Esk. The bridge is named after Lady Elizabeth Montague who married Henry, the 3rd Duke of Buccleuch.



(c) Laundry House

This is an 18th century building, with later additions, single-storey. Situated close to the South Esk, it was built to serve the laundry needs of the Buccleuch family.

(d) Laundry Bridge

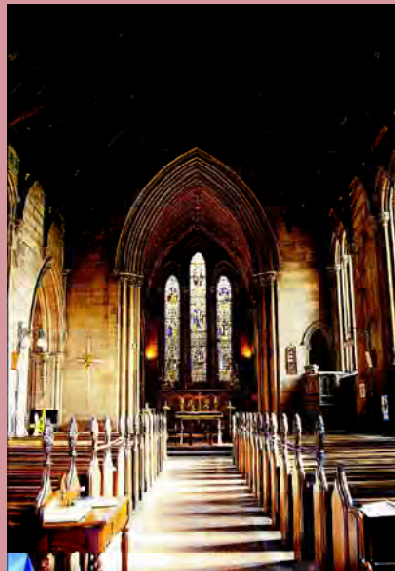
The bridge crosses the South Esk and overlooks the old laundry. It was built in 1740 by William Adam.

(e) The Stables

The stables and coach-house were designed by William Adam in 1740. The buildings take the form of a U-plan. A clock and belfry were added by William Burn in 1840.

(f) The Conservatory

Designed by William Burn in 1832 the Conservatory is a 12-sided building with a central chimney and Roman Doric columns on a stepped base. The boiler for heating the plants is located in the basement.



1. St Mary's Church

Located beyond the gates of Dalkeith Park is St Mary's, built in 1843-45 for the Duke of Buccleuch. Although used mainly by the family and estate servants, it was open to Episcopalians in the area. Designed by leading Scottish architects, William Burn and David Bryce, the building is a good example of English University Chapel style. Of particular merit are some of the windows, the painted glass being an excellent example of 19th century craft. They were designed and executed in France. At the church steps are magnificent tiles depicting the crests of the Buccleuchs. In the crypt lie

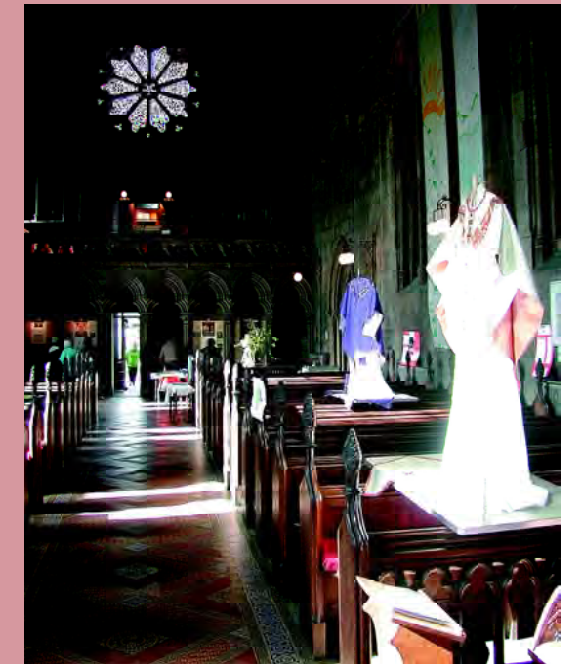


the remains of some of the family. A double-hammer beam roof is an outstanding feature of the interior.

A choir school attained a reputation for the excellence of its music, and in 1861, a much admired organ, made by the specialist David Hamilton, was installed. It is still in use.

St Mary's was a target of the militant wing of the Suffragettes in 1913. A plan to blow up the church was frustrated when an estate workman found a box of explosives with wire attached. There had been warnings that Buccleuch would receive "attention" because of his opposition to women's voting rights.

The chapel is no longer a family possession.



2. Dalkeith Park House

The house is on the north side of the High Street, close to the gates of Dalkeith Palace. It was the place of residence for successive chamberlains of the Duke of Buccleuch. It was built in 1834 for Robert Scott Moncrieff who managed the affairs of the Duke for 41 years. Little could be done in Dalkeith without his personal approval. His duties included a control over law and order, the local market, education, care of the poor, and the militia, quite apart from promoting the interests of his employer. He was opposed to political reform, and on the enactment of the 1832 Reform Bill he plunged his house, an earlier one, into darkness as a sign of protest.

James Steuart, also a chamberlain, in 1905 took his own life while in the house. The mansion is now divided into five flats.

