

# ROYAL DUNFERMLINE



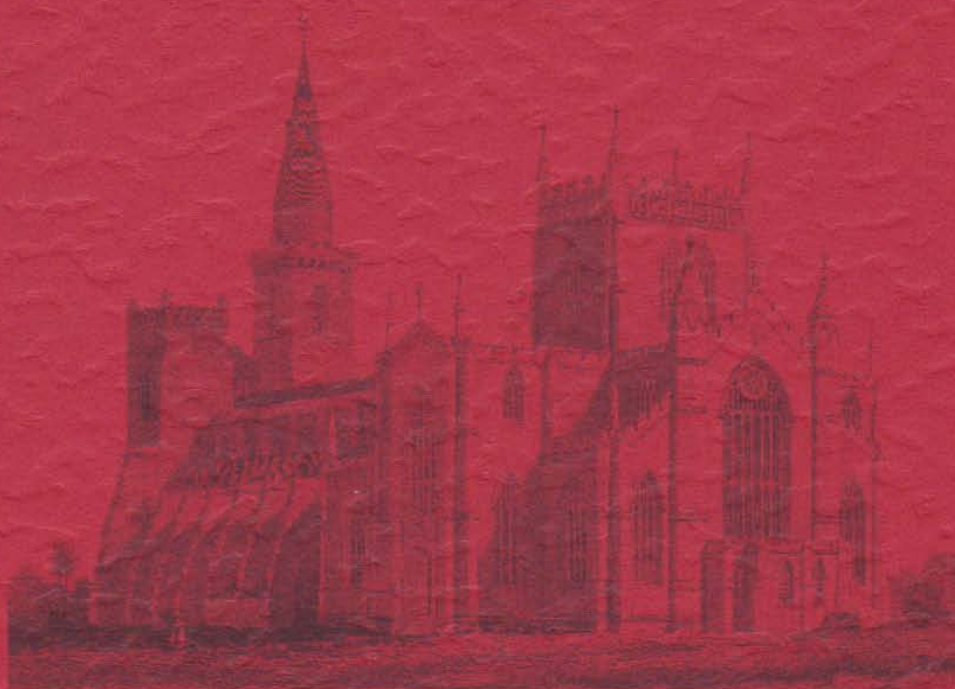
AN EPITOME OF THE HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE

A.D. 1064-1880

FROM – ‘Reminiscences of Dunfermline’

Appendix.

By Alex. Stewart.



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FROM

**REMINISCENCES OF DUNFERMLINE**

OF

**THE CHRONOLOGICAL APPENDIX 1064-1880**

by

**ALEXANDER STEWART**

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**AN EPITOME OF THE HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE.  
A.D. 1064-1880**

**By Alex. Stewart.**

The portion of the following epitome of the history of Dunfermline, extending from A.D. 1064-1833, was published in the form of a large chart in the year 1833 by Mr. Andrew Mercer, one of the historians of the old city. Few copies of it will now be in existence.

Some of the items embraced in his narration are here some-what amplified, and some that were deemed of no public interest have been excluded. There are also a number of additional interesting incidents herein recorded, and the whole has been brought down to the year 1880, - thus affording a bird's-eye view, as it were, of the history of ancient and modern Dunfermline.

The writer is indebted to the works for the late Dr. E. Henderson, Rev. Dr. P. Chalmers, Dr. Robert Chambers, and others, for much of the historical information herein recorded, especially from the period A.D. 1834-1878. He has also to express his thanks to Messrs. W. Clark & Son for kindly granting the use of some of the plates required in the illustration of the book.

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MALCOLM III. (Canmore) was born in 1024, and in 1057 ascended the Scottish throne, after the death of the usurper Macbeth. He as the descendant of a race which had given kings to Scotland for six hundred years, and he introduced a comparatively enlightened era into that kingdom.

1064 MALCOLM III, King, who was the contemporary of William the Conqueror, is supposed to have built the Tower in the Glen of Pittencrieff, Dunfermline.

1069 Arrival at Dunfermline of Prince Edgar Atheling, with his mother and sisters, Margaret and Christian, and their retinue, - their ship having been driven into the Firth of Forth, and nearly wrecked through stress of weather. The refugees were hospitably welcomed by the King in Dunfermline Tower.

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- 1070 MALCOLM III, marries at Dunfermline the above Princess Margaret, daughter of Edward of Hungary, heir-apparent to the English throne. Age of Malcolm forty-seven and of Margaret twenty-four years.
- 1072 MALCOLM and MARGARET, resolved to found the Church and Convent, it is supposed, about this period.
- 1074 The Church, partly completed, is dedicated to the “Holy Trinity,” and ordained to be the future sepulchre of the Scottish Kings. The Consort of Malcolm afterwards enriched the Abbey with jewels and vessels of gold and silver, and gave it a magnificent black cross, set in diamonds.
- 1075 Foundation Charter of Dunfermline Church granted by Malcolm III.
- 1080 MATILDA, daughter of Malcolm and Margaret, supposed to have been born this year in the Tower, which stood on the Tower Hill. *The Signet of the Church, &c.* at this period had for its motto – “*Sigill. Capit’I Ecclesiae Trinitatis de Dunferelin.*”
- 1081 DAVID, afterwards David I, the youngest of Malcolm and Margaret’s six sons, was born about this year.
- 1086 MARGARET and MALCOLM, bequeath to the Church of the Holy Trinity, for ever, the lands of “Petnurcha, Petticorthin, Pethbalechin, Lavar, Bolgin, Shiram de Kircaladinet, Inveresk Minor, and the whole of Forthriff.
- QUEEN MARGARET, being of a deeply pious disposition, is said to have frequently repaired, for devotional purposes and for solitude, to the Oratory Cave in the Glen, now known as St. Margaret’s Cave. According to Turgot, her Confessor, the Queen “fell a victim to her long vigils, fastings, and mortifications.”
- While she was in favour of a certain amount of Court parade and splendour, and insisted on the King being served at table on gold and silver plate, she at the same time made it her daily duty to prepare food for the nine indigent orphans. “On her bended knees she fed them. With her own hands she ministered at table to crowds of poor persons, and washed the feet of some poor children every evening. She was revered and loved by all who approached her.”
- 1090 ETHELRED, second son of Malcolm and Margaret, bequeathed to the Church of the Holy Trinity the farm of Hailes.

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- 1093 MALCOLM III, founded the new Cathedral at Durham in August of this year.  
MALCOLM III, and his eldest son, Prince Edward, were slain at the siege of Alnwick Castle, 13th November. Edward was interred at Dunfermline, and Malcolm at Tynemouth. (Alexander I afterwards exhumed his father's body, and re-interred it at Dunfermline.)  
MARGARET, Queen of Malcolm, died from grief and long vigils in the "Castrum Puellarum" (Edinburgh Castle,) 16th November. She was interred at Dunfermline, in the Church of the Holy Trinity, close by Edward, her son.
- 1094 DUNCAN I, son of Malcolm III, bequeaths to the Church of the Holy Trinity, for ever, the Villas of Luschar (Luscar).
- 1097 DONALD VIII, is supposed to have died this year and to have been interred at Dunfermline.
- 1098 The Convent supposed to have been dedicated to the Order of St. Benedict.  
Edgar, fourth son of Malcolm III, succeeded to the throne.  
Edgar (King) bequeathes to the Church, for ever, the far of Galald, and beautifies the Church by his alterations and improvements.
- 1104 An individual named Peter was now Prior of the Convent.
- 1107 EDGAR (King) died at Dundee, January. His remains were interred in the Church at Dunfermline.  
ALEXANDER I, fifth son of Malcolm III, ascended the throne.
- 1109 *St Eustace de Morwell*, "Grate Constable of Scotland," was witness to a donation given by Alexander I, to the Monastery of Dunfermline.
- 1112 ALEXANDER I, confers on the Monastery of Dunfermline the privilege of holding its Courts in the "fullest manner," and to give judgment by "combat, by iron, or by water."
- 1115 SIBILLA, Queen of Alexander I, bequeaths to the Church of the Holy Trinity, for ever, the farm or mansion of Beeth.
- 1118 ALEXANDER I, completes the Church of Dunfermline, and bequeaths to it, for ever, the "farms of Gatemile, Pettonmauchin, Balchevie, Duninbernin, and Keeth."\*
- 1120 "Waldeve" gives the church of Inverkeithing to the Monastery, for "the love of God and St. Margaret."
- 1123 SIBILLA (Queen) died, and is supposed to have been interred at Dunfermline.

\*Places which are now unknown.

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- 1124 ALEXANDER I, died at Stirling, April, and was interred at Dunfermline, in the Church of the Holy Trinity.”  
DAVID I, his brother succeeded him. He raises the Convent to the dignity of an Abbey, and translates to it thirteen Monks from Canterbury, and ordains that “an abbot, prior, and sub-prior shall be the principal ecclesiastics.” The Monasteries of Kelso, Dryburgh, and Melrose were reared by him.
- 1125 DAVID I, transfers thirteen Benedictine Monks from Dunfermline Abbey to the Priory of Urquhart, Morayshire.
- 1126 DAVID I, gives to the Monks of Dunfermline 100 shillings of his rents in England.
- 1128 *Gosfrid, or Gaufrid*, ordained first Abbot of Dunfermline by Robert Bishop of St. Andrews.
- 1130 A *Corn Mill* in or about Dunfermline at this period.  
DAVID I, grants to the Monastery all the gold that should accrue to him in Fife and Fothrif.
- 1140 During this century the clergy “were the schoolmasters, the statesmen, the architects, the lawyers, the physicians, the bankers, the agriculturalists, &c. &c. of the age.”  
It is decreed that if any of the men belonging to the Abbey should commit a crime, they shall be bound to answer for it nowhere but in the Court of the Holy Trinity and the Abbots of Dunfermline.
- 1146 *St Jerome’s Bible*, copy of, used in the church here as early as this period.  
DAVID I, grants a “Charter of Confirmation to the Monastery of Dunfermline” about this period.
- 1150 DAVID I, grants another Charter to the Monastery.
- 1153 DAVID I, dies at Carlisle; his remains are brought here, and are interred in the Church of the Holy Trinity.  
GOSFRID or GAUFRID Abbot of Dunfermline, dies, and is interred in the choir of the Church of the Holy Trinity.  
GEODFRY ordained Abbot of Dunfermline by the Bishop of St. Andrews.
- 1160 MALCOLM IV, enjoins the protection of the Abbey, “where the body of his grandfather, King David, rests in God.”
- 1163 *The Monks of the Abbey* are prohibited from forsaking the Abbey after their professions, without the Abbot’s permission, unless entering into stricter orders.

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- 1163 MALCOLM IV, grants to the Monastery, by Charter, half the fat of the “crespies caught between Forth and Tay, for lights before the altar.”
- 1165 MALCOLM IV, grants a Charter to the Monastery.  
MALCOLM IV, died at Jedburgh; his remains are afterwards interred in the Church of the Holy Trinity in Dunfermline.  
The men belonging to the Abbot and Monks of Dunfermline assist, of their own “good will,” at the request of William (the King,) to repair his castles in Ross.  
WILLIAM THE LYON, GRANDSON OF King David, was the first monarch to adopt the badge of the Lion, which has figured in the Scottish Shield ever since.
- 1172 *Malcolm, Earl of Athole*, and his Countess, appointed the Monastery of Dunfermline to be the place of their interment. Shortly after, they both died, and were interred in the place they had appointed.
- 1173 Perth and Stirling had schools at this period, wherein youthful candidates for ecclesiastical preferment were instructed in “Grammar and Logicke;” the Monks of Dunfermline were the directors.
- 1176 *Margaret de Ouyeth* gives to the Abbey certain lands, that a mass should be celebrated on her birthday for “her soul.”
- 1180 WILLIAM (King) about this period states that xxiiis, iijd. Was the specific sum of the tithes of the malt which the Monks drew from his lands at Fithkill.
- 1184 Dunkeld Cathedral Church becomes the property of the Abbey of Dunfermline.
- 1185 *Geodfry*, Abbot, dies, and is interred in the church choir.  
*Galfrid* ordained Abbot by the Bishop of St. Andrews.
- 1200 The seal of the Abbey had for its legend “*Sigillum Sancti Trinitatis.*”
- 1202 *William de Malvoisin*, Bishop of St. Andrews. Deprives the Abbey of the presentation of two churches, because the monks had neglected to provide him with a sufficient quantity of wine after supper. It appears the Bishop’s own attendants had largely consumed it.
- 1214 WILLIAM THE LION died, after reigning forty-eight years.  
ALEXANDER II, (son of William), succeeded him as king of Scotland.

