

A HISTORY OF PITTENCRIEFF GLEN/PARK

THE ROYALS, RUINS, WALKS, LEASURE AND PLAY



King Malcolm III – Queen Margaret



Malcolm's Tower



St Margaret's Cave



King David I



King Robert The Bruce



St. Catherine's Hospital



Palace Ruins



Sir William Wallace - Well



Pittencrieff Mansion House



Double Bridge



Heugh Mills



Bridge Street



PARKS FOR PEOPLE - GLEANINGS FROM OLD TEXTS
Compiled by Sheila Pitcairn

THE CHILDREN OF THE TOWER



The Birthplace of Royalty King Malcolm III and Queen Margaret's Family

- Edward - died 1093 Buried in Dunfermline Abbey
- Edmund - died A Monk “
- Ethelred - died An Abbot “
- Edgar - *`The Peaceable`* died 1107 “
- Alexander - *`The Fierce`* died 1124 “
- David - *`The Sair Sanct`* died 1153 “
- Mary - of Boulogne died 1116
- Matilda - married Henry I of England died 1118

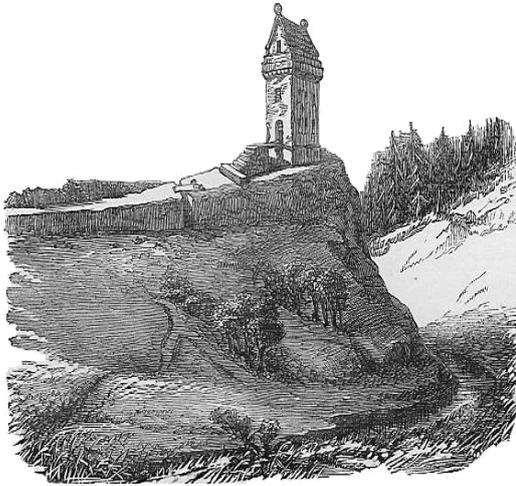
PRINCE AND PRINCESSES OF THE PALACE



- David II - Born 1323 in the Palace of Dunfermline, son of King Robert the Bruce, and his Queen Elizabeth de Burgh.
- James I - Of Scotland, born 1394 in the Palace of Dunfermline, son of Robert III and his consort Queen Annabella Drummond.
- Elizabeth - Of Bohemia *`the Winter Queen`* or *`Queen of Hearts`* born 1596 in the Palace of Dunfermline. Daughter of James VI and Anne of Denmark.
- Charles I - Born 1600 in the Palace of Dunfermline sister of Elizabeth above.
- Robert, - Brother of Charles I born 1602 in the Palace of Dunfermline and died a child 1602, buried in Dunfermline.

THE HISTORY OF PITTENCRIEFF GLEN - AND PARK

^The emergence of Dunfermline as a community and its subsequent development into a burgh of various sorts were to a large extent determined by two facts: -



- (1) That Malcolm Canmore, or his predecessors, had chosen the Tower-Hill as their residence, and
- (2) That Margaret, Malcolm's Queen, took the first steps towards the establishment of what came to be one of the greatest monasteries in the country by her appeal to the Archbishop of Canterbury for help in her endeavour to reform the Scottish Church, to which he responded by sending her two monks under the leadership of Goldwinus. (Lawrie, E.S.C. 236). ^ [Notes on the Burgh of Dunf. P.1 By J.M. Webster]

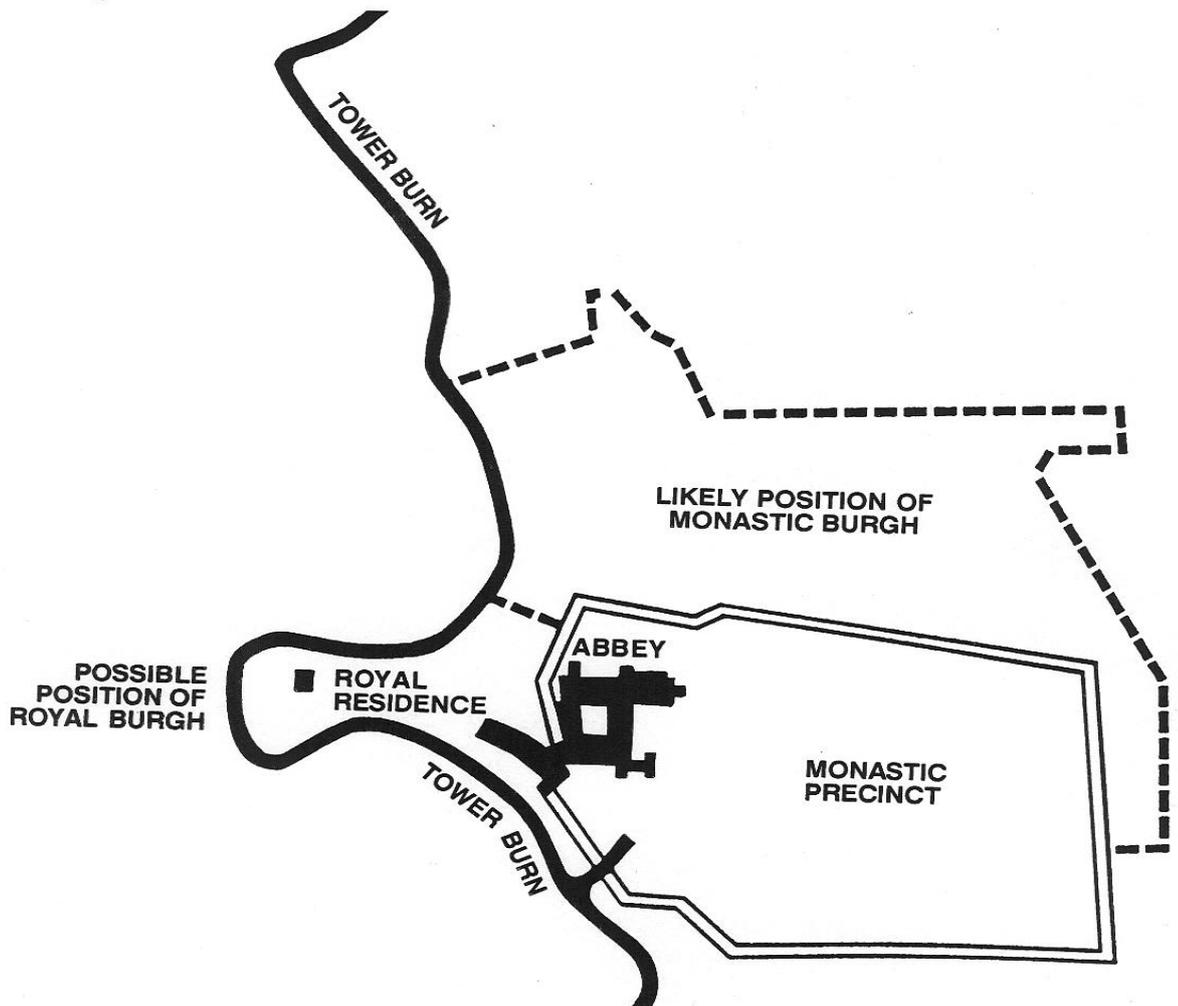


^By 1124 David I the youngest son of Malcolm and Margaret, refers to this community in one of his charters as "burgus meus" – my burgh. (Reg.26). It is, no doubt, possible to read too much into this. Still, it has to be remembered that they were the King's own words, embodied in a royal charter, and



that, when Robert the Bruce, at a later date, referred in one of his charters (Reg. 346) to the four towns associated with Dunfermline Abbey as burghs, that statement is everywhere accepted as evidence of their status that cannot be gainsaid.

In several of the charters issued by King David we are confronted with the unmistakable fact that the early community had settled on both sides of the Tower-Burn. The oft-repeated use of such a phrase as "*that part of the burgh (or Dunfermline) which is on the same side of the water as the church*", leaves no room for doubt that there was another part of the community on the other side of the water (Reg.3, 5, 19, 28, 40, 46), presumably on the high ground in the vicinity of the present Bridge Street entrance to Pittencrieff Glen. [Notes on the Burgh of Dunf. By J. Webster]



There are also frequent references to the “*Gyrth-Bow*” (Reg. 370), a bridge across the burn in the neighbourhood of St. Catherine’s Yard, or Garden, which would seem to have been the connecting link between the two portions. This is unexpected in view of the fact that, at a somewhat later date, the burgh lay entirely on the left, or east side of the Tower Burn; but the explanation is not far to seek.



So long as the Court had its regular residence at Dunfermline, all the lands in the immediate neighbourhood were within the king’s demesne. Its transference to Edinburgh brought changes, Pittencrieff being particularly affected.

Following the death of Malcolm and Margaret, the Celtic element reasserted itself, (Donald III “Bane” 1093-May 1094 (Usurper) & Nov 1094 with Edmund. d. 1099) with consequent unsettlement, the northern clans, in particular, being difficult to reconcile. To meet this situation, the help of Norman knights, who, after 1066, came to be regarded as the leading authorities on warfare, was frequently procured by gifts of lands, and, the king being no longer resident in the Tower, the lands of Pittencrieff and Gallorig were given to a Norman family of the name of Oberville.