Over the West garden wall, at 175 High Street, is Militia House. This octagonal building, with a stair tower, was occupied by army officers until 1864 when new barracks was built on ground at what is now the housing scheme of Elmfield Court. Dalkeith was an important garrison town at several stages in its history. In the 1790s the Duke of Buccleuch formed a regiment (known as the Duke's Canaries because of a yellow flash on the tunics) to help defend the country against Napoleon. In 1860 the Dalkeith Rifle Volunteers Corps was recruited, again to counter growing threats from France. The unit was based in Hunt Close, near Militia House. A tablet, indicating the connection, can be seen against a tenement at the front of the Close.

Opposite Militia House, at 228-230 High Street, is a three-storey mid-18th century tenement, modernised in the 1930s. Its scrolled skewputts on the roof ridges are a traditional Scottish architectural feature.



3. The Corn Exchange

In the middle of the 19th century Dalkeith was Scotland's leading grain market; on market day some 1000 carts would line the main street. To render a more efficient service it was resolved to build an indoor market place on the site of an old flesh-market. There was formed a Committee for the Erection of a Covered Market which launched an appeal to raise £3,000. The Corn Exchange was opened in 1854 at a banquet attended by 400 gentlemen.

The edifice is of Tudor style and the front exhibits two gables with a belfry in the centre. At each side of the main entrance is a door, one for taking in sacks of grain for sale, and the other for taking them out after purchase. A panel above the central doorway exhibits the arms of the Duke of Buccleuch, as well as the texts "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof", and "Thou crownest the earth with Thy goodness." A magnificent double-hammer beam roof is the most important feature of the interior of the building.

The Corn Exchange was a popular place for social functions, exhibitions and political rallies. It was conspicuous in the Midlothian Campaign of 1879 in which the Liberal leader, William Gladstone, initiated a new style of electioneering. Over 3000 people crowded into the Corn Exchange to hear the great statesman. He unseated the Earl of Dalkeith as M.P. for Midlothian.





4. Cross Keys Hotel

The hotel, built in 1804, was a popular venue for official banquets and balls. It was owned by the Duke of Buccleuch between 1836 and 1921. During the election of 1880 when the contestants for Midlothian were the Earl of Dalkeith and William Gladstone, the Conservatives used the hotel as campaign headquarters; afterwards, the windows were smashed by a riotous crowd.

At the right of the building is a pend which led to a coach-house and stables, from where a public stagecoach service operated.

5. The Tolbooth

Adjoining the Cross Keys Hotel is a building which served as a tolbooth for the administration of the town, and as a place for law and order. The year 1648 appears on the frontage but the building was not used as a tolbooth until the early 18th century. A panel shows the initials of Francis, 2nd Earl of Dalkeith, and his wife Margaret Leslie. The various parts of the building were used for the following purposes:-

- top, East – court room and meeting place
- top, West – prison
- bottom, East – weigh-house for use on market day
- bottom, West – prison

Below ground level there is a dungeon which was known as the “black hole”.

The tolbooth became known as the Scientific Hall after the formation of the Dalkeith Scientific Association in 1835. The hall was used for the delivery of public lectures on all aspects of science. It also accommodated a well-stocked library. The Association ceased to exist in 1929.



In front of the building there is a circle of stones to mark the spot where, in 1827, the last public hanging in the town was carried out. A young labourer attacked and robbed a farmer after leaving the Dalkeith market by horse. Four were involved in the highway robbery but only William Thomson was executed. He met his end with dignity after taking part in the singing of hymns. From the town and surrounding countryside a considerable number of people gathered to witness the event. There was a respectful silence at the last moment.

6. High School Close

On the other side of the street from the Cross Keys Hotel there is a close which leads to three buildings of importance, viz.,

(a) The Masonic Lodge

The recognised year for the formation of a Society in Dalkeith is 1724 but there is some evidence that it was in existence before then. It was not until 1766 that a building in the close was erected; it was extended in 1939. The Lodge room was sometimes used as a classroom to relieve overcrowding in a school which adjoined it. Many historic relics, including an early 19th century banner, are kept within the premises. Behind the Master's chair is a wall cavity in which there was placed a strong box for the custody of the Lodge funds before there were banks. There were four keys needed to open it, each held by a different person.



A statue of St Andrew occupies a commanding position in the temple. It was made in 1822 by the noted sculptor, Sir John Steele.