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1220 Galfrid, Abbot, died, and was interred in the Church of the Holy Trinity; Robert of Kaldeleth ordained Abbot by the Bishop of St. Andrews.

ALEXANDER II, is supposed to have built a regaling house at the King's Seat on the Hill.

1230 The Monks of Scone pleaded their rights with the Abbot and Monks of Dunfermline to the tithes of the mills on the Water of Amund.

1231 The Abbot and Monks notify Pope Innocent IV, that their number had formerly been thirty, but in future was to consist of fifty.

The Abbey is, at great expense, enlarged and adorned with elegant structures.

1237 ALEXANDER II, bequeaths the forest of Dollar to the Monastery of Dunfermline.

1240 David, Bishop of St. Andrews, gives the Church of Kinghorn-the – Less to the Monastery, also the Church of Kirkcaldy, and orders the Abbot and Monks to present Vicars.

1244 Pope Innocent IV, at the request of the King, empowers the Abbot to assume the mitre, ring, and other pontifical ornaments, and the Monks to wear leather caps suitable to their order.

1245 Alexander II, solicits Pope Innocent IV, to have Queen Margaret enrolled in the catalogue of the Saints, as her body had exhibited "infinite miracles." The Pope issues a Bull to the Bishops of St. Andrews, Dunkeld, and Dunblane, commanding them to make strict enquiry into her life, merits, and miracles, to reduce what was proved to writing, attested by their seals, and to transmit it by a trusty messenger, that he might thence learn how far to indulge the King's request.

1246 The Bishops proceeded to investigate the matter; but neglected to record either the names or words of the witnesses, on which account the Pope refuses the King's request.

1249 Alexander III, succeeded his father in 1249, at the age of eight years.

A Cardinal is charged with a new enquiry regarding the "*miracles of Queen Margaret,*" and corresponds with the Bishop of St. Andrews concerning it.



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1250 The “miracles” attributed to Queen Margaret’s relicts having been particularly enquired into, and the facts proved, she was canonized, and her remains removed to a situation contiguous to the high altar.

The Chartulary of the Abbey begins about this period.

1251 *Robert, Abbot of Dunfermline*, and Chancellor of the Kingdom, legitimizes the wife of Allan Durward (natural daughter of Alexander II), and is accused of having “illegally furnished an heiress to the crown.” He resigns his seal of office, assumes the habit of a monk, retires from the Abbey to Newbattle, where he soon afterwards died.

ALEXANDER III, at the age of ten, married the Princess Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry III, of England.

Radalphus ordained Abbot of Dunfermline.

1254 The Abbot and Monks found entitled to certain provision from the King and Queen’s kitchen.

1274 MARGARET, Queen of Alexander III, dies, and is interred in the Church of the Holy Trinity at Dunfermline.

1275 *Radalphus, Abbot*, grants eight oars in the new passage boat at New Queensferry to seen persons, for the payment of eightpence yearly for each oar.

1280 DAVID, Prince (son of Alexander III), dies at Lyndores; his remains are interred at Dunfermline in the Church of the Holy Trinity.

1285 ALEXANDER III, is killed by a fall from his horse, upon the sands between Easter and Wester Kinghorn. His remains are interred “as became a king” in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Dunfermline.

1290 At this period the burgh received from the Abbey a common moor.

1291 William de Oberwill grants a Charter to the Abbot and Monks, and gives them a coal mine on his estate of Pittencrieff.

The untimely death of Alexander III, brought many calamities upon Scotland.

EDWARD I, King of England, arrives at the Abbey on his way from Berwick to Perth. He here calls upon the people of Scotland to enroll themselves vassals of his kingdom.

1291 On the death of the Princess Margaret, John Baliol laid claim to the Scottish Crown.

- 1295 JOHN BALLIOL, King of Scotland, is in Dunfermline, where the marriage of his son Edward is ratified, and receives the assent of the clergy, nobility, and burghs.
- 1296 EDWARD I, arrives again at the Abbey on Monday, 13th of August, and ruthlessly destroys its records &c.
- 1298 *The Ports* of the burgh supposed to have been built.
- 1300 Dunfermline Abbey arrives at the zenith of its external splendour, and of the devotional fame of its Monks, and is declared to be capable of giving ample accommodation to three distinguished Sovereigns, with their retinue of attendants.  
*William de Lamberton*, Bishop of St. Andrews, gives the Monks the vicarage of a Church to render them “still more fervent.”
- 1303 SIR WILLIAM WALLACE and his mother in the autumn of this year visited Dunfermline in disguise. They travelled on foot from Dundee, where “he had been in hiding.”  
EDWARD I, arrived in Dunfermline, 6th November, where he was joined by his Queen, and a large retinue of his nobility; here they spent the winter.  
About this period Edward seized the Coronation Stone of Scotland, which had been brought from Iona to Scone Monastery, and was of great antiquity. It is now in Westminster Abbey, and is the Coronation Stone of Great Britain.
- 1304 The Abbey was burned on the 10th February by order of Edward on his departure. This as his fifth visit to Dunfermline.  
SIR WILLIAM WALLACE, was driven to the “Foreste of Dunferlin” about the beginning of the year, “a proscribed man.” The country was now groaning under English oppression and the mean-spiritedness and duplicity of some of the Scottish nobility.
- 1305 Ralph ordained Abbot of Dunfermline by the Bishop of St. Andrews.
- 1310 *The Abbey partly rebuilt*, and rendered sufficient for the accommodation of the King and Queen &c.
- 1314 *The Vicar of Inverkeithing* is found liable in eight merks to the Monastery, for the non-payment of which it is declared that he shall be excommunicated.
- 1315 *Robert de Carel* ordained Abbot of Dunfermline by the Bishop of St. Andrews.
- 1316 A jury summoned to decide whether homage was due by the Earls of Fife to the Abbot of Dunfermline. Verdict in favour of the Abbot.

- 1318 Robert, Abbot, &c., grants a charter to the Convent in favour of the burgesses of the burgh.
- 1322 ROBERT I, (King), intimates to his Great Chamberlain that the Monastery had a gift of “the great customs of wool, skins, and leather, arising from their own land, &c., and men’s throughout the Kingdom.
- 1323 DAVID (afterwards David II, son of King Robert Bruce), born at Dunfermline, 5th March.  
ROBERT I, “gives a Church to the Abbey, to maintain a burning and perpetual light in the choir, before the shrine of the blessed Margaret.”
- 1326 *The “Church of Kynross and Chapel of Urwell given to the Monastery by Robert I, in honour of his predecessors who were interred in it.”*
- 1327 ELIZABETH, QUEEN of Robert I, dies at Gordon Castle; her remains are interred in Dunfermline Church of the Holy Trinity 26th October.  
Arnold Blair, a Monk of the Order of St. Benedict in Dunfermline, writes a history of Sir William Wallace. This monk had previously been chaplain to the great Scottish patriot.
- 1328 KING ROBERT BRUCE spent a portion of his time this year at Dunfermline, also at Scotland Well (Fons Scotiæ), near Lochleven, fifteen miles distant, where he took the benefit of the waters there for his complaints.
- 1329 ROBERT I, (Bruce) dies at Cardross (Dunbartonshire), 7th June, in his fifty-fifth year, and the twenty-third of his reign. His remains are (in accordance with his special desire) interred at Dunfermline in the Church of the Holy Trinity. They were interred with great pomp and ceremony, and amid the universal and heartfelt lamentations of the Scottish nation.
- 1330 *John de Kinross*, perpetual Vicar of Inverkeithing, represents that his vicarage was much exhausted by extractions &c.; the Monastery agrees to pay half the expense of repairing the choir, which had been going to decay.
- 1332 *Randolph* (one of the heroes at Bannockburn), Earl of Murray and Regent of Scotland, dies at Musselburgh, 20th July. His remains are interred in the Monastery of Dunfermline.

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- 1332 Edward Baliol, with his army, takes possession of the Abbey and finds in it “five hundred excellent spears,” and a quantity of provisions &c. He afterwards was crowned King, but enjoyed that dignity for only three months.
- 1333 The gold mine in Fife which David I, granted to the Abbey in 1136 abandoned, as “it never turned out to much account.”
- 1334 DAVID II, holds the Parliament in Dunfermline, at which the town of Kirkcaldy is made a Royal Burgh, and given to Dunfermline.
- 1335 A Parliament held at Dunfermline in which Sir Andrew Murray is elected “Regent of Scotland” during the minority of David II. *Alexander* ordained Abbot of Dunfermline about this period.
- 1337 EDWARD III, (of England) orders the town of Perth to be fortified at the joint expense of the Abbeys of Aberbrothock, Coupar, Lindores, Balmerinock, Dunfermline, and St. Andrews.
- 1342 *Alexander, Abbot*, repairs to South Queensferry to enquire into some misconduct of the “oar men.”
- 1350 The present site of the Collier Row, called Crow-hill, was at this time the most populous part of the town.
- 1356 Christian de Bruce, sister of King Robert Bruce, died, and was interred in the Abbey.  
*Garvock House*, near Dunfermline, supposed to have been built this year.
- 1358 *John* ordained Abbot of Dunfermline.
- 1363 David II, grants a charter in favour of the Monastery.
- 1366 Matilda, daughter of King Robert Bruce, died, and was interred in the Abbey.  
The Monastery obtains the patronage of the Church of St. Giles, Edinburgh, from the Bishop of Lindisfarne.
- 1370 *St Leonard’s Hospital* supposed to have been built.
- 1371 David II, died and his death terminated the Bruce dynasty.  
Robert II, ascended the Scottish throne.
- 1375 William de Yetam was Clerk of the Abbey.
- 1382 Cupar-Fife constituted a Royal Burgh by King Robert II, at his court at Dunfermline.
- 1382 Robert II, orders the “trone and customs” to be arrested and brought into his hands. It is removed by solicitation of the Abbot. The convent had been encroaching on the customs due to the king.
- 1390 John de Torrie, Abbot, grants to William de Yetam, Clerk of the Monastery, funds for his support, as also a clerk, three boys, three horses, and a stable, &c.

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- 1394 JAMES I, of Scotland was born at Dunfermline this year.
- 1400 *The houses of Dunfermline*, according to tradition, were composed chiefly of wood, with heather thatched roofs. Population of burgh about 500. Number of Monks in the Abbey, 45; and others 15 – total, 60.
- 1403 ANNABELLA DRUMMOND, QUEEN of Robert II, died in a minor place which she adopted at Inverkeithing. Her remains were interred in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Dunfermline.
- 1406 *Robert, Duke of Albany*, died, and was interred here.
- 1409 *John, Abbot*, grants to each of the Monks 40s. of the current money yearly, to purchase vestments with.
- 1413 JAMES I, (King), visits the Royal Tombs at Dunfermline, after a long absence in England. When the tomb of his ancestor King David I, was pointed out, he remarked that “David was ane sair sanct for the crown.” This was said in reference to King David’s lavish expenditure on monasteries, churches, &c.
- 1419 *Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany*, and Regent of Scotland, died, and was interred in Dunfermline.
- 1420 *Andrew* ordained Abbot about this period.
- 1436 Dunfermline, Perth, Stirling, and Scone declared unsafe for the residence of royalty, on account of the designs of the nobility. (Edinburgh then became the metropolis of Scotland.)
- 1437 *The Scottish language* appears for the first time, in the Chartulary of the Abbey.
- 1439 *The general famine* of this year was severely felt in Dunfermline and neighbourhood.
- 1440 *The Monks of Dunfermline* protest against the town of Perth, that they did not relinquish special funeral emoluments, offerings of wax &c. &c.
- 1441 *James Bruce, parson* of Kilmeny, consecrated “Bishop of Dunkeld” in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Dunfermline. *James, Bishop of St. Andrews*, grants a discharge to Andrew, Abbot of Dunfermline, for eighty merks Scots.
- 1444 Patrick Grahame, Archbishop of St. Andrews, imprisoned in the Monastery of Dunfermline for “Heresy.” He afterwards died in Lochleven Castle.
- 1448 Richard ordained Abbot of Dunfermline about this period. John Wright, Provost. This is the earliest notice on record of a lay Provost.
- 1449 The Monastery exempted from attending courts of law.