[Notes on the Burgh of Dunf. p.2 By J. Webster]



Of two members of this family mention is made in the Convent Chartulary. John de Oberville is on record as a witness to charters on various occasions (Reg. Index); and William de Oberville, presumably his son, is best known by the fact that



Capped Monk of the
Order of St. Benedict.

in 1291 he granted the monks of Dunfermline the right to work coals for their own use in the lands of Pittencrieff, except on arable land – one of the earliest references to the working of coals in Scotland (Reg.323).

The fact that the lands of Pittencrieff were now in the hands of these Normans meant that the site on the west side of the burn where part of the early community had settled was also theirs, and not part of Dunfermline. It did not, in fact, return to the burgh till the extension of boundaries in 1911.

The Obervilles, as it happened, were not “Lords of Pittencrieff” for long. These Norman knights, it must be remembered, came to Scotland from England, where many of them still continued to hold lands, and it is not greatly to be wondered at that, in the War of Independence, many, if not most of them, espoused the cause of the English King’s nominee to the Crown of Scotland. The result, in this case, almost certainly was that, after Bannockburn, William de Oberville lost the lands of Pittencrieff by forfeiture and King Robert The Bruce gave them to a member of the Fife family of Wemyss, which had given valuable service in his support.

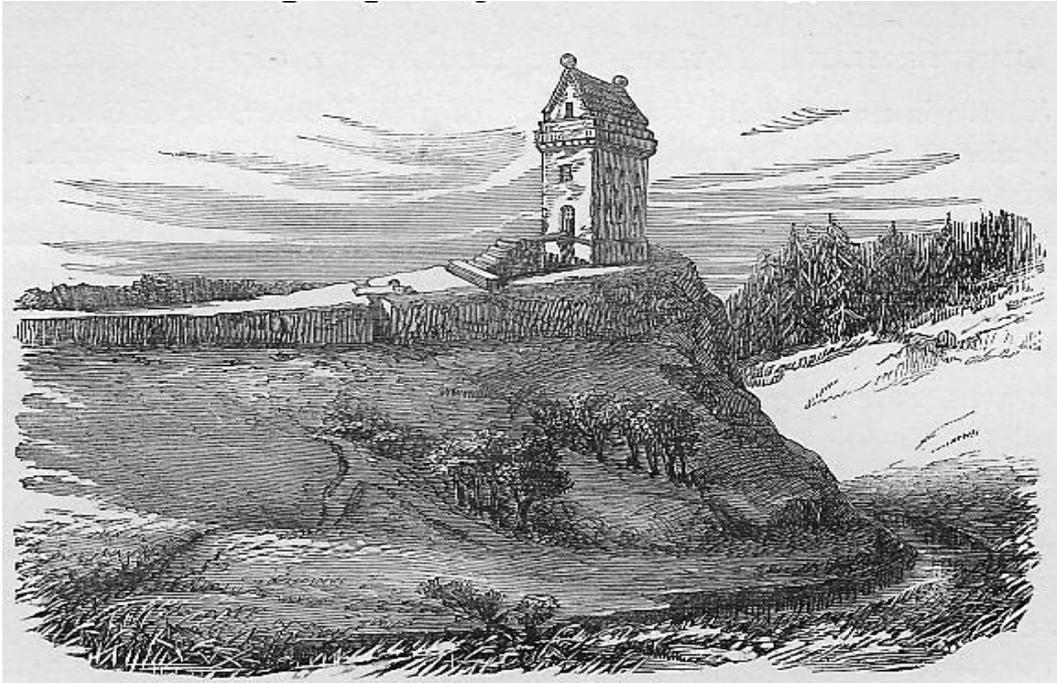
From this time onwards till about 1600, Pittencrieff was held by members of the Wemyss family. In the time of Patrick Wemyss, the lands of Pittencrieff, Gallorig and Clune were erected into a barony because of good service rendered to the king at home and abroad (R.M.S. No.1838 16th September, 1583); and, every time a successor inherited, the Register of Sasines bears witness to the fact that the boundary between the barony and the burgh was the burn as far north as Woors’ Alley`.

The question naturally rises as to where these families (Oberville and Wemyss) had their residence. The ruins that are still to be seen on the Tower Hill are almost certainly of later date than Malcolm Canmore’s time, which would suggest continued occupation after the Court had moved to Edinburgh. But, so far as is known, the Tower-Hill did not become part of Pittencrieff till Arthur Forbes of Pittencrieff acquired it by excambion from Lord Tweeddale in 1730 (Scottish Jurist, xliii. 595), so that it is unlikely to have been the “*messuage*”, or manor-house, of the barony.

A new house may have been built either on the same site as the present Pittencrieff House or, possibly, somewhat further north where parts of the community of Dunfermline had originally settled. [Notes on The Burgh of Dunfermline p.2-3 by Rev. J. M. Webster]



MALCOLM CANMORE'S TOWER DUNFERMLINE

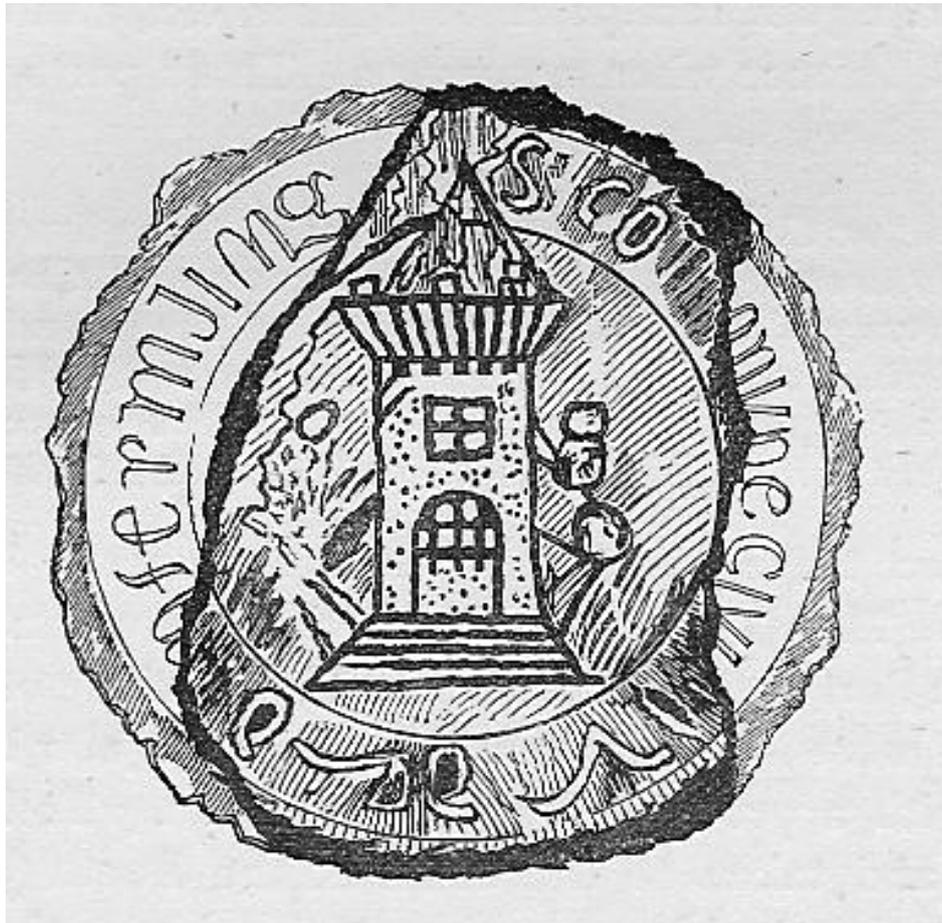


` In 1057 Malcolm Canmore, or Great-head having conquered Macbeth, the murderer of King Duncan, his father, ascended the Scottish throne. Besides founding the Monastery of Dunfermline, he built a strong tower on a height in the adjacent glen'. [The Stranger's Companion and Antiquities of Dunfermline, second edition 1848 p.6]

`It was on this hill that Malcolm Canmore built the tower whence the town derives its name, and which figures in the Town's Arms, supported by two lions. Here his marriage with Queen Margaret took place, and here his family, future sovereigns, were born. Its natural advantage as a place of strength, would doubtless recommend it to the rude eye of an engineer of the eleventh century, when might was right, and personal security was more prized than personal comfort. The hill rises abruptly out of the glen, causing the rivulet to wind round its base, and when its rugged declivities and steep sides were covered with thick woods, it must have been extremely difficult to access on three sides. A small fragment of the tower yet remains; it is part of a wall, almost level with the ground. It has been very thick; and the stones, which are small, are strongly cemented with lime mixed with sea-sand, now as hard as the stones themselves. This fragment is now nearly eight hundred years old! It has been suggested, that a gothic pillar might with much propriety be erected on the site of this Tower, to the memories of MALCOLM III and of MARGARET his Queen`. [The Stranger's Companion and Antiquities of Dunfermline, second edition 1848 p.59]