(b) Old High School

To the left of the Masonic Hall is a building known at different times as the parochial, grammar, or high school. A description of it was given in 1791:- “It has long been in high repute and at one point was considered as first in the kingdom. It has produced some of the greatest geniuses, and brightest ornaments of the age, some of the most distinguished characters in the literary and political world having here received the rudiments of their education. The teaching room is large, pleasant, well aired, and inferior

to none on this side of the Tweed.” In the mid-19th century tuition was given on English, Latin, Greek, French, German, Italian, Writing, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, Geometry, Algebra, Mathematics, History, Composition and Scripture Instruction.



The building in High School Close was erected in 1760 but there were earlier ones on at least two locations, going back to the 16th century. The 1760 school was extended in 1877. In 1914 the pupils were transferred to the King's Park School which was renamed the High School.

The building is now a factory which was extended across the playground to obscure a view of the old school on the south side.

(c) Headmaster's House

To the west of the old school is a house which was built for the master in 1828. It replaced one built in 1760 along with the school. The new master's house contained four spacious rooms on the ground floor, nine excellent rooms above, as well as kitchen, laundry etc. The master was expected to provide board for pupils requiring it, the income supplementing his school salary and fees. The house cost £954 to build. It was not until eight years later that gas lighting could be installed.

7. St Nicholas Buccleuch Church

The main body of the present church was completed by 1420 although a chapel on the same site seems to have been in existence by 1350. The later church was enlarged by Sir James Douglas, 4th Lord of Dalkeith and 1st Earl of Morton, in 1475. The church of today incorporates much of the original stonework, including the part in ruins which had been the apse and sacristy. Following the Reformation of 1560 this area was sealed off as a “monument of idolatry” and allowed to decay until the roof caved in. A few years ago volunteers removed an accumulation of debris and vegetation and did some restoration work. They discovered the coffin of the infant son of General Monck, Cromwell's chief in Scotland around 1655. During that period, the Protector's soldiers used the church for the stabling of their horses.



In 1851 the church was closed for a major reconstruction which included the removal of lofts used by the different trades, of which the 17th century banner of the Hammermen's Guild is still on display. The work provided for a new steeple which required re-building after a fire in 1885.

The walls of the apse encompass stone statues of the First Earl of Morton, who died in 1498, and his wife, Johanna, a daughter of King James the First. The carving of their Coats of Arms identify the figures.

A door on the north side of the apse leads to what had been the sacristy. At a later period it served as a prison, which in the early part of the 18th century was converted into a burial vault for the Buccleuch Family.

A detached single-storey building is situated to the west of the main entrance to the church. Originally, the manse stood there. In 1804 it was converted into a poorhouse which later became a school run by the Kirk Session.

8. Brunton's Close

In 1984 the local authority restored the houses and shops extending from the church into the Edinburgh Road. Brunton's Close, 18th century, is a striking example of the vennels and rigs that characterised Dalkeith. The red pantiles and stone walls of the cottages portray features of a typical



Scottish high street. A second vennel leads into a rear court-yard, the remains of the Common Close which connected the Edinburgh Road to the principal thoroughfare. The end of the tenements in Edinburgh Road was developed in 1823 and the process removed earlier features such as steep stones, walls, barns, yards, stables and medieval paving. The 1984 re-development revealed traces of the earlier settlement. David Calderwood, the famous 16th century

historian, was born around the Edinburgh Road – High Street corner.

Early Victorian wooden shop fronts were carefully protected during the modern restoration. They were treated, and re-fitted to bring their excellence back to life.

Opposite Brunton's Close is Tait Street, which was opened in 1827 to provide a passage between the High Street and Back Street, now named St Andrew Street. At the two corners of Tait Street, facing each other, are tripantite, Tuscan-columned, bow windows. From Tait Street onwards many of the properties date from early to mid – 19th century.

9. Old Meal Market Inn

After passing the Clydesdale Bank (1855) in the High Street, there is a turning into South Street, which was opened up in 1782. The Inn is at the end of the street. It was built around 1783, no doubt to take advantage of the new road to the south. The meal market had originally operated in that area; hence the name of the inn, although when first opened it was called the Wool Pack (the first keeper was a wool merchant). An open area at the front provided for carriages, carts and horses. There were also a well and a flight of stone steps to help customers mount their horses. The premises were substantially reconstructed in 1874.