- 1450 The Abbot and Convent of Dunfermline disposes to the “Bailies of Kirkcaldy, and their successors for ever,” their burgh harbour, &c. given them by David II, in the year 1334.
- 1453 *Richard, Abbot, &c.* of Dunfermline, sent along with others to the King of England, to deliver a pacific mission.
- 1455 JAMES II, holds a Parliament at Edinburgh, in which he annexes the Crown several lands belonging to the Monastery of Dunfermline.
- 1456 *Richard, Abbot of Dunfermline*, and others, represent the Barons in the administration of justice in the Sessions at Edinburgh, November 6.  
*John de Benaly*, Prior of Pluscardine, in Moray, near Elgin, “resigns his office” in consequence of various disputes he had with the Abbey. The “Sacrist is appointed to fill the said Priory in his stead.”
- 1457 *Richard, Abbot, &c.*, lets “the teind sheaves of the croft of St. Ryan’s chapel, in liferent, to the minister of Calder, for one boll of meill and one boll of barley yearly.”  
The spiritual and temporal rights of the Abbey very extensive. The Abbot is superior of the property of others, and receives the resignation of his vassals, while they kneel before him.
- 1459 The Abbey of Dunfermline, along with St. Andrews, is allowed, by an edict from the Holy See, to use butter and other products from milk without any scruple.
- 1463 *Richard, Abbot of Dunfermline*, in consequence of past favours to Thomas de Bully, Canon of the Cathedrals of Glasgow and Dunkeld, is, “with the whole Convent, made free of expense of the table of the house of Canons whenever they shall choose to come hither.”
- 1472 *Alexander Thominson* ordained Abbot of Dunfermline.
- 1478 *Alexander, Abbot &c.*, is extruded from his place, and Henry Curichton, Abbot of Paisley, surrogated in his stead by the Pope at the King’s intercession.  
Robert Henryson of Fordel is witness to a Charter of Patrick, Baron of the lands of Spittlefield.  
*James* ordained Abbot of Dunfermline.
- 1479 James, Abbot, &c., grants the office of a chaplainry, newly founded at North Queensferry, to David Storrey, with a stipend of ten marks yearly from the coffers of the Monastery.

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- 1488 Tradition states tht about this period a stone cross pillar stood on a rising ground south of St. Leonard's Hospital. "Perhaps the 'Cross Head'" is derived from it."
- 1490 Robert Henryson, the poet and preceptor of youth in the Monastery, died about this period, and was interred in the Church.
- 1491 The first notice regarding Dunfermline weavers appears this year.
- 1494 *James Henryson*, son of the poet, was chosen King's Advocate.  
*St. Margaret's Altar.* – Schir Andrew Peirson, Chaplain; Schir Steven Stirling, Chaplain of the Morning Service.
- 1499 Preparations going on for repairing and beautifying the palace and the church.
- 1500 JAMES IV, finishes his repairs on the palace. &c.
- 1509 JAMES IV, through the Pope, gets Alexander, his natural son, ordained Abbot of Dunfermline, to which abbacy the priory of Coldingham is annexed.
- 1511 The Palace of Dunfermline at this period was chief place of residence of James IV, and his consort Margaret, daughter of Henry VII, of England.
- 1513 KING JAMES IV, and Alexander his son, Abbot, slain at the battle of Flodden.



DUNFERMLINE PALACE  
1856.

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- 1515 *The "Postulate"* of Dunfermline, a legal functionary, attends the Court at Edinburgh.
- 1522 *Andrew Forman* ordained Abbot of Dunfermline.
- 1526 *Andrew, Abbot*, slain in battle near Linlithgow.  
Dunfermline Abbey pillaged by Angus after the battle.
- 1529 *James Beaton* ordained Abbot of Dunfermline.
- 1530 *James Beaton, Abbot of Dunfermline*, died.  
Baldris and Gallo-reg have gallows for the execution of the feudal law.  
*George Dury* ordained Abbot of Dunfermline.
- 1539 Adam Blackwood, the historian, born at Dunfermline.
- 1540 The lands of Buckhaven given to the Abbey in exchange for Western Kinghorn.  
*The Palace of Dunfermline* repaired and much enlarged at this period.
- 1542 *George Dury, Abbot*, appointed one of the council of the Earl of Arran, the guardian of Mary during her nonage.
- 1549 *George Dury*, grants a Charter to the burgh, 2d August.
- 1550 Dunfermline, &c., signet legend – "*S. Georgii Abbatis de Dunfermling Ard. St. Andr.*"
- 1551 JAMES V, builds cellars, &c., at Limekilns, near the town.
- 1557 *George Dury, Abbot*, issues a decree to prevent the inhabitants of Kirkcaldy from building wind, water, or horse mills.
- 1558 *George Dury, Abbot &c.*, gives his voice against Walter Mill, empannelled at St. Andrews for heresy. He was burnt, in conformity to his sentence. *George Dury, Abbot, &c.*, brings to trial John Dury, his cousin, for "the crimes of heresy." He is found guilty, and condemned to be built up between two walls until he died. Through the influence of the Earl of Arran he is set at liberty.
- 1560 The Church and Abbey completely destroyed by the "Reformers," 28th March, and the royal tombs and monuments were all thrown down.  
*Robert Pitcairn* appointed Commendator of Dunfermline Abbey.  
David Ferguson inducted minister of Dunfermline Reformed Church.
- 1561 JAMES VI, much engaged at golf over lands now called Golfdrum, i.e. Golfridge.  
MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS visited Dunfermline, and thence went on to Dysart and St. Andrews, 3rd March.



## AN EPITOME OF THE HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE

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- 1562 Dunfermline Church partly repaired from the destruction of 28th March 1560, and fitted up as a Protestant place of worship.
- 1563 MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS again visited Dunfermline, February 14th.
- 1566 *Robert Pitcairn*, Commendator of Dunfermline, &c., repairs to Stirling to the coronation of the Prince.
- 1567 *Robert Pitcairn* attends a meeting of Parliament held at Edinburgh.
- 1568 MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS, in her flight from Lochleven Castle, passed through the parish of Dunfermline.
- 1569 Robert Pitcairn is sent by Regent Murray to the English Court regarding Queen Mary.
- 1570 Robert Pitcairn appointed Secretary of State for Scotland, November.
- 1571 *David Ferguson*, minister, of Dunfermline, preaches a sermon at Leith before the Regent and nobility of Scotland.
- 1572 *George Dury*, Abbot of Dunfermline and Archdeacon of St. Andrews, died and was interred in the Western Church of Dunfermline.
- 1576 The Assembly of the Church refuses to give “libertie to the bailie of Dunfermline to play upon the Sunday afternoon in the Church a play not founded upon the Canonical parts of Scripture.”
- 1581 Andrew Steuart sentenced to be “burnt on the richt shoulder with the common markin yron of Dunfermline.”
- 1584 *Robert Pitcairn*, Commendator of Dunfermline, Archdeacon of St. Andrews, and Secretary of State for Scotland, died and was interred in the western division of the Church. He lived for some time in Limekilns for his health.
- 1585 “The Master of Gray,” appointed Commendator. A Parliament appointed to be held at Dunfermline by order of King James VI to consider the propriety of recalling the banished Lords and Ministers, there being no other town so convenient on account of “ye pest.” The ports of the town are shut in by order of the Laird of Petfirren to prevent “said meeting.”
- 1586 David Ferguson, minister of Dunfermline, appointed by the General Assembly one of the assessors to assist the Bishop of St. Andrews in the trial of persons presented to benefices in the county of Fife.

AN EPITOME OF THE HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE

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- 1587 Hew Watt is condemned by the Court of Regality to be “hangit to the death on Baldris gallows, or elles drownit, at will of the judges,” for stealing cattle, &c.  
The temporality of the Church of Dunfermline, with some exceptions, is annexed to the Crown.  
“The Master of Gray” extruded from his office by an Act of Parliament held at Edinburgh 29th July.  
Henry Pitcairn appointed Commendator of Dunfermline Monastery, with consent of the whole Convent.
- 1588 JAMES VI, constitutes Dunfermline a Royal Burgh, and grants it a Charter of Confirmation.
- 1589 *The Abbey* is erected into a temporal lordship.
- 1590 ANNA, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND, infest in the Lordship of Dunfermline 17th May.  
The annexation of the “Abbey of Dunfermling,” ratified by Parliament 21st July.  
An Act of Parliament confers on the Queen “a richt to the third of Dunfermling.”
- 1593 The Queen, in a Charter dated 15th February, appoints Alexander Seaton Heritable Bailie of the Lordship of Dunfermline.  
The Monks of the Abbey of Dunfermline give a portion to the Queen the eighth part othe first-fruits or fifth penny of any benefice which belonged to them.
- 1596 Elizabeth, daughter of James VI, born in the Palace of Dunfermline, 19th August. Through her, in an unbroken line, has descended Her Majesty Queen Victoria.  
The Provincial synod of Fife held at Dunfermline 12th May, for the purpose of amending and renewing the Convent.  
A Convention of the Estates held at Dunfermline, by James VI, regarding the Popish Lords and Ministers, “2d November, the princes cam out of Dunfermline to the Abbey of Holy-ruid-hous.”
- 1598 JAMES VI, makes considerable alterations and repairs on the western division of the Church. Is said to have built the steeple and laid out the bowling-green. Steeple 156 feet 8 inches high.  
David Ferguson, minister of Dunfermline, dies, aged sixty-five years; he as thirty-eight years minister of Dunfermline; is interred in the eastern church.
- 1599 Andro Foster inducted minister of Dunfermline.
- 1600 Dunfermline contains about 480 males and 500 females. Total, about 1000 inhabitants.

## AN EPITOME OF THE HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE

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- 1600 CHARLES I, son of James VI, born in Dunfermline Palace  
19th November 1600, afterwards baptized by the Bishop of Ross,  
23d December.
- 1602 William Shaw, architect to King James VI, died in April.  
Robert, son of James VI, supposed to have been born at  
Dunfermline, was baptized in Dunfermline Church by various  
titles 2d May, died 27th May, and was interred at Dunfermline.
- 1605 Alexander Seaton, Lord Urquhart, &c. &c., created Earl of  
Dunfermline 4th March.
- 1610 Queen Anna, Lady Dunfermline, consort of James VI, mortifies  
into the hands of the Town-Council the sum of £2000 Scots, for  
the support of the masters of the grammar and singing school.
- 1612 Henry Wardlaw of Balmule, afterwards Sir Henry Wardlaw of  
Pitreavie, appointed by Queen Anna Chamberlain of her rents at  
Dunfermline.
- 1615 John Moray inducted minister of Dunfermline.
- 1616 Queen Anna bequeathes to Sir Henry Wardlaw, her Chamberlain,  
&c., a burying vault attached to the south side of the church.
- 1617 KING JAMES VI, visits Dunfermline, the first visit since his  
accession to the English throne in 1603. Is "received with  
tumultuous joy."
- 1622 John Moray, minister, deposed by sentence of the High  
Commission for refusing to conform to the five articles of Perth,  
&c.  
Harrie Makgill inducted minister of Dunfermline.
- 1624 Dunfermline burnt 25th May; 220 houses totally consumed;  
occupied by 187 families, and their whole plenishing, consisting of  
500 bolls of grain in barns. The town consists of 700 adults and  
320 children under six years of age.  
The burgesses having a right to the Wood of Garvock, near the  
town, completely denuded it of its old trees for the purpose of  
rebuilding the town; the proprietor in consequence removes his  
residence to Pitliver.
- 1625 The Burgh (High) School built; perhaps the school to which the  
Queen granted £2000 Scots was burnt at the fire.
- 1627 The west of Fife, especially Dunfermline and Torryburn, infested  
with witches and warlocks.
- 1633 CHARLES I, (King) revokes in an Act of Parliament the former  
disposition belonging to the Abbey.
- 1640 Pat Mayne held the office of hangman and witch burner.