`One of the first works of the Carnegie Trustees, after they took possession of the Glen, was to fence off the Tower ruin for preservation from the spoliatory attentions of relic hunters. They have strengthened the supports of the precipitous hill and at the same time have altered the formation of the bed of the stream, with the view of adding to the attractions of the scene by the introduction of rockwork and cascades, after the manner so successfully adopted in Jesmond Dene, Newcastle. The Tower and the Monticulum are the only parts of the Glen that have been preserved`. [The `Journal` Guide to Dunf. By J.B. Mackie p.14]

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE CITY OF DUNFERMLINE



“The Common Seal of the City of Dunfermline”
“S COMMUNITATIS DE DVNFERMLING”

[Annals of Dunfermline by Henderson]

The first seal of the Burgh of Dunfermline - it is not known when the Burgh of Dunfermline first made use of the Seal to affix to their legal documents. Before 1395 the Seals of the Regality Court and the Chapter of the Abbey appear to have been the only Seals used. But now, by the preceding indenture between the Abbot, &c., and the Alderman and Community of the Burgh, the Abbot and Conventual Brethren demit in favour of the aforesaid Alderman and Community the whole revenue payable to them by the Burgh, with the customs, stallages, profits, fines, annual payments of lands, &c. A Seal for the use of the Burgh to legalise these documents and proceedings would now be absolutely necessary; and we fix the date of the *first Seal of the Burgh*, at the time such important privileges, &c., were conferred upon it in 1395, immediately after the receipt of the preceding Abbey Charter. The engraving was taken from a wax impression of the oldest known Seal of the Burgh. It is rude, and in a mutilated condition and is appended to a Pitfirrane Charter, dated between 1500 and 1523, as shown in the Charter chest of Pitfirrane.

From the fragment of the Burgh Seal, it will be seen that the central figure is the representation of Malcolm’s Tower on Tower Hill, Dunfermline, supported by a lion-rampant on each side of it (the same as is in use at the present day on the Burgh Seal). [Annals of Dunf. by E. Henderson P.144]

ST. MARGARET'S CAVE – ORATORY

^This cave, obviously named after Malcolm Canmore's queen, is situated at a short



distance north from the Tower Hill, and from the mound crossing the ravine on which part of the town stands. It consists of an open apartment in the solid rock, 6 feet 9 inches in height, 8 feet 6 inches in width, and 11 feet 9 inches in depth, i.e., from the mouth to the back or longest side, while on the shortest side it is only 8 feet 3 inches. There is at present a small spring well at the bottom, the water of which rises at times and covers the whole lower space; but anciently, it is to be presumed, there was none, or at least it must have been covered, and prevented from overflowing the floor, which would either have been formed of the rock, or have been paved. The upper and outer edge of the cave, as well as the external sides, bear evident marks of the mason's chisel. There were also one or two small recesses or niches on the sides of the rock at the entrance into the cave, such as are to be seen in the buildings of catholic times applied to religious purposes.

The tradition regarding the cave is Queen Margaret, who, according to her confessor, Turgot, was of a pious disposition, and who even fell a victim to her long vigils, fastings, and mortification, was wont frequently to retire to this secluded spot for secret devotion, and that her husband Malcolm, either not knowing, or doubting her real object, on one occasion privately followed her, and unobserved, looked into the cave to see how she was occupied, of course, prepared, according to the manners of the age, for the worst, if her object had been different. Perceiving her engaged in devotional exercise, he was quite overjoyed, and, in testimony of his satisfaction, ordered the place to be suitably fitted up for her use`. [Historical & Statistical Account of Dunf by P. Chalmers Vol. 1.p.88]

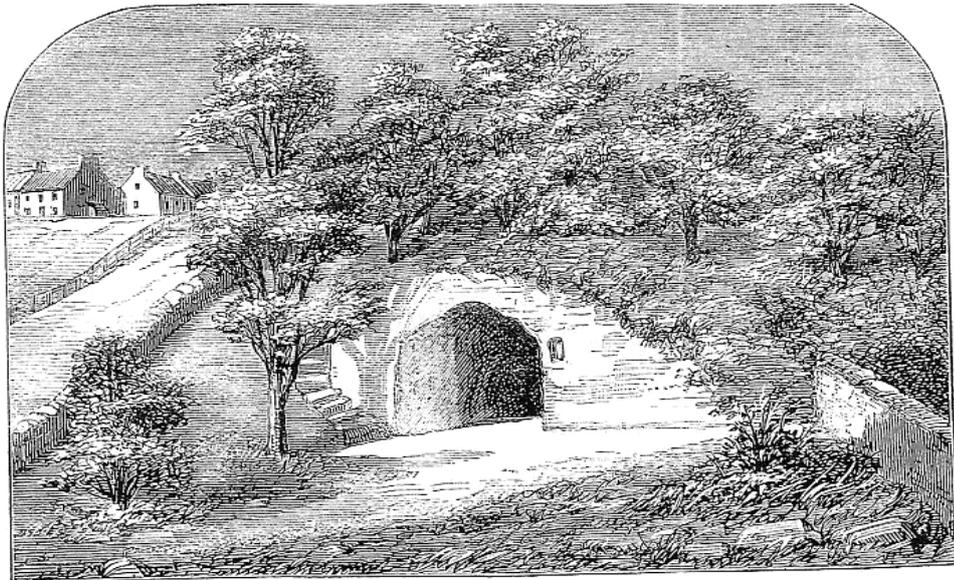
‘A little orison cave it was
Down in a dale hard by a forest's side;
Far from resort of peepil that did pas
In traveill to and froe.’

^This Cave is situated in the glen, about half way between the upper end of Bruce Street and the middle of Chalmers Street, and 290 yards north-north-east of the ruins of Malcolm Canmore's Tower on Tower-Hill. The entrance into the Cave is in the base of a free-stone rock fronting the west. It is rather difficult of access; a road should be made into it running from the north side of Chalmers Street Church down the steep descent, and carried over the burn by a foot-bridge direct up to it. From the days of St Margaret down to 1770, there was a road from Tower-Hill to the Cave, winding along the margin of the burn. On the building of the bridge under Bridge Street in this year (1770), the access in this direction was entirely cut off, and there is not now a trace of this ancient *regia via*.

The Cave and the adjacent property on the east and west of it was lately purchased by Thomas Walker, Esq., one of the magistrates of the burgh, and since our notice of it was written in the Preliminary Remarks, the Cave has been cleared of the accumulated *debris* of ages, as also of the silt which lay at the entrance. This clearance has given a difference to the mouth of the Cave and to the inside height, so much so, that we resolved to get the wood-cut slightly altered, and by giving a greater depth to the entrance; it is nearly two feet deeper now than formerly, and the cut now represents the Cave as it *now is*, and which, undoubtedly, would have been its aspect in the days of Malcolm III and of Margaret his Queen.

During the process of clearing out the Cave, in December, 1877, two stone seats or benches were discovered along the base of the north and south sides, which appear to be those mentioned by the "old man of 1700" but there were no carvings or devices seen on them. Near the back of the Cave a small sunk well was found, but it is now covered over with a stone flag.

A stone or cast-iron plate should be inserted somewhere in front of the Cave, with a suitable inscription notifying a few words about how the Cave became of historical interest. (Taken from her *Life* by Turgot, the Confessor of Margaret, consort of Malcolm III.) [Annals of Dunf by E Henderson p.714-5]



Baines View – 1790

Today the Cave can be visited, and the entrance situated within the Car Park under the Glen-bridge. The entrance is by a tunnel, which goes underground to the original site of the Cave once within Pittencrieff Glen.

WALLACE'S WELL

Dunfermline Historical Idylls

By J.B.Mackie



Another shining name in the national history is associated with the Glen, by tradition if not by actual historical record. Dr. Henderson cites a report that Wallace for some time made “the forest of Dunfermline” his hiding place, and there had conferences with his friends as to the propriety of delivering himself up to Edward on honourable terms. At that time the Glen was an almost impenetrable forest, and the annalist suggests that the exiled hero may have found a place of shelter. [Guide to Dunf. By J.B. Mackie p.48]

Sir William Wallace and his Mother in disguise, travel on foot from near Dundee to Dunfermline – Some time in the autumn of 1303, the renowned Sir William Wallace, “in hiding at or near to Dundee,” finding that he was being surrounded by scouts from the King of England’s army and by “sworn enemies, his countrymen,” suddenly left his hiding-place in *disguise*, and armed with a concealed sword only. His mother, also in *disguise*, accompanied him, and both on foot set out on travel for the south, and according to *Langtoft’s Chronicle*, they crossed by ferry over to Lindores. Then through the Ochils for the south, and that when they were asked by any way-farer as to where they were going, and answer that they were going



to Saint Margaret’s Shrine at Dunfermline. Whether this was really their place of destination or not, the answer they gave would secure them ecclesiastical protection, and allow them to proceed without molestation. Shortly afterwards, however, he was in Dunfermline again probably to escape from the English spies whom he would find in abundance in the Lothians. This time he made “the forest of Dunfermline his hiding-place.”