10. Co-operative Store

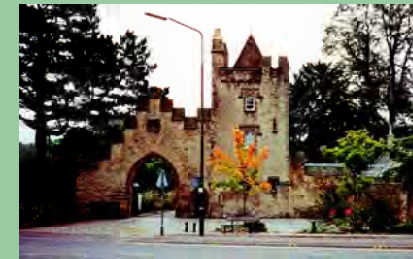
Facing the Old Meal Market Inn is the former Dalkeith Co-operative Society store, built in 1888 as the "People's Palace". A brewery existed previously on the ground. A vast crowd assembled to see the official opening, the occasion taking the form of a festival and a procession starting from the Corn Exchange. Taking part were the Society's horses and vans gaily decorated. The building included a grocery, bakery, ironmongery, millinery, drapery, boot and tailoring departments. A butchery came later. At its peak, the Society employed 65 persons.

The building design is in the Scotch Baronial or Tudor style, but the impressive clock-tower is of Flemish. The Society sold the store in 1968.



11. Newbattle Lodge

In Newmills Road is the West Lodge of Newbattle Estate, a former possession of the Lothian family. The gateway takes the form of a turret and embattlements. It is said to be a direct copy of an ancient gateway to Rome, and was commissioned by the Marquis of Lothian in the middle of the 19th century.



12. London Road

The cottages in the upper end of the street were built about 1780 for some of the more prosperous tradesmen, and are typical period town buildings, built right up to the pavement. A Preservation Society rescued them from the threat of demolition. Great care was taken to renew their essential qualities and, in particular, the staircases at the rear illustrate the traditional character.

There had been a smithy in the back court-yard and, on the fringe, a railway line connecting Hardingreen to the Smeaton coalfield proceeded under a tunnel in London Road.



13. Fairfield House

A short distance from London Road is Fairfield House, now part of Midlothian Council's office campus. The house was built around 1809 and extended around 1840. It was the home of the Mushet family who, among other accomplishments, owned a thriving iron foundry in the nearby Croft Street.

Fairfield is a classical villa with some stain-glassed windows. Alongside, is a hothouse with decorative cast iron panels, probably made in the owner's own foundry.



14. Black Bull Inn

The inn is at the junction of Lothian Street and Buccleuch Street. It was built in 1905 as a Gothenburg public house. The Swedish scheme was based on the theory that people would drink less if most of the profit was used to improve amenities. There was fierce opposition to a Gothenburg pub being opened in Dalkeith; in any event, there is no record of the town

obtaining any social benefits. The inn is no longer part of a Gothenburg arrangement.

There were houses, intended for working families, as part of the public house development but these were provided out of the capital investment, and not from the income of the inn. A restaurant was on the first floor of the public house.



15. Buck's Head Inn

At the other end of Buccleuch Street is a Chinese restaurant; originally it was the Buck's Head Inn, built in 1817 by a Francis Collison. A few years earlier the ground was part of a market garden which covered a considerable area of the west end of the town. An annual horse market took place and the Buck's Head did much business from it. At the rear of the inn there were stables for the horses, and a coaching service was provided.



16. Municipal Buildings

The former buildings of the old Town Council face the old Buck's Head inn. They were built on the site of the Town's reservoir from which water was piped into a number of deep wells. After the first Town Council was elected in 1878 steps were taken to build a water tower elsewhere, demolish the old reservoir, and erect a Council chamber and office, completed in 1882.

An extension was provided in 1908. The front door is decorated by a rope moulding, and a tablet above shows the burgh coat of arms. This signifies the shields of the families – Graham, Douglas and Scott – who held the Lordship over Dalkeith. A soldier on either side indicates a time when the Royal Regalia was guarded in Dalkeith Castle. The town's motto is given in Latin and means "Once the Keeper always the Defender" referring to the Regalia.

The building has a wrought-iron balustraded balcony.



17. St John's & King's Park Church

The church, in Eskbank Road, was erected in 1870 for the United Presbyterians. It resulted in the closure of the Relief Church in the North Wynd, which had its roots in one of the divisions in the established church. The building reflects Early English Gothic style. It has a gallery on cast-iron columns, and four windows depicting the Evangelists.



18. St David's R.C. Church

Prior to 1854, when the Church was built, Catholics in the area worshipped in the upper part of a barn, using a ladder to gain access. Lady Cecil, Marchioness of Lothian, provided the funds for the new building. In 1894, Charlotte, the Duchess of Buccleuch, met the cost of a superbly decorated interior. A

major feature is a rich collection of paintings and statues. An organ, built by Hamilton of Edinburgh, was installed in 1864, and, in 1877, a burial vault for the Lothian family was provided.