**AN EPITOME OF THE HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE**

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- 1641 CHARLES I, grants to the Earl of Dunfermline a lease of the feu-duties and teinds of the Lordship of Dunfermline for fifty-seven years, commencing with 1639.
- 1642 The Scots proverbs of David Ferguson published at Edinburgh by "Andro Hart."  
Harrie Makgill, minister of Dunfermline, died and was interred in the church.
- 1643 Six women burnt for witchcraft at the Witch Knowe or Loan, north-east of the burgh. Other two who were accused of that crime died in prison, viz- Janet Fentoun, the witch who died miserably, and was afterwards brought to the Witch Knowe, "being trailed and carted yerto, and castin into a hole there without a kist (coffin)" 20th June. "Isobel Mair, witch, hangs herself in the laich thieves hole." The "Witch Dub," north-east of the town, was the place where witches were drowned. Witchcraft very prevalent between this period and 1650 all over Europe, and was regarded everywhere with deep-seated dread.
- 1645 The plague rages in the town and parish.  
Dunfermline Church becomes "Collegiate," the population greatly increased in town and parish; it is provided with two ministers, viz., Robert Kay and William Oliphant.
- 1648 Margaret Nicholson, spouse of Alexander Dempster the fiddler, ordained to stand with the branks in her mouth for two hours on the market-day for scolding and drunkenness, and as a public example.  
William Crichton, the warlock, who confessed he had "made a paction with the devil," was publicly burnt.
- 1649 CHARLES II, succeeds his father, who was decapitated January 1649.
- 1650 CHARLES II, spends a good part of August in the Palace of Dunfermline, and subscribes to the National League and Covenant.
- 1651 The Battle of Pitreavie fought in July this year. About 10,000 warriors were engaged in this most sanguinary conflict. Tradition records that the little stream traversing the neighbourhood "ran with blood for several days."  
Cromwell's army arrives in Dunfermline after the battle, and remains there for many weeks.  
They demolish the boards and seats of the session-house, &c., and plunder the church box.

AN EPITOME OF THE HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE

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1652 In the parochial register of births, the 23d of March this year is named "*Mirk Monday*." The great mid-day darkness was occasioned by an eclipse of the sun.

The spouse of W. Scotland, summoned for cursing and swearing, "was sharplie admonished," and if again found guiltye, "she shall stand at the tron wi' the branks in her mouth."

THE BRANKS.



1665 John, Earl (afterwards Marquis) of Tweeddale, consequence of a debt due to him by the Earl of Dunfermline, obtains a right to the Lordship, Heritable Bailie, &c.

1666 Robert Kay, minister, demitts his office 17th January.

William Pearson inducted minister of Dunfermline.

Thomas Kinymount inducted minister of Dunfermline 18th July.

1667 Dunfermline ws assessed to the extent of £102 Scots, in order to assist in liquidating the "voluntary offer to his Majestie."

1668 Thomas Kinymount translated from Dunfermline to the Church of Auchterderran.

1669 John, Marquis of Tweeddale, had his office of Heritable bailie, &c., constituted by a charter under the Great Seal, dated 12th February.

1672 "A house of correction for the reception of idle beggars and vagrants" ordered to be built.

1673 Alexander Monro inducted a minister of Dunfermline Church 7th April.

1675 Pitreavie Hospital (near Dunfermline), the most ancient charitable institution in the parish, founded by Sir H. Wardlaw in favour of four widows of "honest fame."

1676 William Peirson, minister, translated to the church of Stirling.  
Alexander Dunbar inducted minister of Dunfermline 19th October.  
Alexander Munro, minister, translated to the church of Kinglassie.

1678 Robert Norie inducted minister of Dunfermline 18th September.

1679 Witchcraft still prevails, notwithstanding all the burning and drowning of witches which has taken place.

"John Drysdail in the Nether-toun mortifies 500 merks Scots to the kirk-session for the support of puir scholars."

1680 The Dunfermline "Blue Blanket," drawn up by the trades of the burgh. (This was a design for the centre-piece of the Convener's flag, which was blue, and contained emblems of the incorporated trades.)

1686 Robert Norie, minister, translated to the church of Dundee.

## AN EPITOME OF THE HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE

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- 1690 Supposed population of Dunfermline about 800 males and 1000 females. Of the town and parish 3800. Number of houses 250.
- 1694 The debt of the burgh amounts to about 5573 merks Scots (mortification excepted).
- 1695 The title of the Earldom of Dunfermline becomes extinct, the Earl dying without issue.  
The post-office supposed to have been established.
- 1696 Part of the roof of Rosythe Castle fell in this year.
- 1699 Dunfermline consists of a few straggling houses about the ports and the purlieu of the Abbey; houses covered chiefly with thatch; winding stairs to the middle of the streets, &c.
- 1700 John Bell elected to the office of town's piper.  
Dunfermline trade greatly depressed; only a little doing in brewing.
- 1701 Hugh Kempt inducted a minister of Dunfermline.
- 1705 Hugh Kempt translated to the church of Carnbee.
- 1706 The Magistrates, Town Council, and inhabitants of Dunfermline protest and petition against the Union of Scotland and England.  
Sir Peter Halket is Provost.\*
- 1708 Dunfermline Place having been long neglected and deserted, the roof falls.
- 1710 James Grame, minister, dies, and leaves 600 merks Scots for the use of the poor.
- 1711 Ralph Erskine inducted into the second charge of Dunfermline Church 7th August.
- 1713 The parishioners, according to a census, number 5000.  
About this period Lassodie and Meiklebeath were disjoined from the parish of Dunfermline and annexed to the parish of Beath.
- 1714 GEORGE I, proclaimed king by the Magistrates and Town-Council at the Pillory, Cross, and East Port.
- 1715 Thomas Buchanan, minister, died 10th April.  
A Jacobite detachment takes quarters in the Abbey, but are dispersed by Colonel Cathcart, &c.
- 1716 Ralph Erskine, minister of the second charge, is inducted minister of the first charge of Dunfermline Church, 1st May.  
The Society of Gardeners instituted.

\*Thirty-three Scottish burghs voted for the Union, and twenty-nine against it. While Sir Peter presented this petition and protest, he voted *for the Union!*

AN EPITOME OF THE HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE

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- 1718 Weaving: James Blake, John Beveridge, and John Gilmour established a small manufactory of table linen in the Abbey. James Wardlaw inducted into the second charge of the Church of Dunfermline.
- 1719 James Blake, table linen manufacturer in the Abbey, manufactures a curiously wrought napkin, which is greatly admired.
- 1720 Dunfermline Church and bells repaired.
- 1722 Daniel Defoe, author of Robinson Crusoe, visits Dunfermline.
- 1726 The ruins of the Abbey inhabited by various mechanics, &c.
- 1727 Elizabeth Halket, spouse of Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie, the celebrated authoress of the heroic Poem entitled “Hardyknute,” in commemoration of the battle of Largs, died, and is interred in the vault of the Wardlaw family. Of this ballad Sir Walter Scott said it “was the first I ever learned, the last that I shall forget”
- GEORGE II, proclaimed King by the Magistrates and Council, at the Pillory, the Cross, and the Est Port.
- 1728 *The church and steeple* repaired, and the bells re-founded.
- 1730 Grass growing along the eastern part of the High Street; the cadgers’ horses feed upon it during the time that the owners are disposing of their wares.
- 1733 Ralph Erskine and others differ with the Established Church. They constitute themselves into an ecclesiastical court under the name of the “Associate Presbytery.” This secession from the Established Church, which was nursed in Dunfermline, may therefore be regarded as the acorn of the Secession and the United Presbyterian Church.
- 1734 James Young, merchant, tried before the Court of Regality for bruising, &. Henry Wardlaw, son of Lieutenant Wardlaw, and is acquitted.
- 1736 *Weaving.* – David Mackie carries on the manufacture of damask weaving; has three looms in that department; this is considered a heavy stock.
- 1740 A church built for the congregation of Ralph Erskine, near the Burgh School, October.  
*Society of Weavers* constituted.  
*Severe frost* continues 107 days. (Tradition.)
- 1741 George Whitfield, the celebrated Methodist divine, preaches from The pulpit of Ralph Erskine, and also in a public park, to many thousands of persons.
- 1742 Francis Paterson teaches in the “Queen’s House.”  
Rev. James Wardlaw, minister, died 2d May.

- 1743 James Thomson inducted into the Established Church.  
James Hay and William Gordon imprisoned for horse-stealing.  
Gordon hangs himself
- 1744 Rev. Thomas Fernie inducted minister of the Established Church.
- 1745 *Town cess* demanded by the agents of the Pretender. £80 is collected with some difficulty, and tendered.
- 1746 Lord Charles Hay, Provost of the town, nearly shot by one of Prince Charles' men, a highland spy; a part of his peruke shot off. Distaff spinning discontinued; the spinning wheel introduced.
- 1748 The heritable jurisdiction of monasteries being generally abolished, compensations are given to proprietors.  
The regality of Dunfermline is valued at £2672; 7S. and the office of clerk at £500.
- 1749 *The "British Linen Company"* employs a great number of looms in the weaving of table linen.
- 1750 Arthur Martin teaches in the Queen's House the common rudiments of learning.  
*The fashionable parts of the town* at this period were the Maygate, Kirkgate, and St. Catherine's Wynd.
- 1751 Weaving.- It was customary for weaver to work during the winter season at ticks and checks, and in the summer at tale linen.  
*The large lantern tower* of the Eastern Church fell, and started a great many coffins in the churchyard – May (Sunday).
- 1752 Twelve lamps are ordered from Edinburgh by the Town Council to light "the corners" of the principal streets – October.  
*Thomas Gillespie*, minister of Carnock, deposed; opens a relief meeting-house in the town.  
*Dunfermline Market Cross*, Pillory, the East and Cross Wynd Ports removed by command of the Town Council. Guildhall Street opened.  
*Weaving*. – "Back harness" introduced.  
Ralph Erskine, minister of the Secession Church, died 6th November.
- 1753 A new pillory erected.  
The ancient Constabulary House, near the Monastery, removed at this period.
- 1754 *The Collier Row* port removed by order of the Town Council.
- 1755 The church at Cairneyhill founded this year. Population of the parish of Dunfermline, 8552.  
The Rev. James Burt ordained minister of Cairneyhill.