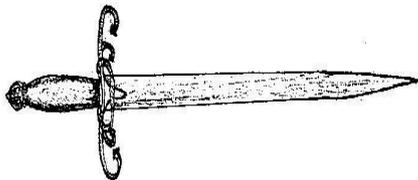
At this period the glen of Pittencrieff was an almost impenetrable forest, extending from the low grounds on the south to *Baldrig Burn* (Baldedge Burn) on the north. There were also other forests of a lesser degree, such as Forthrich Moor or forest, &c; but the forest of Dunfermline would most likely be in the former locality, and St Margaret's Cave (the Cave Well) may have been his place of shelter. [Annals of Dunf. By E. Henderson P.108-9]

"28th May 1773: This day the Council considering that the entry from the Town to the Well of Spaw is now shut up by Mr. Chalmers, which was a particular privilege to ye Inhabitants of the Burgh, Do hereby appoint the Provost to intimate to Mr Chalmers that the Town will not give up that privilege, and to require him to open an entry thereto as formerly." The water is reported as being "very cold at all times." The water should be analysed. [Annals of Dunf by E. Henderson p. 497]

The story that the hero lay hidden in a cave which recent excavations discovered, cannot be regarded as evidence at all, though it was used as a hiding-place appeared clearly in the obvious traces of the fire. Needless to say, however, local opinion has at once dubbed the spot "*The Wallace Cave.*" Henderson whom we have already quoted, mentions that Arnold Blair, a monk, from the Benedictine foundation at Dunfermline, became Wallace's chaplain, and after his patron's death returned to the Monastery, where he wrote a life of the hero.

Such then, is some local beliefs with regard to Wallace's connections with Dunfermline.

WHAT THEY FOUGHT FOR –



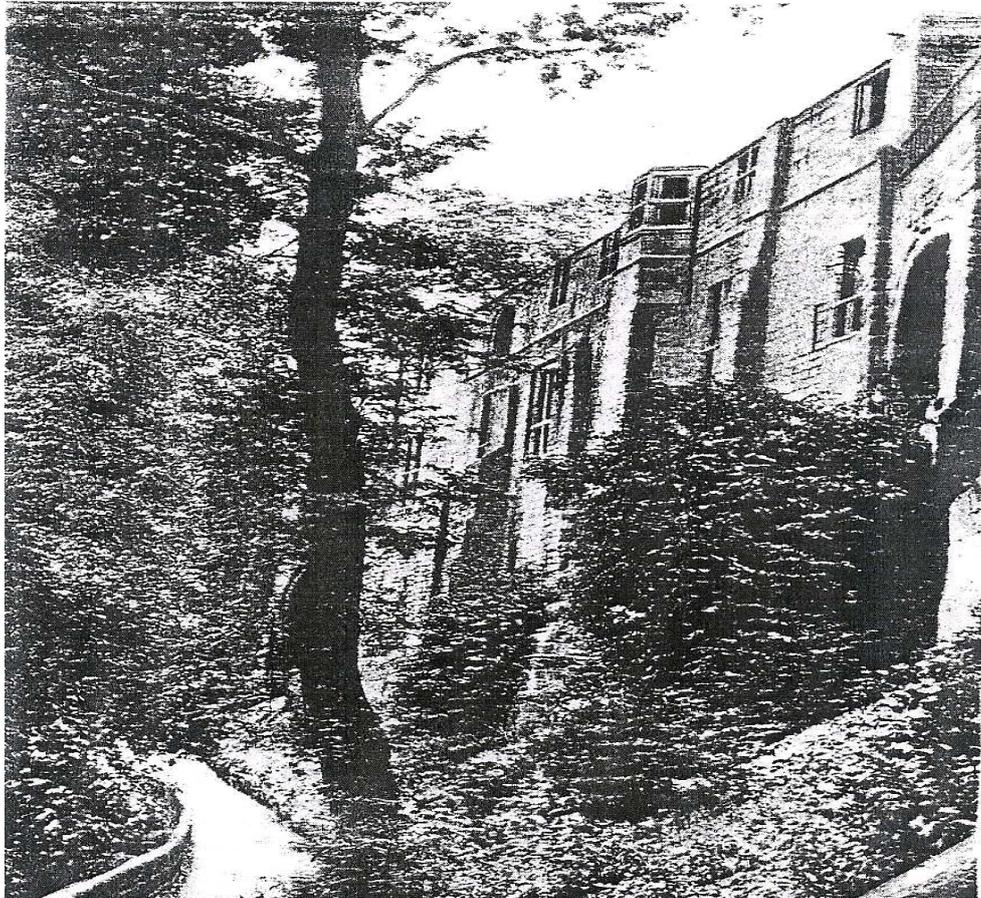
**Not glory, nor wealth, nor honour, but freedom only,
Which no good man abandons save with his life.**



**PALACE RUINS
WITHIN PITTENCRIEFF GLEN**



FOOTPATH IN GLEN UNDER PALACE WALLS



PALACE RUINS- WITHIN PITTENCRIEFF GLEN

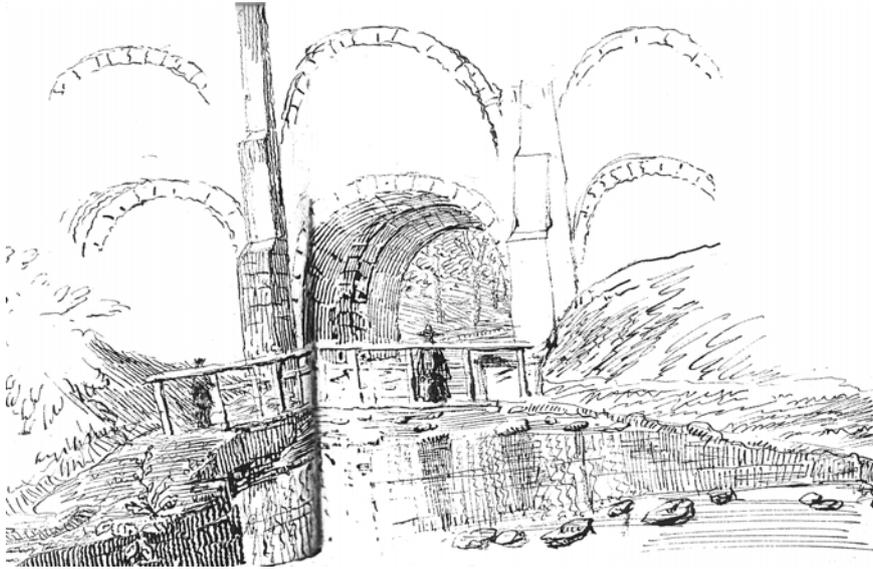


^The original building, a Guest House converted into a Palace, may have been built in the thirteenth century and is said to have been re-built in 1315 following the destruction carried out by the orders of Edward I.

In the Guest House were born in 1324 David II in 1394 James I and in 1596 the Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia Also the birth in 1600 of the ill-fated Charles I and his brother Prince Robert in 1602 who died in the same year. Tradition still points out the window and fireplace of the room near the west end where Charles I was born. The last king to occupy the palace was Charles II who in response to the demands of the Covenanters, subscribed to the Solemn League and Covenant in August 1650. The document is known as “The Dunfermline Declaration”.

A reference to the expected visit of the King is found in the Kirk Session Records (23rd July), 1650 as follows: - “This day the Session being publiclie desyrit to conveyn efter the blessing, no meeting was, everie one being so taken up with the present troubles of war and putting out of soldiers to our Armie against Cromwell, and preparing for the King’s coming to the Town”. ^ [Guide to Dunf Abbey by H.T. Macpherson]