19. Water Tower

The tower is opposite St David's. The Town Council had it built in 1879 to replace an old reservoir. A long spiral stair led to the top of the tower where there was an iron tank with a capacity of 12,000 gallons. A new source of water supply became obtainable in 1913 after boring in the Ironmills Park had established satisfactory results. The water was raised by an air lift plant and delivered into a concrete tank located in an old iron mill converted into an engine house. The water was conveyed to the tower by means of a pump. A new bridge over the north Esk was used for the carrying of a pipe from the pump. The output from the new source yielded 150,000 gallons every 24 hours.

The water tower is unusual, being octagonal in shape. It is built of polychrome brick with stone facings. The building is beautifully detailed and constructed, an excellent example of Victorian industrial architecture. It ceased to be operational around 1950, and is now a private dwelling house.



20. Harrow Hotel

The Harrow at the corner of Eskbank Road and Old Edinburgh Road is not the original of that name. In 1812 a destructive fire swept through a part of the town and two inns were burnt down, one of them being the Harrow. A new one was built on the present site in the 1820s. In 1837 the inn was purchased by the Duke of Buccleuch from the Corporation of Fleshers. It later became

the property of the North British Railway Co. In 1904 the Licensing Court considered that the premises below the street level were quite unsuitable; in addition there were two side doors, which were objectionable. The owners carried out a major reconstruction and the present premises are virtually the result. A major feature is a mock-timbered gable and front.



The High Street from the position of the Harrow provides a view of early 19th to early 20th century style. At 10-12 High Street there is a large shop frontage built in 1906, replacing a shop destroyed in a major fire. For a period the post-fire building was the leading drapery department in the county. Even today the large shop windows have an imposing dignity. The main structure is of concrete and steel with polished red granite facing.



21. The Watch Tower

In an attempt to stop the rifling of graves a voluntary body called the Committee of the Churchyard Association built a watch tower in the Old Edinburgh Road cemetery in 1827. It is built of red sandstone on an octagonal plan and has a battlement top. Inside there was an upper timber floor, access to this being by a ladder and

trapdoor. Armed watchmen stood there all night keeping a lookout for grave robbers who extracted fresh bodies for sale to Surgeons' Hall in Edinburgh. Prior to the building of the tower, cast iron safes were placed over the coffins until the remains were no longer useful, but this was a cumbersome operation. James McGill, a blacksmith, made them for a wide area. His own gravestone is a few feet from the tower. The Anatomy Act of 1832 ensured an adequate supply of corpses, removing the need for special protection.

22. West Parish Church

By 1840, when the church was built, there was a need to relieve the pressure of congregation on the old St Nicholas parish church. The Duke of Buccleuch gifted a site for a new structure, and agreed to pay the building cost. He commissioned William Burn to do the design work for a church on a dominant slope in the Old Edinburgh Road. After its completion, the church stood empty for ten years. The cause was a serious disruption in the main Scottish Church, resulting in a loss of one third of its members. In the case of Dalkeith the members who broke away immediately formed a Free Church. A new church as an overflow of the parish was no longer needed.

The old kirk was badly in need of repair and over 1851-54 substantial renovations were carried out. During the alterations the congregation used the new building. By the time the work was finished, church membership



had made sufficient recovery to justify the use of both the old and new church. In architectural terms, the West Parish Church is regarded as a blend of Early English and Early Decorated. It is no longer used as a church.

In 1886 an adjoining manse was built, 22 years after the Congregation had agreed that there was a need for one.

23. The Ironmill

The Ironmill Park in Dalkeith derives its name from an iron foundry established there in 1648. The foundry was rebuilt in 1728, and used for the manufacture of iron bars, sheet iron, as well as all sorts of heavy smith work, the hammers being driven by water power.

The iron mill supplied the Duke of Buccleuch with a wide range of products, such as gates, railings, picks, shovels, garden spades and cart wheels. In a court action in the second part of the 18th century between the Duke and the mill owner evidence on behalf of the latter was given by the famous Scottish architect, John Adam, in which he declared that the quality of the workmanship was good and the prices extremely reasonable.

The grain mills and coalmines in the district provided a major source of work for the iron mill. Iron clogs were supplied to colliery workers.

The mill was converted into one for flour and barley, probably towards the end of the 18th century. Adjoining the existing building there can still be seen what was the miller's house. The remainder of the properties were farm buildings, and the fields were used for grazing.

At a later stage the iron mill buildings served as an engine house for pumping a water supply into the town. They are now dwelling houses.

To the north of the old iron mill is the Glenesk viaduct which formed part of the railway line, opened in 1831, to connect Dalkeith with Edinburgh. Initially the trains were horse-drawn. Between 1832 and 1845 the railway carried up to 300,000 passengers. Shortly afterwards, steam locomotives were introduced. The line now provides a country walk.