- 1756 Mr. Moir teaches in the “Queen’s House.”
- 1757 *Dunfermline gallows* disappears; is some year afterwards converted by a weaver into a loom.  
*Weaving.* – An invention by a weaver supersedes the necessity of a cord drawer.
- 1760 Agriculture. – George Chalmers, Esq. of Pittencrieff, introduces a new system of agriculture in the parish.  
Chicken-Pie Club constituted.  
*Weaving.* – David Campbell comes to Dunfermline, opens an extensive manufactory of table linen. Some time afterwards he retires to Edinburgh with a fortune of £7000.
- 1762 *One printing press* in the town at this time.  
*The Abbey Park and Garden* advertised for feuing.  
*Mason Lodge, Mill Port*, built.  
GEORGE III, proclaimed at the site of the Pillory, at the Cross, and Port by the Magistrates.
- 1763 *Price of butter* at the Tron Market 6d. per lb. of 22 oz.  
Table linens sent to London for sale for the first time.
- 1764 *Water, great scarcity.* The Guildry, &c. resolve to have water brought to the town from St. Margaret’s well in leaden pipes.  
Reservoir built.
- 1765 The inhabitants are supplied with water from St. Margaret’s well.
- 1766 *Great scarcity of water* still continues to be felt, especially in time of drought.
- 1767 *The bridge* over the “Tower Burn” founded by George Chalmers, Esq. of Pittencrieff.
- 1768 *Nuptial bed of Queen Anne*, which she brought with her from Denmark to Dunfermlin decorates an ale-house in the town. It was afterwards presented to the Earl of Elgin.  
(Queen Anne’s almshouse is at Logie, a seat of J. Hunt, Esq.).
- 1769 *The Tolbooth* or Town-house founded, in consequence of the old Tolbooth being incommodious.
- 1770 *Bridge over the “Tower Burn”* finished, and a new road opened in a line with the High Street.  
Bad harvest and meal, mobs this year.
- 1771 *The Tolbooth* or Town-House finished. Height of steeple 98 feet 7 inches.  
*The Canon* fixed in its present position.
- 1772 *Weaving.* – The rate of wages of a good weaver and his cord drawer is about £30 per annum.
- 1774 *Thomas Gillespie*, minister of the Relief Church, died.

AN EPITOME OF THE HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE

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- 1774 *Adam Smith*, the celebrated writer on political economy, and author of the “Wealth of Nations,” who lived at Kirkcaldy, paid a visit to Dunfermline one Sabbath morning. He had walked from Kirkcaldy, and appeared in a reverie of dept ought. He wandered through the streets *en dishabille*, having nothing on him but ”his small clothes, a morning gown and cap.” His appearance caused great astonishment amongst the church-goers. The ringing of the church bells “roused him out of his reverie,” and he was as much amazed as the bystanders at the strange predicament he was in.  
Roman urns found on Carniell Hill , near Carnock.  
Only three teaches in the town.
- 1775 A clock fitted up in the Tolbooth steeple, with four dial plates, by James Simpson, clock-maker.  
Unseemly fracas in the Established Church. The minister, the Rev. Mr. Thomson (who had formerly been a military chaplain), having charged Mr. Scotland from the pulpit with accepting bribes at parliamentary election, the latter shouted out, ‘Thou art a liar, thou old military blunderbuss, in the place of verity where thou standeth!’  
*Relief meeting-house* founded.
- 1776 Mr Stark erected *beetling mills* and other appliances at Brucefield, near Dunfermline.
- 1777 Weaving.- At this period the shuttle was thrown alternately by two men.
- 1778 Weaving.- Mr. John Wilson, of this burgh, invents the fly shuttle, and thus supersedes the services of two men. The freedom of the city was afterwards conferred on him for his valuable invention.  
The “Queen’s House” partly inhabited.
- 1779 *A Chapel of Ease* founded.  
*Church of the Reformed Presbyterians, or Cameronians*, established – Rev. Walter Grieve, minister.
- 1780 The last grant to the Tweeddale family of the feu-duties, &c. of the “Lordship of Dunfermline,” expires. The Earl of Elgin, the Countess of Rothes, &c., obtain a lease for nineteen years.  
*A Baptist congregation* formed.  
The northern pend of the Abbey removed.
- 1781 A branch of the Bank of Scotland established.  
Knabbie and Moodie Streets formed.
- 1782 Funeral intimations by the “dead bell” discontinued.  
The last “Dunfermline hangman” died – September.

- 1782 Funeral intimations by the “*deal bell*” discontinued.  
The last “Dunfermline hangman” died – September.  
A *distillery* erected in St. Margaret Street (commonly called Distillery Brae), by Messrs. Fairley and Scotland.  
*Weaving*. – About 900 looms employed in the town and neighbourhood.  
Debt of th burgh about £3000 sterling.
- 1783 Printing first introduced by Mr. Crerar, bookseller, High Street.
- 1784 A *curling club* formed.  
*The old thorn-tree* in the church-yard blown down; the present tree a branch from the old one.
- 1785 Town Moor planted with firs.  
Umbrellas first introduced into Dunfermline. They caused great wonder.  
*Great snow storm*, January 7th, followed by severe frost, which continued for 123 days.
- 1786 The ruins of Garvock House removed.  
The flesh-market built.
- 1787 ROBERT BURNS, poet, visits Dunfermline, 20th October.
- 1788 *Rev. Thomas Fernie*, of the Established Church, died.
- 1789 *Rev. John Fernie* inducted to second charge, Established Church.  
*Public rejoicings* in consequence of the King’s (George III.) restoration to health.  
*The Dunfermline Library* established.  
*Weaving*. – Patterns or devices of flowers, birds, &c. introduced generally.
- 1790 *Rev. H. Fergus* inducted minister of Relief Church.  
A party secedes from the Burgher Meeting-house, organizes a congregation, and builds an Anti-Burgher Church in Chalmers Street.  
*Post-Office* revenue about £300 per annum.  
*Rev. James Thomson*, minister of the Established Church, died October 19th, and bequeathed £100 to the poor of the church.
- 1791 *Census*. – Population of the town, and suburbs of Pittencrieff, 5192 souls.  
Present thorn-tree planted in the churchyard over the spot where according to tradition, the mother of Sir William Wallace was buried. (see 1784)  
*Weaving*. – About 1200 looms in the town.  
*Rev. Allan M’Lean*, of the Chapel of Ease, Dunfermline, inducted to the first charge of the Established Church.

AN EPITOME OF THE HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE

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- 1792 *Town-House.* – In consequence of this building being found too small, two additional stories were added to it, the clock removed from the steeple, and placed in a turret of the new building.  
J. Moodie, Esquire elected Provost, which office he held for fifteen years.  
*Brucefield Spinning Mill* built.  
About forty-nine poor on the roll of the kirk-session.
- 1793 The Society of Weavers becomes a “Friendly Society.”  
Much political agitation about “Reform.”  
Great snow-storm; snow in several places from twelve to twenty feet deep in the town.
- 1795 The Society of Gardeners became a “Friendly Society.”
- 1796 The meeting-house of the Burghers is considered incommodious; a new one is ordered to be built.  
*The press-gang* visits Dunfermline and neighbourhood, and carries off some weaves and sailors with them.  
Post-Office revenue about £350.
- 1797 *Water.* – Great scarcity. Water brought from the Cairncubie springs in wooden pipes 3 inches in diameter.  
The “Queen’s House” removed. A human skeleton found built up in one of the walls.
- 1798 A new Burgher Church in Queen Anne Street built.  
Debt of the burgh £5000.
- 1799 *Dunfermline Volunteers* raised.  
A tannage begun in Clay Acres by Mr. Forfar.
- 1800 The congregation of “Original Burghers” formed; they build a small chapel in Canmore Street.  
*Great dearth* of meal, &c., locally called the “black dearth.”  
Indian corn meal introduced.  
Post-Office revenue £500.  
Distillery in St. Margaret’s Street discontinued.
- 1801 Census. - First Government census. Population, town and suburbs, 5484.  
The famous violinist Neil Gow, and his son, visit Dunfermline.
- 1802 A congregation of Independents formed. They soon dissolve, and the greater part join the Baptists.  
Two sever shock of earthquake felt.
- 1803 Baldrige Burn bridge carried away by a flood.  
Post-Office revenue £550. Stamp office £654:10s.  
*Weaving.* – Mr. D. Bonnar obtains a patent for an improvement in loom mounting. The trade purchases it from him for £600.

- 1804 A brick-work established at the "Footpath."  
*Dunfermline Volunteers* enrolled themselves in great numbers, as an "invasion" by Bonaparte was considered "imminent." Drilling was carried on in the Bowling-green daily, amidst much enthusiasm.  
*The British Linen Company* establish a branch of their bank in the town.  
Marriages this year 77, baptisms 314, deaths 200.
- 1805 *Water.* – Private pipes introduced into some of the houses.  
Dunfermline illuminated for the victory gained by Lord Nelson at Trafalgar, October. A towns-man illuminates his windows with white and black candles – the white ones for the victory, the black ones for the death of Nelson!
- 1806 *Weaving.* – John Philp makes various improvements on those of David Bonnar (see year 1803).  
*Spinning Mill*, the first in the town, by Mr. G. Rontree, in Knabbie Street, intended to spin yard for the home manufacturers. (? see 1792)  
*Tambouring*, a species of embroidering, extensively carried on by a large number of the females of the town.
- 1807 *Guildhall founded* 29th July. Masonic procession. The steeple 131 feet 9 inches high.  
*The Royal Tombs* searched by J. G. Dalyell, Esq. Nothing found of any consequence.  
The Town-Council ordered 34 new lamps for the town, which made the number 106.  
A proposition was made to make a tunnel under the Firth of Forth, betwixt the north and south sides, near Rossyth.  
The town legally assessed for the support of the poor.  
*An old ruinous tower*, on the south-west corner of the Established Church, falls and kills five horses.
- 1808 *Debt* of the burgh £10,450.  
*Weaving.* – Henry Meldrum weaves a man's shirt without seams, and finishes it without the assistance of a needle.  
The water conduit at "the Goat" rebuilt.
- 1809 In burgh records at this period the designations "the City," the "Lord Provost," are frequently met with.  
Chartulary of the Abbey analysed, and a few extracts of it published by J.G. Dalyell, Esq.  
Public rejoicings at the jubilee of His Majesty he having entered on the fiftieth year of his reign – October.

- 1810 *Water.* – Filtering pits for the water furnished. The quantity of water discharged per hour found to average 900 gallons.  
*Fire engines* procured from London.
- 1811 *Census.* – Population of the parish 11,649; of the town 6492; inhabited houses in the town 874.  
The manufacture of tailors' thread introduced by Mr. Finlayson.  
*Police Bill* for the improvement of the burgh, and for a set of watchmen, passed in Parliament – May.
- 1812 *Dunfermline Burns Club* instituted – January.  
*The Commercial Banking Company of Scotland* established a branch of their bank in the town.  
*The ruins of the Abbey and Palace* undergo repair; the date 1100, in cypher, discovered in one of the high windows of the Palace.  
*Railway* between Dunfermline and Charlestown, for the conveyance of coal to the latter place, finished; also one between and Knabbie Row.  
*The Shoemakers' Society* formed.  
Election of Commissioners of districts commenced, 12th May, under Police Act.
- 1813 *Dunfermline Corn Market* established – January.  
*Severe frost*, lasted thirty-five days.  
*Weaving.* – Average value of table linen annually manufactured in the town, &c., about £1000.000. About 1000 looms employed.  
Income tax of the parish £2680:6:11. Assessed taxes £2072:16:9.  
*Weaving.* – Henry Meldrum, who in 1808 wrought the seamless shirt, again displays his ingenuity by producing a more elaborate shirt without seam, and without no assistance from the needle except sewing on the buttons.  
Revenue of the burgh £1500.  
Revenue of the post-office £1050. Stamps £1515.
- 1814 Typhus fever rages with great severity in the town.  
*Coals.* – Average quantity annually wrought in the parish, 120,000 tons.
- 1815 Great rejoicings on the downfall of Parish and the result of the Battle of Waterloo, 18th June – the town illuminated.  
Weavers in the town number about 1100; scholars in the different schools 1194; street lamps supplied with oil 114; houses in the town, &c. 1024.  
*Lancasterian School* established in Priory Lane.  
*Rev. Mr. Dalziel* inducted minister in the Original Burgher Church.  
*Campbell's Foundry* removed from the Maygate to Clay Acres.