**OLD ROAD FROM THE WEST TO ABBEY
DOUBLE BRIDGE IN PITTENCRIEFF**



Sketches to Illustrate 1790
By John Baine Esq. Edinburgh

Tower Bridge



Rhyming History of Dunfermline
By D Patton

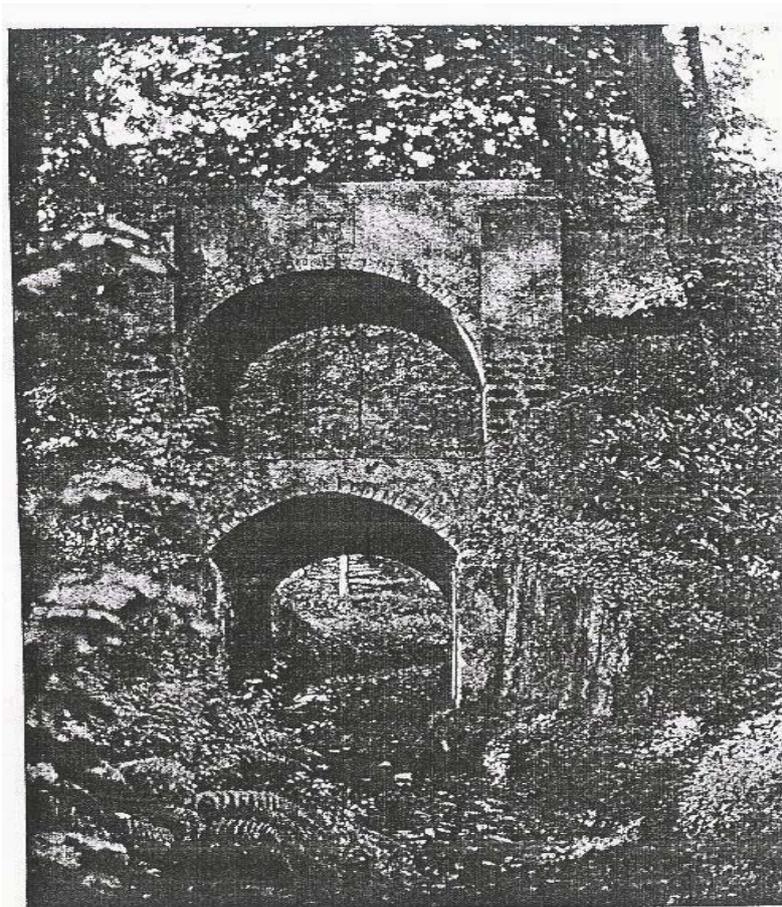


There's the tower bridge that is hard by Pittencrieff, There witches the
divel caught and hang'd him like a thief
They tied a rop about his neck and throw him ore the side, contented
to there homes they went thinking he ow'd till morning bide
Then next morning there they thought to find old blatty dead. They fownd
the rop hung o'er the pend and in'd a lussy peat. [Ryming History by D Patton]

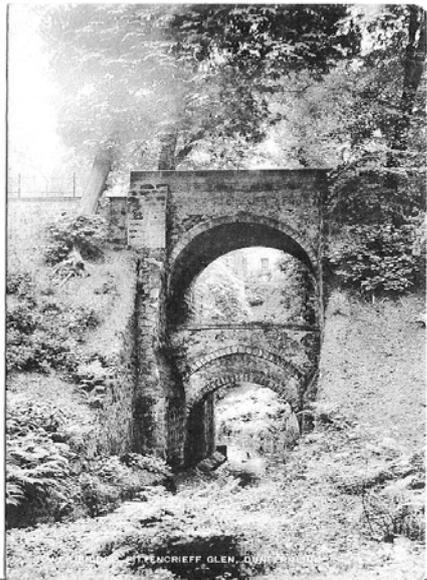
From the site of the old Palace Yard opposite the western entrance to the Abbey, a road leads past the ruins of the Canmore Tower and crosses the deep ravine by way of a double arched bridge. It admirably serves its purpose as a means of easy communication across the Glen to Pittencrieff House and grounds. A tasteful parapet, designed by Mr James Shearer, architect, has been erected on both sides of the higher level.

Before the occupation of the Palace by James VI a bridge across the stream connected the two sides of the Glen. At the time of the King's marriage, it was, however, in a ruinous state; and Queen Anne, doubtless enjoying the beautiful outlook obtained from the western eminence on which Pittencrieff House now stands had another bridge built in 1611 to make the passage safer and more pleasant. In 1788 the present structure made its appearance. Captain Phin, who was the owner of Pittencrieff, raised the viaduct to a convenient height by building "two storeys" – arch above arch. Placed above the upper arch there is a shield cut out in stone showing the Captain's arms, a pelican erect, and above it a pelican picking at its breast. Under the shield is the lettering – "Rebuilt 1788." The date is also cut on the lower arch, and above it a stone with the letters and figures "A.R. 1611" recalling Queen Anne's service.

A bridge named the Gyrbow is referred to in 1527 in the register of Dunfermline. Probably the Gyrbow was the original crossing made by the Abbots and Monks as they passed between the Monastery and the pleasant fields and gardens of Pittencrieff. [The 'Journal' Guide to Dunfermline p. .50 by J B Mackie]



THE DOUBLE ARCHED BRIDGE



Mr Henry Beveridge of Pitreavie Castle, F.S.A. on one occasion when conducting the members of the Dunfermline Naturalists' Society through the Glen, directed their attention to the bridge, which he closely examined. He stated that the arches seem to have been rebuilt – and badly. The first few courses above the level of the stream appear of excellent mason work. The stones are of good hard sandstone and well cut, bearing mason marks all similar to old stones at Pitreavie circa 1620. He found that the so-called double-arched bridge had really three arches; that the mason work of all was quite the same, and that the voussoirs or wedge stones of the arch are quite similar in all the arches. [The 'Journal' Guide to Dunf. 1905 P. 29 By J.B. Mackie]

The Tower Bridge (double arched) was the only means of access to the town from the west until George Chalmers built a new bridge up stream in 1770 (Bridge Street).

PITTENCRIEFF HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE GLEN

^The question naturally rises as to where these families (Oberville and Wemyss) had their residence. The ruins that are still to be seen on the Tower Hill are almost certainly of later date than Malcolm Canmore's time, which would suggest continued occupation after the Court had moved to Edinburgh. But, so far as is known, the Tower-Hill did not become part of Pittencrieff till Arthur Forbes of Pittencrieff acquired it by excambion from Lord Tweeddale in 1730 (Scottish Jurist, xliii. 595), so that it is unlikely to have been the "*messuage*", or manor-house, of the barony.

A new house may have been built either on the same site as the present Pittencrieff House or, possibly, somewhat further north where parts of the community of Dunfermline had originally settled`. [Notes on The Burgh of Dunfermline p.3 by Rev. J.M. Webster]



Artist impression of original house of Pittencrieff
Possibly the right hand wing added later



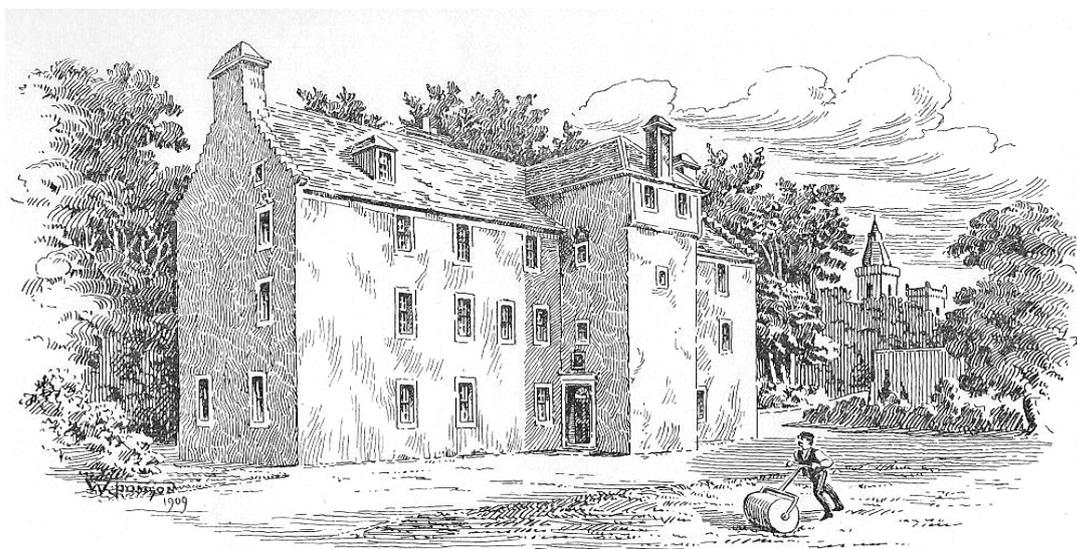
Pittencrieff House

^Ye buik of ye Hammermen Craft of Dunfermline 1588," with the following declaration: - "I Johnne Wemyss, of Pittencrieff, Provost: etc., and, as the author points out, it "suggests an earlier occupation of Pittencrieff House than the date generally assigned`. [The Dunfermline Hammermen Craft by D. Thomson p.26]

^The first decade of the seventeenth century is usually given as the time when the old mansion was erected, but the territorial designation of the Wemyss of that ilk seems to indicate the existence of the present or an earlier house nearly half a century before.