- 1815 Methodist Meeting-House, Maygate, erected.  
*The Savings Bank* established.  
*Fernie's History* of the town and parish published by John Millar.  
Voluntary Association for the support of the Poor instituted.  
New Burgh High school founded – February.
- 1816 *The Commercial Academy* founded. A Masonic procession on the occasion.  
An old house called the “Sanctuary,” in Maygate, rebuilt. It belonged to Mr. Meldrum.  
*John Reid*, teacher, dies aged seventy years. He was for nearly fifty years teacher in the town, and was greatly respected.
- 1817 A Radical meeting held on the Anti-Burgher Brae, behind the Chalmers Street Church.  
Rev. George Bell Brand inducted minister of the Chapel of Ease.  
Rev. Peter Chalmers inducted to the second charge of the Abbey Church.  
A new coinage of George III, arrived at the Bank of Scotland's office, under military escort – April.  
“*The Gardener's Land*” feued for buildings.  
The remains of William Buchanan, late merchant in the town, discovered in the “Magazine,” under the ruins of the Abbey.  
*Provost Low*, “the bone-setter,” died, aged eighty-four.  
*The eastern part of the ancient church* originally founded by Canmore considered incommodious; a new one to be built.  
Old Burgh School removed.  
*Hairy Braes Spinning Mill* begun.
- 1818 Dispute between the Magistrates and the ministers of the “old Kirk” respecting the power of ringing the church bells. Decided by the Court of Session to be invested with the ministers of the Abbey Church, as being connected with ecclesiastical affairs.”  
*Guildhall* sold, and converted into a hotel.  
*Tomb of King Robert Bruce*. – While proceeding with the clearing away of the ground for the foundation of the new East Church, the workmen came accidentally upon a vault, which was found to be the tomb of King Robert Bruce, the hero of Bannockburn and deliverer of Scotland, whose remains had lain there for 489 years.  
At the time of the general wreck of the Abbey in 1560, a costly marble tomb or monument, which had been erected over the remains of the Scottish King, and which was said to have been designed in Paris, was, along with other magnificent tombs,

- 1818 entirely destroyed. Some fragments of this gilded marble tomb were found.  
Great public demonstration and Masonic procession at the laying of the foundation stone of the New Church of the New Church, 10th March.
- 1819 *Re-entombment of King Robert Bruce.* – His remains were re-entombed 5th November, when the walls of the New Church were about seven feet high. Intense interest was manifested throughout the entire kingdom on the occasion.  
*Debt of the burgh* £20,401: 4: 10.  
*Eastern Church*, the last remnant of, removed.  
Revenue of the Post Office £1017:17:5.  
The “*Whipmen and Gardeners*” procession discontinued.
- 1820 GEORGE IV, proclaimed king by the Magistrates, &c. at the Canon, Cross, and site of the Eastern Port, February.  
*Rev. Mr Barlas* inducted to Chalmers Street, Church.  
Three pitmen publicly whipped for assault upon a woman.  
A troop of dragoons attended, as a general rising was feared.  
*Reid’s Park* feued for building.  
*Illumination of the town*, in consequence of the “Bill of Pains and Penalties” against Queen Caroline having been thrown out of the House of Commons.
- 1821 *Census.* – Population of the parish, 13,690; of the town, 8041.  
*Female Beneficent Society* instituted.  
*Rev. James Husband*, D.D. died 14th May. He was minister of the first charge in Queen Anne Street Church, died in the forty-sixth year of his ministry, and was buried beside Ralph Erskine’s grave.  
The choosing of a successor to Dr. Husband occasioned violent disturbances for about six years, during which about 200 candidates preached to the congregation (vide 1825).  
*Abbey Church* finished; opened for Divine Service 30th September.  
*Rev. Dr. Black*, D.D. minister of Chalmers Street Church, died.
- 1822 A new highway to Grange Farm in progress of formation.  
Provost Major Wilson died; he was fourteen years in office.  
Post –Office revenue £1009:2:1.  
*Grand Crispin Procession*, - about 10,000 spectators.  
*The Old Kirk seatings*, &c. disposed of by public auction. “King’s loft” now at Abbotsford.  
William Cant invented a machine for “walking on the water.”



- 1822 *Great snow-storm.* Snow in some parts of the town drifted to the height of 15 feet.
- 1823 “Bowling-green” added to the churchyard.  
The west angle of the “Old Kirkyard,” facing St Catherine’s Wynd removed, &c.  
Rev. J. M’Farlane, second chare of Secession Church, Queen Anne Street died.  
*A life insurance society* established.  
*A regular survey* of the town and suburbs published by Mr. Wood, Canaan, Edinburgh.  
*Weaving in great depression,* - wages consequently low; number out of work.
- 1824 *Four ale and porter breweries* in town. Excise duty, &c., £6000, including licenses of all kinds.  
Post-Office revenue £1867:19:3½.  
*The old barley mill* at Millport erected.  
*The Western District of Fife Bible Society* established.  
A coach called the “Antiquary” established to run between Dunfermline and Edinburgh – October.  
*Farmers’ meeting* for the exhibition of live stock revived, 22d November.  
*New weights and measures,* according to Act of Parliament, brought to the town.
- 1825 Two young men condemned to be executed at Dunfermline for housebreaking, received the King’s pardon, and are transported for life. The Edinburgh gallows was brought to the town for the intended execution.  
*Pilmuir* feued for building.  
*Dunfermline Ladies’ Society* in aid of Female Education in India established.  
About 900 of the Queen Anne Street Congregation obtain a separation, who establish another Secession Church in Dunfermline. They meet *pro tem*, in the Maygate Chapel, and the following year they founded St. Margaret’s Church.  
*A Mechanics’ Institution* established, 20th September.
- 1825 *Brucefield Spinning Mill* (the “East Mill”) greatly damaged by fire – November.  
*Weaving.* – The Jacquard weaving machine first introduced into Dunfermline by Mr. Alexander Robertson and Messrs. R. & J. Kerr. They came into general use about 1830.

- 1825 Pollok's *Course of Time*. A considerable portion of this famous poem was written in Dunfermline, while the author was staying here for a change of air, he being in delicate health.
- 1826 *Philosophical Society* established by four young men of the town; it continued for three years.  
A coach called the "Aurora" commences running from Kirkcaldy to Glasgow, via Dunfermline, 5th June.  
*St Margaret's Church*, East Port Street founded July.  
*Dunfermline Drawing Academy* instituted for pattern designing 17th July; ceased in 1831.  
A new road formed to the north, through Broomhead old quarry.  
A "*Society of Friends*" established.  
Bridge Street Buildings finished.
- 1827 One hundred and seventeen licensed taverns in the town and suburbs.  
*Rev. A. fisher* inducted minister of Secession Church Queen Anne Street; died 1829, September.  
*Inglis' Park* laid out into new streets.  
Great snow-storm, Saturday 2d March; a number of the churches unopened. Snow about four feet deep all over the town.  
*Dunfermline Florist Society* established – May.  
*Dunfermline Friendly Institution* established.  
One manufacturer of tobacco in town worked up during the past year 60,000 lbs. of the raw material.  
The soap manufacturer makes 216,282 lbs. of hard soap.  
The *Dunfermline Register* first published by Mr Millar.  
The *Clay Acres Spinning Mill* erect.
- 1828 *Dunfermline Missionary Prayer Meeting* formed, 14th Jan.  
*Phrenological Society* instituted.  
*Rev. R. Brown*, minister of St. Margaret's Chapel, died.  
*History of Dunfermline*, by Mr. Andrew Mercer, published by Mr. J. Millar.  
*Rev. J. Law* inducted to St. Margaret's Church.  
About 1700 looms employed in the town and neighbourhood.  
*Milton Green Spinning Mill* erected.  
*Sunday Schools* connected with and in the town amount to 19; scholars about 500.  
Part of the burgh lands sold to R. Downie, Esq. of Appin.  
*Dunfermline Gas-Light Company* established, with a capital of £6000.  
Mr. Kirkland's spinning mill founded.

AN EPITOME OF THE HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE

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- 1828 Meteorology. – From January 1, 1828, to December 31, 1828, there were 157 rainy days, 51 of which were days of incessant rain. The number of days which the wind blew from W. and S.W. 216, from S. 39, easterly 51, and northerly 59.
- 1829 An old House in “the Horse-market,” the last representative of “Grey Dunfermling,” removed – May.  
Great Thunderstorm, 3d August.  
*Dunfermline lighted with gas*, 24th October.  
Marriages this year 150; deaths about 320.  
Post-Office revenue about £1300.
- 1830 A *Temperance Society* established 15th February.  
An *Infant School* instituted, 9th March.  
WILLIAM IV, proclaimed king, by the Magistrates, &c., at the Canon, the Cross, and the East Port – July.  
*The Town Green* shut up.  
*Golfdrum spinning Mill* begun.  
*Douglas Street* opened.  
A *Total abstinence Society* formed by Mr. John Davie and some other members of the Dunfermline Temperance Society, 21st September. The pledge was drawn up by Mr. Davie, and the Society was the first in Scotland.
- 1831 *Great snow-storm*, the town drummer lost in a snow-drift.  
Rev. James Young inducted to Queen Anne Street Church.  
*Census*. – Population of the town and parish 17,068; of the town and suburbs 10,626.  
*Mr Green*, the celebrated aeronaut, ascended in his balloon from St. Margaret Street bleaching green.
- 1831 *Reform Bill*. – Great rejoicings in Dunfermlin at the second reading in the House of Commons.  
Great Reform Procession on 10th of August.
- 1832 The Dunfermline electors stated to be 493.  
*Dye-work* for the use of the manufacturers established by J. M. Low.  
*Cholera morbus* appears in the suburbs of the town, 2d September, Thursday.  
11th October kept with great solemnity as a fast, on account of the rapid spread of the disease.  
*Mr William Cobbett* deliver a lecture in the Maygate Chapel, October 15.  
*Splendid Reform Procession*, 8th May, 10,000 spectators.  
Hustings fell; several persons severely hurt.

- 1832 *Cholera morbus*. - The number of cases since the commencement 371; deaths 141. Extinguished November 17.
- 1833 Halybluid Acres feued for buildings.  
*M Barlas*, formerly minister of the Chalmers Street Meeting-house, opens a congregation in Maygate Chapel.  
The Rev. Robert Cuthbertson inducted to Chalmers Street Church.  
Southern part of Collier Row rebuilt, and named Bruce Street.  
New Chapel of Ease finished, June 20th; opened 23d.  
*Elgin Railway to Charlestown* opened for passengers.  
Centenary of th Secession Church held 11th December.  
*Census, &c.* - Population of the parish 31st December about 19,000; of the town and suburbs 12,000.  
*Places of worship* in the town, 12. Streets, &c., 43.  
*Circumference of the town* about 2 1/8 miles.  
*The Dunfermline Drawing Academy*, which was established by some of the manufacturers in 1826, abandoned for want of public support.
- 1834 The houses, which until this period were only partially numbered, were now ordered to be numbered all over the town.  
A branch from the Charlestown Railway, worked by horse-power, was brought into the west side of the Nethertown, for the conveyance of goods and passengers to Charlestown.  
*A new Baptist Church* built in East Queen Anne Street.  
*The Dunfermline Horticultural Society* instituted this year.  
*The Dunfermline Scientific Association* was instituted 18th November - David Lawrie, Esq., Preses.
- 1835 *St Andrew's Church*, North Chapel Street, was made a *Quoad Sacra Church*.  
*A new Bleaching Machine* was invented by William Cant.  
The Town-house clock-dials were illuminated by gas.  
*Relief or Gillespie Church*. - The Rev. Neil M'Michael, A.M., was ordained assistant and successor to the Rev. Henry Fergus, 11th August.  
Debt of the burgh this year, £13,421:12: 9½.  
*Weaving*. - Flax to the value of £58,350 ws purchased this year by the manufacturers of Dunfermline.  
*A course of twelve lectures on Physiology* was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Barlas in Maygate Church.
- 1836 *The great annular eclipse of the sun* took place 15th May, on a Sunday afternoon. Great interest and some apprehension were manifested in connection with the unusual spectacle.

- 1836 *The Rev. Allan M'Lean*, minister of the first charge in the Abbey Church, died 3d June.  
*Seven Spinning Mills* in operation in the town.  
*Rev. Peter Chalmers* inducted into the first charge in the Abbey Church.  
The harvest of this year very late, and far below the average.
- 1837 *The Dunfermline Harmonists' Society* instituted by Mr. James Rankine, "Master of the Song."  
*The Rev. John Todd Brown* ordained to the second charge, Dunfermline Abbey Church.  
*Rev. Henry Ferguson*, Relief church, died.  
*Rev George Barlas* died in Viewfield House, 29th July.  
Great stagnation in trade, and prevalence of typhus fever.
- 1838 *The Dunfermline burgh coal workings* were let on lease to a company. The burgh had previously worked its own coal at Townhill.  
*Rev. George Bell Brand*, of St. Andrew's Church, died in the fifty-second year of his age.  
*The Dunfermline Savings Bank* was connected with the National Security Savings Bank. The business afterwards rapidly increased.  
*The Baldrige Works*, built by Mr. R. Robertson, manufacturer, of Dunfermline and London, were unsuccessful, and were afterwards sold in 1855 to the Government for military barracks.  
*A course of Geological Lectures* given by Mr. Rose, Geologist and Mineralogist, of Edinburgh.
- 1839 *Legal Assessment for the Poor* introduced early this year.  
*A course of Astronomical Lectures* (with apparatus, &c) was delivered by E. Henderson, L.L.D., to large audiences in the Maygate and St. Margaret's churches.  
*The Rev. Andrew Sutherland* ordained minister of St. Andrew's Church.  
*The Right Honourable James Abercrombie*, M.P., speaker of the House of Commons, called to the House of Peers under the title of Lord Dunfermline.
- 1840 Penny postage introduced. This boon was hailed with much satisfaction all over the country.  
*The North Church (Golfdrum)* opened for public worship in November. Cost of the building £1673.

- 1840 *Premium* of £10 offered for the best yarn beaming machine. The reward was equally divided between Robert Lawson, weaver, and James Robertson, wright.
- 1841 *Rev James Gibson* ordained minister of the Maygate Church. *The Dunfermline Ornithological Society* instituted. "Robert the Bruce" *Tent of Rechabites* formed. Rev. Charles Marshall inducted minister of the North Chapel, Golfdrum. *The Scottish Baptist Church*, James' Street, originally formed in 1805, divided, and was formed into two congregations, one in James' Street, the other in North Inglis Street. the increasing population. *The Rev Neil M'Michael* appointed Professor of Systematic Theology and Church History by the Relief Synod.
- 1842 *Congregational Chapel*. – This church was opened in Canmore street for public worship – the Rev. George Thomson pastor. *Mr. Andrew Mercer*, one of the historians and poets of Dunfermline, died July 12th. The number of licensed houses (including grocers' shops) where In the autumn of this year there was a great strike amongst the Dunfermline weaves for an increase of wages, which caused much loss and suffering. *The Trinity Episcopal Church* in Queen Anne Place was opened for public worship 25th October. Number of schools in the parish in 1842, 33; of scholars, 2200.
- 1843 *The Poor's-house*, built on the site of the Old Town Green, was finished and occupied in July, having accommodation for 130 persons. *Great excitement* in the town and neighbourhood in connection with the *non-intrusion* question, and the subsequent building of new places of worship for the Free Church in town and country.
- 1844 *The Free Abbey Church* was finished, and opened for public worship in January. It was built on the site occupied by the "Auld Licht Kirk." "Historical and Statistical Account of Dunfermline," by the Rev. Peter Chalmers, was published. Edward Young, slater. *Episcopal or Trinity Church*, Queen Anne's Place – the Rev. William Bruce ordained minister. *Chalmers Street Church*. – The Rev. R. T. Walker of Comrie was ordained 16th November.

- 1845 *The New Prison* was finished and occupied early in January.  
*The Rev. James French*, of St. Bernard's Church, Edinburgh, was inducted to the second charge of the Abbey Church, Dunfermline 2d May.  
*The Burgh Tron* and site of Fish Market removed to Black's Close, High Street.
- 1846 *The Western Bank of Scotland* opened a branch this year.  
In consequence of the frequent want of water, a *new Water Company* was formed, with a share capital of £13,500. The water was to be brought from Craiguscar to the town.  
A *grand procession*, public meeting, concert and soiree took place in Dunfermline, "in honour of the repeal of the Corn Laws, 3d July."  
*The East of Scotland Malleable Iron Company* was formed.  
An extraordinary flood caused much destruction on Sabbath evening, 5th July.  
*The Roman Catholic Congregation* numbered 397 members, and a resident clergyman was appointed.
- 1847 A *public dinner* was given to the Earl of Elgin previous to his departure for Canada as Governor.  
*The Free Abbey Schools* opened by Mr. Bruce on the 15th February.  
The first turf of the Stirling and Dunfermline Railway was cut by James Anstruther, Esquire, in a field near Milesmark. A grand procession afterwards took place.  
*The union of the Secession and Relief Churches* was accomplished, under the designation of the United Presbyterian Church, 13th May.  
*Free St. Andrew's Church*, St. Margaret's Street, was opened for public worship May 23. The services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Candlish of Edinburgh.  
*The Rev. J. Middleton* was inducted minister of St. Andrew's Church.  
*The construction of the Railway between Dunfermline and Thornton*, in continuation of the Stirling and Dunfermline line, was commenced in October.
- 1848 *The Malleable Iron Company* commenced operations on the 2d day of August. It afterwards proved a failure.
- 1849 The clocks throughout the country altered to Greenwich time. The Dunfermline clock was put forward twelve and a half minutes.

- 1849 *Mr. James Rankine*, “Master of the Song,” and an accomplished vocalist, died in April, aged fifty-two years.  
*M. George Martin* appointed parish clerk and “Master of the Song”- April.  
A *Statue* was erected to the memory of the Rev. Ralph Erskine in front of Queen Anne Street Church, - the sculptor, Mr Handyside Ritchie of Edinburgh.  
*The Rev. Charles Rogers* inducted minister of the North Church, July 1849.  
*The cholera* made great ravages this year, but it was not so severe as in 1832. there were prayer-meetings held in Queen Anne Street Church.  
*The Rev. Mr. Craig* was inducted minister of the Independent Church.  
*The Rev. James M’Kenzie* from Annan was inducted into the Free Church in Canmore Street.  
*Weaving by Steam Power.* – After some unsuccessful attempts by Mr. Kirkland and others, Messrs. Andrew and Henry Reid, manufacturers, were the first to succeed in introducing steam power in damask weaving, which they did in their factory in Pilmuir Street this year.  
*Gillespie Church* opened for divine Service, November 4.  
The railway between Dunfermline and Crossgates was opened on the 14th December.
- 1850 *Craigluscar water* was introduced into the pipes of the town on the evening of 15th May.  
*The Malleable Iron Works at Transey* ceased working.  
The first railway trip by the Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway to Dunfermline was given on the 17th of July.  
*The first trial railway trip* between Dunfermline and Alloa took place 8th August, on the Stirling and Dunfermline Railway.  
*Archibald Haxton*, rector of the Grammar School, died in October, after a long and faithful service of forty years.  
*Robert Gilfillan*, poet, died 4th December.  
A *farewell soiree* was given to the Rev. John Law on his leaving for Innerleithen.
- 1851 *The well-known Geologist, Hugh Miller* delivered two lectures on Geology I the Free Abbey Church, Canmore Street, to large audiences.  
*Population* of town and parish in 1851, 21,234; town and suburbs, within the parliamentary boundary, 13,861.



- 1851 St Leonard's Steam Power Factory, erected by Messrs. Erskine Beveridge & Company, was opened for work in June. After this period hand-loom weaving was rapidly discontinued.  
*The Elgin Bleachfield*, for boiling and bleaching linen yarn, was commenced by Mr. Ralph Walker.  
*The Rev. David Russell* was ordained minister of St. Margaret's Church on 3d September.
- 1852 A locomotive engine was, for the first time, put on the Dunfermline and Charlestown Railway to facilitate passenger traffic.  
*The Dunfermline Bowling Club* was established this year.  
*The Post-Office* removed to the County Buildings at the Cross.  
At a public meeting a presentation was made to the Rev. R. Cuthbertson, on his leaving Dunfermline for England.  
*Rev. Alex. M'Auslane* ordained pastor of Canmore Street Independent Church.  
*The Music Hall*, Guildhall Street, was opened and a grand concert given on the occasion – Mr William Clark proprietor.  
Public races and games took place in August this year.
- 1853 *Master of the Song, &c.* – Mr. John Locke appointed to this office.  
There was a large number of candidates.  
*Powder magazine* built on Garvock Hill for the store of gunpowder.
- 1854 Stone pavements ordered by the Town Council to be laid in all the streets.  
The foundation stone of the new School of Arts was laid in March this year.  
*Scottish Baptist Church.* – The Congregation of Scottish Baptists, established here in 1895, broke up as a congregation in 1854, when they joined the English Baptists. They sold their place of worship to the Catholic Apostolic Congregation, who worshipped in Maygate Chapel.  
*Cholera* broke out with great violence in Limekilns and Charlestown.  
The Electric Telegraph was first introduced into the Post-Office, Dunfermline, 4th October.  
*Great depression* in trade prevailed, 800 looms being idle, and 500 men out of employment.  
*Mr Louis* opened the first photographic establishment in Dunfermline.

- 1855 *The new act for the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths* came into operation 1st January.  
*Evangelical Union.* – This congregation assembled for worship in the Masons' Hall, the Rev. J. Frame pastor.  
The Abbey Park Bowling Club Green was laid out this year.
- 1856 *The Ordnance Map Department* intimated that they had decided to designate Dunfermline a city. This was done at the instigation of Dr. Ebenezer Henderson.  
*M. Kossuth*, of Hungary, visited Dunfermline, and the freedom of the burgh was conferred upon him.
- 1857 *Post-Office pillar letter-boxes* first introduced, March I. The number of letters which passed through Dunfermline Post-Office between October 31, 1855 and October 31, 1856, amounted to 320,000 or about 890 per day.
- 1858 *St Andrew's Church.* – The Rev. James Rose inducted minister in January.  
*The Western Bank of Scotland* failed. Many persons in the town and all over Scotland suffered great loss.  
*The Rev. Thomas Smith* was ordained minister of the United Presbyterian Congregation in Maygate Chapel April 21.  
*Wilson's School, New Row*, was opened on the 17th of May for the free education of children in the town and suburbs. A preference was given to children of the name of Wilson, whose parents belonged to the Free Church.  
*Rev. Robert Walker*, minister of Chalmers Street Church, resigned his charge as minister. He afterwards went to Ballarat, Australia.
- 1859 *Burns Centenary*, 25th January, was celebrated in Dunfermline with great enthusiasm.  
*The Freedom of the burgh* was conferred on Dr. E. Henderson for His antiquarian researches, and in recognition of his services in connection with the restoration of the burgh to its ancient status as a city. A public dinner was given to him, at which Provost Robertson presided.  
The Abbey Park and Dunfermline Bowling Green clubs were united.  
*The Dunfermline Press*, weekly newspaper, was established this year.  
*The Rev. A.M. Jarvie* was ordained minister of Chalmers Street Church, 7th September.  
*The Dunfermline Volunteer Corps* originated 14th November.