The mansion house was erected about 1610 by Alexander Clerk supposed to have been related to the Clerks of Penicuik. A disposition to the Pittencrieff estate was given by Charles Earl of Dunfermline, to Sir Alexander Clerk, of date 12th May 1657, but, says Dr Chalmers, the property appears to have been in the possession of a person of this name much earlier. [The `Journal` Guide to Dunf. P.53 by J.B. Mackie]





Picture from -The Dunfermline Hammermen
By Daniel Thomson

In a paper read to the Council of the Edinburgh Architectural Association, Mr Henry F. Kerr, F.S.A. Scot. thus described the architectural features: - "The plan of the house is peculiar, but quaint and effective; it is in the form of a long oblong with a square tower projecting from the centre of the south side. The doorway is on the west wall of the tower and close to the south wall of the house. As in most castles, the stair starts upwards from the door; but the ground floor is not utilised as storage vaults, but as an entry passage running along east and west leads to the kitchen to the right and the dining-room to the left. The latter has a parlour opening off it. A somewhat similar arrangement obtains in the first floor. The unusual length of the house looks like an addition to the original plan. But there is no apparent evidence of this being the case. The plan as we see it is of 1651 (or shortly subsequent) date. The exterior of the house is simple, indeed plain, treatment; but it lacks neither dignity, picturesqueness nor interest. The windows, of which there are "full many," with the original heavy astragalled sashes, are without mould splay, or roll on their stonework. The doorway (in the tower) has stone jamb mouldings of rather crude section, the large circular roll projects beyond the wall surface. On the lintel is the motto, "Praised be God for all His Giftes." The cornice over this is formed with a very effective Cyma and fillet. The fanlight is of a beautiful Adams design, evidently of 1740 date. Over the doorway is a rather unique moulded panel containing the armorial bearings already referred to. The inner surface of a flat cavetto is ornamented with a continuous pattern forming a fitting frame as it were for the sculpture within it. Above this is a stair light with a semi-circular gablet over it with some sculpture – not easily deciphered – upon it". [The Journal Guide to Dunf. 1905 p.29--32 By J Mackie]



On the second floor level on the west gable is a window with the gablet already noted over. The carved pediment is of late form, and the mouldings are a series of stepped fillets recalling some similar work at Aberdour Castle. The gablet in a similar position on the east gable is of inferior design, and appears to be of 1740 date. In the interior of the house all the rooms of two floors are panelled from floor to ceiling. In the majority of the rooms all the panelling except the dado is hidden by pattern patters. The dining-room on the ground floor and the drawing-room on the first floor have their panelling complete and exposed to view, although painted. The doors are of a beautiful design, and of interesting detail. The overdoors are, however, heavy. The plaster ceiling of the dining-room has a large oval panel in the centre with triangular panels in the four corners. There is a broad, enriched border round all these panels, but so thickly coated with white wash that neither its style nor merit can be ascertained.

The chimney pieces of the principal apartments have unfortunately been removed, but in some of the other rooms moulded stone jambs and wooden panel pieces of the period remain. In the kitchen at the east end of the house the fireplace is spanned by a plain classic arch. This is an interesting example of late transition work from the great arched fireplaces of earlier days. The third floor (of 1740 date) is void of all architectural features. The attic is simply a lumber room. The tower has on its top floor a small square belvedere chamber. Here will be observed some alterations from the original. While two small windows flank the little fireplace on the south wall, we see that similar windows on the west wall and on the east wall have been built up, one on each side. All these windows are most probably of 17th century date, and most likely on the east and west sides there were eaves, and on the south side the chimney was carried up in small gable. In the lower storeys of the tower there is a good and wide stone staircase with panelled risers. The house has not been well cared for, for many years. In the interior the papering over panelling, the white-washing of the plaster work, the removal of 17th or 18th century chimney pieces affect prejudicially its comeliness. The exterior is in a similar state of neglect. The very colour of the harling suggest decay, but without the charm which decay so often lends. That of course is a matter of repair. But, notwithstanding its present miserable condition, its simplicity and quaintness of design strike unpretentious; it still retains an individuality of its own.

The condition of the house has been improved by the Carnegie Trustees. A new roof has been introduced. It is now the home of a local Museum, the interest of which is greatly enhanced by many valuable literary treasures, the gift of the late Mr George Reid. An invaluable collection of National History specimens was presented by Mr Dunlop, a learned man of science. [The Journal Guide to Dunf. 1905 p.29--32 By J Mackie]

Robert Lorimer undertook renovation work in 1911. The mansion is a Category `A` listed building.



FORMER OWNERS OF PITTENCRIEFF

Reference has already been made to the early date at which the Glen became a retreat and shelter for the civilisers of Scotland. Pittencrieff estate has had a long, though not quite so long, a history. A certain **John de Obervill**, clearly of Norman descent, is in possession of Pittencrieff for we learn that in 1291 **William de Obervill**, lord of Pittencrieff, granted the monks of Dunfermline a charter authorising them to dig for coal, to quarry stones, and to “use freely all the roads and paths through my lands of Pittencrieff and Galrig without any hindrance which they have used at any time, or have been wont to use.” Shortly afterwards, the estate was acquired by the Abbot, and was included among the lands belonging to the monastery. [Pittencrieff Glen, Its Antiquities History & Legends p.84 by Dunf Journal Office]

Patrick Wemyss of Pittencrieff. Pittencrieff and Dunfermline have been so long and so closely associated that it is difficult to follow the story of the one without some knowledge of the other, but in the days of Malcolm Canmore, at least, it may be assumed that both were parts of the King’s demesne. The family of Wemyss, proprietors of Pittencrieff, the first of whom we have documentary evidence as possessing the land is.

Sir Thomas Wemyss of Rires, who, 22nd July 1466, resigned them in favour of his, son and heir apparent,

John Wemyss of Pittencrieff, and his wife Elizabeth Dishington.

Thomas Wemyss of Pittencrieff became a burges of Dunfermline in 1511.

David Wemyss was succeeded by his nephew in 1517.

Patrick Wemyss of Pittencrieff. He was Captain of Inchgarvie and Dunbar Castle, also a Vice-Admiral or Admiral-depute. In addition to the Barony of Pittencrieff, he had the lands of Downfield. He died circa 1545.

John Wemyss of Pittencrieff was provost from 1570 to 1575. John Wemyss of Pittencrieff, Feu-Tack of the Teinds of Pittencrieff and Clune 1582 He was excommunicated for slaughter of his natural brother in 1612.

Edward Bruce & Mary M Clerk, + had a charter of the Barony of Pittencrieff 1605

George Seton the first Earl of Dunfermline, in 1651

Charles Earl of Dunfermline, disposition of Pittencrieff to Sir Alexander Clerk 1651

Sir Alexander Clerk, + (dau) is said to have erected the mansion House about 1610.

George Murray, of his majesties Guards, proprietor of Pittencrieff estate in 1685.

Alexander Yeamen, proprietor of Pittencrieff 1690.

Colonel John Forbes, (1701) (whose son, (John)) with Washington as his Colonel assistant, took Fort Du Quesne from the French in 1758 and bestowed on it the name of Pittsburgh).

Colonel Arthur Forbes, in 1750, when he got the Tower-hill from the Marquis of Tweeddale, till then a separate possession.

Captain Archibald Grant, (1763)

George Chalmers, Merchant, Edinburgh, in 1765

Captain George Phin, (1785),

William Hunt, Merchant, Dunfermline, (1800) his son

William Hunt, (1807) and

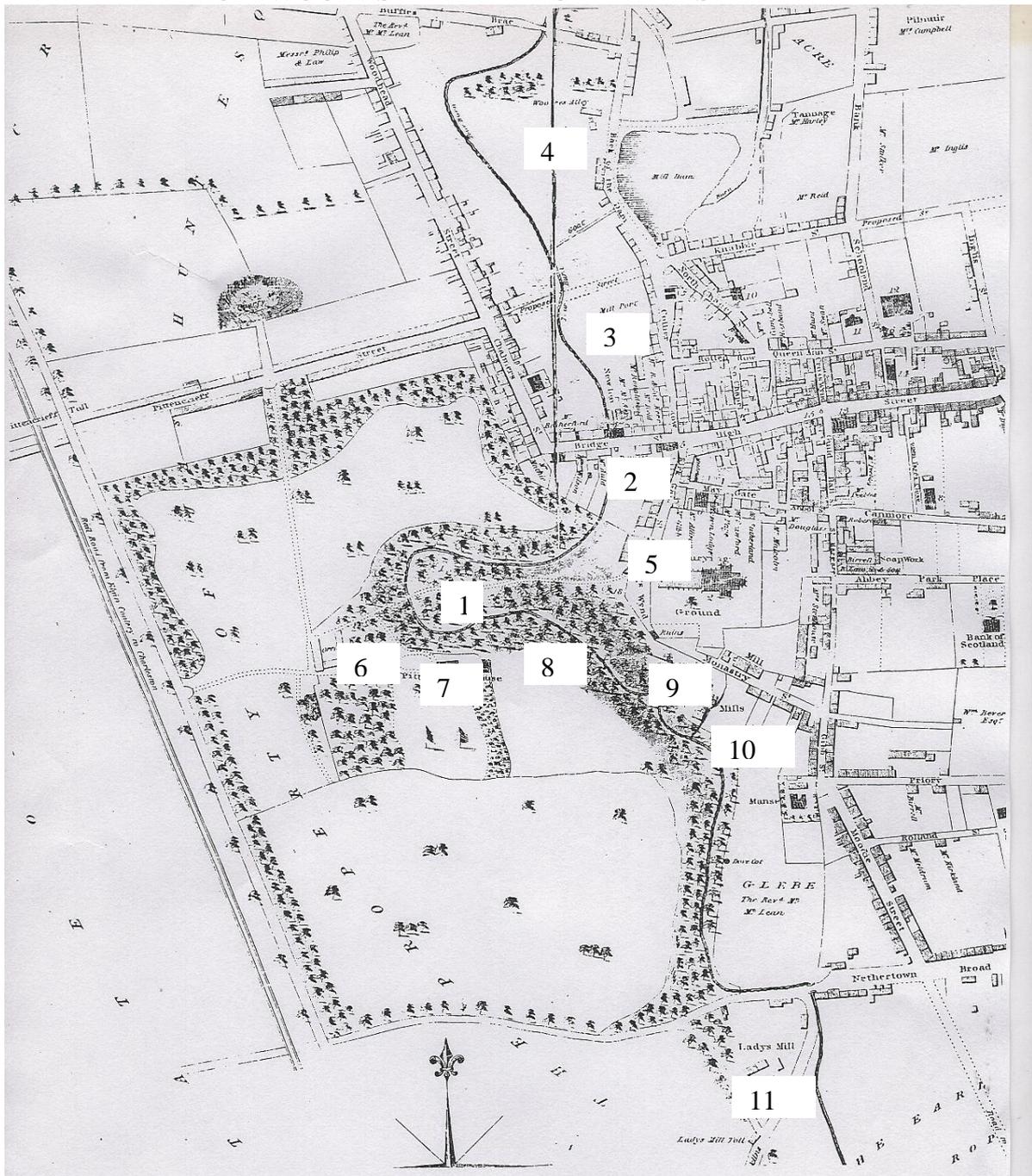
James Hunt, his brother, (1812) and following him,

Colonel Hunt, the son of James Hunt, who in 1903 sold the property to

Mr Andrew Carnegie, for £45,000. (A Dunfermline connection with Pittsburgh was formed a century before Mr Carnegie made it the centre of his huge industrial enterprises)

[Historical & Statistical of Dunf. By P. Chalmers Vol.1 p.537-8] & [Guide to Dunf p.56 by J Mackie]

**PITTENCRIEFF GLEN - PARK
FROM WOOSERS ALLEY - TO - LADY'S MILL**



- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Malcolm Canmore's Tower | 5. St Catherine's Chapel | 9. Palace Ruins |
| 2. Bridge Street | 6. Double Bridge | 10. Heuch Mills |
| 3. St Margaret's Cave | 7. Mansion House | 11. Lady's Mill,
Site of |
| 4. Woosers Alley | 8. Wallace Well | |

‘The Glen it may be stated extends from Woosers’ Alley (the home of the Patons’) to the southern slopes of the Abbey Church glebe at Lady’s Mill. St Margaret’s Cave is situated on the east side of the Glen at a point a little to the north of the upper side of the bridge, which spans Bridge Street. What is known as Pittencrieff Glen practically begins at the south side of Bridge Street, and ends at the Lovers’ Loan at the foot of the glebe’. [Dunfermline Journal 3.1.1903]

WOOERS ALLEY – LOOKING SOUTH THROUGH PITTENCRIEFF GLEN



Wooers Alley

A watercolour Painted by W.H. Paton

From the collection of Fife Council Museums (Dunfermline)

CHALMER'S - BRIDGE STREET BUILT - 1770

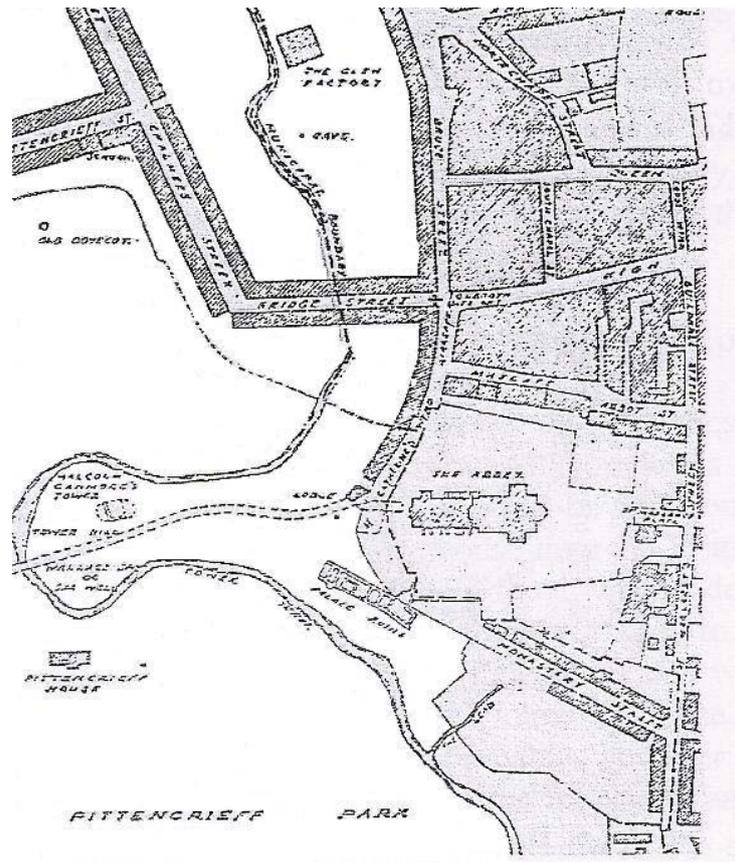
WITHIN PITTENCRIEFF GLEN

Bridge Street is 394 feet in length, by 34 feet in breadth. It is a comparatively modern street, a western contracted continuation of the High Street, begun in 1767, and completed on both sides with houses in 1824. The street lies due east and west, is quite level and 268 feet above the medium high water mark at Limekilns. On the west, the street is bounded by the southern house, west side of Chalmers Street and on the east it unites with the western termination of the High Street at the point of the intersecting streets called Kirkgate and Bruce Streets. The Bridge, from which the street derives its name, is a kind of tunnel bridge directly under the middle of the street, 50 feet below the surface of the causeway. It consists of one very long arch 294 feet in length, 12 feet in height and 12 in breadth throughout its whole length. The direction of the bridge is due north and south, thereby cutting the position of the street at right angles. Through this long subterranean arch flows from north to south a rivulet, which was anciently called *Aqua de ferm* (or the form burn), which name is to be found under date 1456 in *Registrum de Dunfermelyn*; but in latter times it has successively been called the *Towre burn* and the *Back burn*.

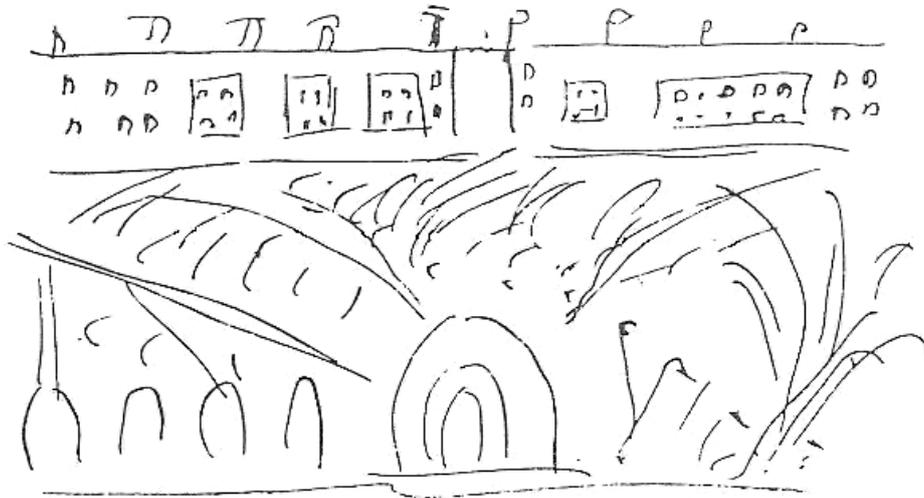
The bridge was founded in March 1767, by George Chalmers Esq. The then proprietor of the estate of Pittencrieff and by him finished near the close of the year 1770, at an expense of £5045.10s. *‘An imaginary line supposed to extend from the key-stane on the north face of the arch to the key-stane on the south face, forms the boundary line which separates the Burgh of Dunfermline from the suburb and estates of Pittencrieff.’*

The Townhouse was therefore the first building erected on the *‘new brig’* and the first dwelling house built was the house still standing immediately to the west of the Townhouse, belonging to Messrs Miller & Son, Booksellers and Publishers; and it may here be noted that the *last house* in the street was built in 1824, to the west gable of the *first built house*; we have, therefore, the *first built house* and the *last built house* standing together side by sides having the respective dates of 1774 and 1824, with an interval of 50 years between them - which is the length of time it took to complete the street.