- 1860 *St Leonard's School*, in connection with *St. Leonard's Factory*, were erected.  
*The Abbey Gardens Steam Power Factory* was erected by Messrs. Henry Reid & Son, and was opened September.  
*Louis Blanc*, the French Deputy, visited Dunfermline, and delivered a political lecture in the Music Hall.
- 1861 *The Dunfermline Co-operative Society* was inaugurated in January. A public dinner and presentation was given to Ex-Provost Robertson for his faithful public services. Provost Whitelaw presided, and Erskine Beveridge, Esq., made the presentation.  
*The Volunteer Corps of Dunfermline* created much excitement as it turned out in public for the first time and paraded through the streets.  
*Population of town and parish*, 20,952; town and suburbs 13,504.  
Chalmers Street Church (the old Anti-Burgher Kirk) was removed, and the foundation stone of the new and more commodious place of worship was laid in July.
- 1862 *Chalmers Street Church* finished and opened for public worship.  
*The Regality House*, East Nethertown Street, was this year removed.
- 1863 *The Dunfermline Advertiser*, published for twenty-nine years by J. Millar, terminated its existence this year.  
*The New Cemetery* was opened for interments on 31st July.  
*The Public Park*, Hallbank, as opened in August. The Dunfermline and Charlestown Railway was discontinued.
- 1864 "Burgh Life in Dunfermline in the Olden Time," a Lecture by the Rev. William Ross, Aberdour, was published this year.
- 1865 *The Bothwell Steam Power Weaving Factory* was erected in Elgin Street in June.  
*The Rev. James Mitchell Robbie* was inducted minister of the Congregational Church, Canmore Street.
- 1866 *The "Malcolm Canmore" Lodge* was instituted in January.  
*Mr. Joseph Noel Paton*, R.S.A., was this year appointed Her Majesty's Linner for Scotland.  
*The Dunfermline Co-operative Society's New Buildings*, at the top of Randolph Street, were commenced 4th June. There was a public procession on the occasion. The first year's transactions reached the sum of £6471:19:8.  
The cone of the Town-House spire re-erected.

1866 *The Gymnasium of the Dunfermline Athletic Club* was opened 13th of May. The Honorary President, John Whitelaw, Esq., Provost, in the chair, Mr. Andrew Blair Secretary.

Messrs. J. and T. Alexander's Power-Loom Factory in damside Street was opened this year. It occupies the site of the old dam.

1868 *Castle Blair Steam Power Weaving Factory* was erected this year by Messrs. Inglis & Company.

*The Old Market Cross* was re-erected this year at the east corner of Guildhall Street and High Street.

*The beautiful* monument or altar tomb to the memory of General Bruce, a member of the Elgin family, who was sometime tutor to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, was erected in the Abbey Church, south transept, in October 1868. It was executed by Foley the eminent sculptor.

For the better dispatch of business, four bailies are henceforth to be elected instead of two. The names of the first four who were elected were Messrs. Morrison, Duncanson, Balfour, and Walker. Presented in to Ex-Provost Whitelaw. – A public soiree was held in the Music Hall on 1st December in honour of Ex-Provost Whitelaw, at which he was presented with a testimonial consisting of a costly timepiece and upwards of £200 worth of silver plate, in recognition of his valuable services to the town.

1869 *The Rev. James Mackenzie*, of Canmore Street Free Abbey Church, died 10th June, aged fifty-one years.

*The Rev. James Young*, of Queen Anne Street Church, died suddenly in his manse, 5th December, in the sixty-sixth year of his age, and thirty ninth of his ministry.

1870 *Messrs. Hay & Robertson's Steam Power Weaving Factory* was erected in Foundry Street this year.

*The Rev. James M. Shiach* was ordained minister of Canmore Street Free Abbey Church, 18th of May.

*The Rev. Peter Chalmers, D.D. &c.*, historian of Dunfermline, died 11th April 1870, in the eightieth year of his age, and fifty-second of his ministry.

*Great scarcity of water* having been felt for some years past, the authorities resolved to increase the supply by brining water from Loch Glow, distant six miles, but the scheme was so keenly opposed by the public that it was abandoned.

About this period Mr. George Lauder, a townsman advocated with great spirit and persistency the "Devon Scheme."

- 1870** *The Rev. Robert French, M.A.* was ordained minister of Queen Anne Street Church 5th October. He resigned in 1872.  
*Evangelical Union Church.* – The Rev. John Adam, pastor since 1869, demitted his charge.  
*The Rev. John Pitt* was ordained minister of the second charge, Dunfermline Abbey Church, 22d September.
- 1871** *The “King Robert the Bruce” Lodge* of the Order of Foresters was instituted on the 21st January.  
*The “Bruce” Lodge, No. 280,* of the Independent Order of Good Templars, was instituted at Dunfermline, 12d January.  
*Population.* – Town and parish in April 1871, 23,116; population of the town within the new extended boundary, 14,958.
- 1872** *Evangelical Union Church.* – The Rev. James Foote inducted minister of this church.  
*Palace Ruins.* – The proprietorship was settled in favour of the Crown, and against the claims of Mr. Hunt, by the House of Lords, 25th September, after twenty years’ litigation.  
*Temperance Association.* – The Queen Mary” Lodge, No.8 was instituted in Dunfermline 8th December.
- 1873** *City of Glasgow Bank.* – A branch of this bank was established in Queen Anne Street in January.  
*The “Concord” Lodge* of Good Templars instituted.  
*The Dunfermline Orchestral Society* was instituted.  
*First School Board* election took place in March.  
*The new Roman Catholic Chapel* in Martyrs’ Place was opened.  
*Bishop Strain* of Edinburgh officiated.  
*Queen Anne Street Church.* – The Rev. Robert Alexander, minister of Buckhaven, was inducted minister of this church, 1st October.  
*The Dunfermline Savings Bank,* East Port Street, was built this year.
- 1874** *The Rev. Neil M’Michael, D.D.* minister of Gillespie Church, Dunfermline, and Professor of Ecclesiastical History, &c., in the United Presbyterian Church died 3d April.  
*Caledonian Steam Power Weaving Factory* erected in Knabbie Street by Messrs. Steel & Company.  
*Joseph Paton, Esq., F.S.A.,* antiquarian and pattern designer, died 14th April. He was unsurpassed as a pattern designer, and was much esteemed by his fellow-townsmen. His private museum, containing rare and valuable antique furniture, &c., was at all times generously thrown open to public inspection.

1874 *The Rev. Wm. Johnstone*, D.D., of Limekilns UP. Church, died 14th May, aged seventy-four years. For fifty-one years he was minister of there.

*The Albany Steam Power Weaving Factory* was erected in Gardeners' Street by Messrs. Walker, Reid & Co.

1875 *The Rev. John M'Farlane*, LL.D., died in London on 7th February. He was a very popular preacher, and the author of numerous able works on Divinity, &c.

*Part of the old Palace wall* at the Pends was this year removed, and an iron railing substituted.

*The Rev. J. W. Dunbar* was inducted minister of Gillespie Church on 24th March.

*Badges of office.* – It was agreed that the Provost and the four Bailies should be provided with badges of distinction to wear while in office.

*Mr. Lauder* and some others were the means of stirring up the public, and getting a very largely signed petition sent in to the Council, asking that body to “adopt the necessary means, by applying to Parliament, for obtaining for Dunfermline a supply of water from the River Devon.”

The Council took action upon the receipt of that petition, and ultimately adopted Glensherup Burn (a tributary of the Devon), as the spot where an ample supply could be obtained.

*Baptist Church Maygate Street.* – *The Rev. J. T. Hagen* was inducted minister of this Church – October.

*The last meeting of Council* was held in the old Town-House, prior to its being removed to make way for the new Town-House Buildings, December 13, 1875.

1876 *The Rev. William George* ordained minister of Chalmers Street Church, 28th March.

*Victoria Steam Power Weaving Factory* was erected at Grantsbank Street, by Messrs. Inglis and Company.

*The Rev. David Imrie* was inducted minister of St. Andrew's Free Church. (He succeeded the Rev. Andrew Brydie.)

*St Margaret's Hall.* – The foundation stone was laid in June this year.

*New Town-House.* – The foundation stone was laid 11th October. A great Masonic procession took place.

*The Branch Bank of the British Linen Company* in the High street was built this year, and was opened on 18th September.

- 1877 *The number of employees at the factories in the town.* – There were 5930 operatives connected with the eleven factories Many of them come daily from the neighbouring towns and villages.
- Dunfermline Co-operative Society.* – It was found that the transactions of this society during the sixteenth year of its existence amounted to £52,431:8:5.
- Carnegie Baths opened.* – Those splendid baths, the munificent gift of Andrew Carnegie, Esq., of New York, a native of Dunfermline, and which cost upwards of £5000, were publicly opened on the 12th of June by the donor himself, while on a visit to his native city.
- The freedom of the city* was afterwards conferred on Mr. Carnegie.
- New Water Scheme.* – The first sod of the New Water Works was cut by Kenneth Mathieson, Esq., Provost of Dunfermline, at Glensherup, on the 29th of June.
- The works for conveying the sewage of Dunfermline to Charlestown were completed in September, at a cost of £10,000.
- Dunfermline and Edinburgh Railway* was opened for traffic on 1st November
- 1878 *St. Margaret's Hall Organ.* – A bazaar was held in this hall in April 23d, 24th, and 27th, to raise funds for an organ, which realised the handsome sum of £1851:7:8½.
- The names of some of the streets were altered.*
- The Townhill Church* was opened for Divine Service in May.
- The Dunfermline Tan-Works* destroyed by fire; loss amounted to about £14,000.
- Glensherup water was first brought into the town direct on the 6th September. Since then a bountiful supply of excellent water has been obtained for every householder.
- St. Margaret's Hall Organ* was opened, and a grand concert given on the occasion, 1st October.
- City of Glasgow Bank Branch in Dunfermline* closed in consequence of the failure of the bank, which was regarded as almost a national calamity.
- 1879 *The New Factory Act.* – Mr. Cross' Factory Act came into operation January 1st.
- Honorary Degree.* – The Senatus of the Aberdeen University conferred the degree of D.D. on the Rev. Alexander Mitchell, North Church.

1880 *Fast-Days.* – The United Presbyterian Churches in the town agreed to discontinue Fast-Day Services.

*St. Margaret's Stone.* – Funds were raised and steps taken to properly fix and preserve this ancient “resting-place” of Queen Margaret on the Queensferry Road. The work was completed in October 1879.

The number of voters for the burg this year is 2283.

1880 *Death of Ebenezer Henderson LL.D.* – On the 2d of November died Dr. E. Henderson. He was the author of several astronomical and other works, was an enthusiastic antiquarian, and the writer of the “Annals of Dunfermline.” He was a true and loyal son of the old city he loved so well.

*New Commercial School.* – This fine seminary was opened in November.

*The New town-House* was opened to the inspection of the public.

To Provost Mathieson the credit is due of carrying out the New Town-house scheme.

*Great Gale.* – a strong gale swept over Dunfermline and did much damage to property. The same gale destroyed the Tay Bridge, which caused the loss of many lives.

*Mr Carnegie* presented his native city with the handsome sum of £5000, which he afterwards increased to £8000, for a Free Public Library, to be placed under the “Libraries Act.”

*The Rev. James French* of the Abbey Church died.

*The Rev. John Pitt* appointed to the first charge in the Abbey Church.

*Pitfirrane Estate.* – This estate, which for nearly five hundred years had been in the possession of the Halket family, and which was purchased by Mr. L. Dalgleish in 1877, is again offered for sale.

The Royal Highness Princess Mary, Duchess of Teck, accompanied by the Countess of Hopetoun, arrived at Dunfermline. They visited various places of interest in the city, such as the Abbey, St. Margaret's Tomb, the Palace ruins and Monastery, &c. &c.

*Her Majesty's Surveyor of works for Scotland*, accompanied by the Chief Secretary of the Board of works, visited the city, and inspected the Crown property, and gave instructions for the carrying out of much-needed improvements on the Abbey, the Palace ruins, &c., but more especially on St. Margaret's tomb, which had been suffering from neglect.



## AN EPITOME OF THE HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE

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*Note:* - Those improvements have since been carried out, but still it is greatly to be regretted that neither stone nor slab exists to tell to visitors and strangers the spot around which are the royal tombs. Neither is there anything in the New Church to mark the exact spot where repose the remains of Scotland's great hero, King Robert Bruce.

*Note:* - Other reading. ---- 'Extracts from the Report made by Henry Jardine Esquire, His Majesty's Remembrancer in Exchequer, Relative to the Tomb of King Robert Bruce.'

*Note:* - To date it is still greatly to be regretted that neither stone nor slab exists to tell to visitors and strangers the spot around which are the royal tombs.



THE FRATERY.

THE END.