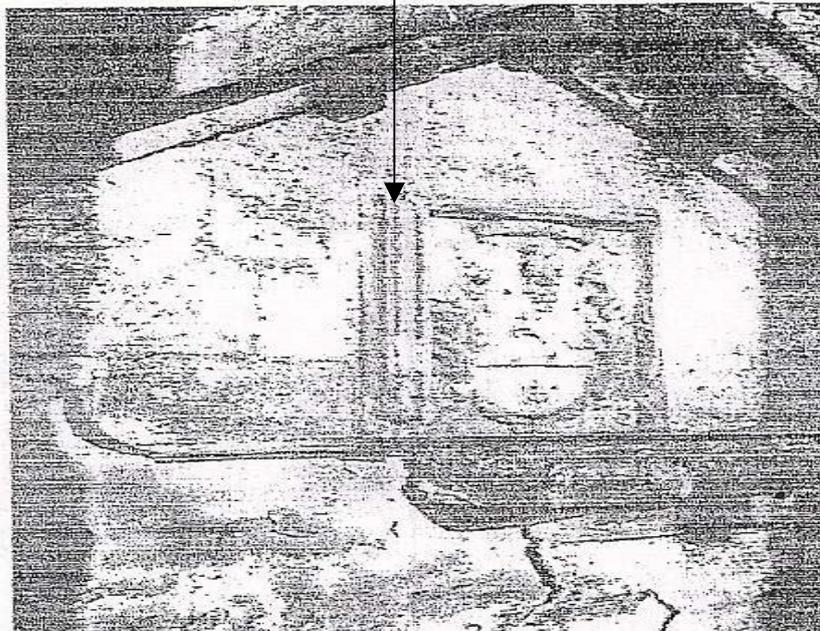
In describing the present condition and appearance of Bridge Street, we may note that the houses on both sides of the street are generally of two and three stories, most substantially built, with elegant shops on the ground floors, which may *‘vie with the best street in any provincial town in the kingdom.’* [Viagraphy Dunfermlynsis]



BRIDGE STREET



Dunfermline bridg upon the west
It is of modern date
Chalmers late of Pittencreeff
He was the Architect
[The History of Dunf by D. Pattoon]



George Chalmers - Coat of Arms 1773

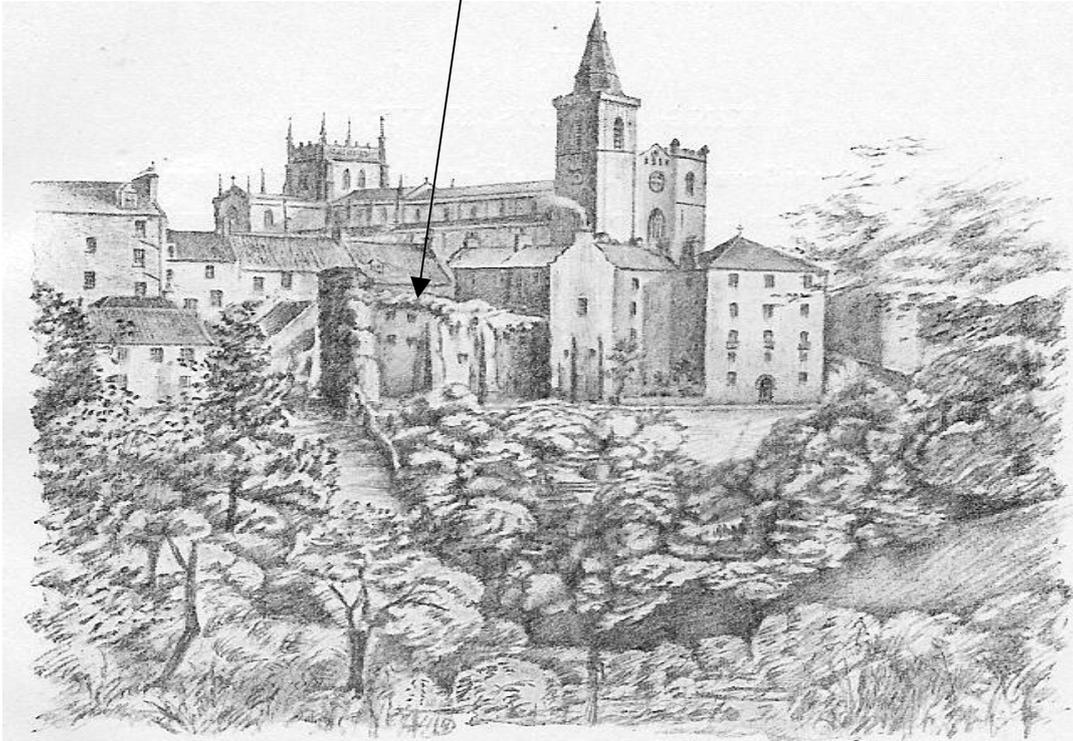
RUINS OF PALACE OF DUNFERMLINE



View of the Ruins of the Palace of Dunfermline and Grounds Adjoining
Showing the Tower Burn and Mill Road
W. H. McFarlande, Edinburgh.



ST CATHERINE'S HOSPITAL

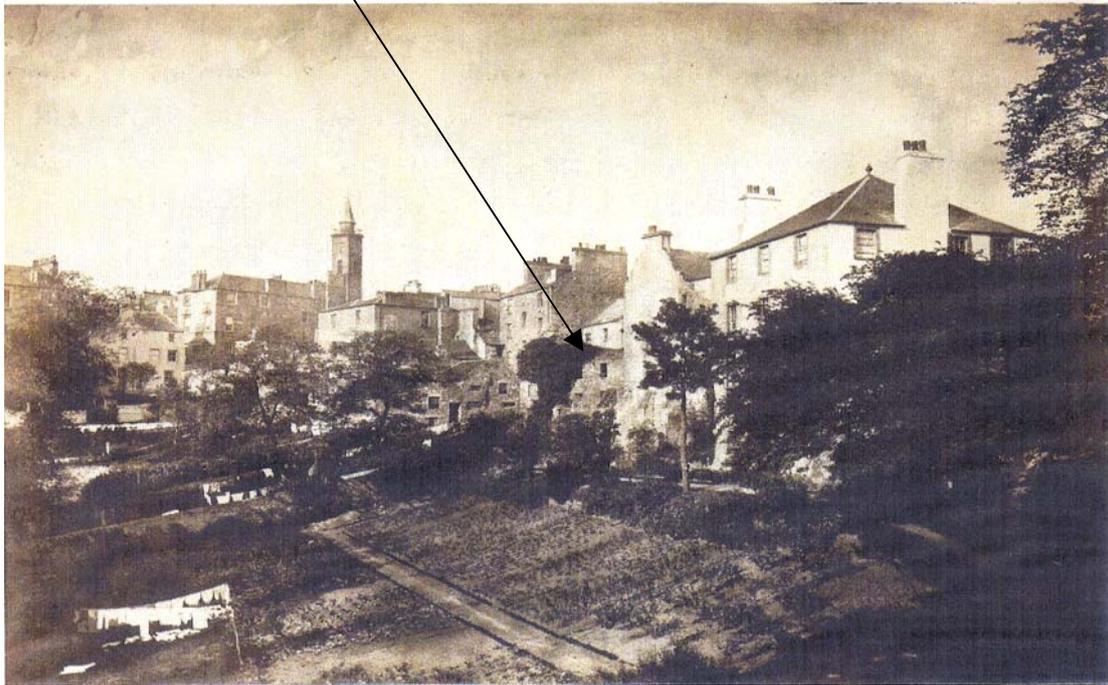


Dunfermline Sketches & Notes
By Robert Somerville

10th March 1327 – We (Robert de Karail, abbot of Dunfermline)...compelled by zeal and by a pious desire that the poverty and affliction of the needy poor should be alleviated and relieved from our property and alms, do therefore appoint and ordain, with the consent of our Chapter, *Robert Terwerac*, a fellow-monk of our establishment, to the office of Almoner of our house of Dunfermline; giving to Robert himself, and to future Almoners, whoever they may be, a special mandate to collect and receive personally, or through his substitute, all the remains of the food and drink of our Novices... together with the remains of the food of the rest of our colleagues, and to distribute, or cause to be distributed, to the poor the same remains at a late hour in the afternoon in our almshouse outside the gate near the Chapel of St. Catherine the Virgin. On this account we grant complete relief and dispensation at the hour in the afternoon to the almoner himself, present and future, giving and conceding to the said almoners the Chapel of St. Catherine with the garden and houses below the bridge (which serves as) the roof of our auxiliary monastery.

This Chapel, the endowment acres, annual revenues, millhouse, with all that usefully pertains to them of any kind whatever, processed or to be possessed, We, the aforesaid abbot and convent, give and commit in unconditional and perpetual alms to the said almoner, and to the almoners his successors, as freely, unconditionally, fully and secured as they were conceded and gifted to us, together with special and general permission to go forth from our monastery, perform all the aforementioned functions, make visitations and buy and obtain the things which are need for the maintenance of our convent as far as ... is incumbent on the office ... without revocation, hindrance or restraint of any kind whatever from now and for the future...(Reg.370). [Regality of Dunfermline Court Book p.185-186 by J.M. Webster]

SHOWING THE RUINS OF THE BACK OF ST CATHERINE'S CHAPEL



`In a deed of resignation by Mr Richardson, in favour of Mr John Wellwood there styled, Senior Officer of the Lordship of Dunfermline dated 1566, the ground is thus described with the dove-cot upon it and notice is taken of this chapel: - "All and whole our garden orchard commonly called *St Catherine's Yard* with the pigeon-house built thereon and all its pertinences *inter torrentem foralitie* (between the Castle Burn) on the West and the mansion or chapel of St Catherine on the East and the garden of William Durie on the north and the common road on the south". In the same year a feu-charter of St Catherine's Yard and Dove-Cot is granted by Sir John Angus, eleemosynary of the Abbey, with consent of the commendator, to Allan Coutts, chamberlain`. [Historical & Statistical Account Vol.1 p.159-60 by P. Chalmers]

`St. Catherine's Chapel and Eleemosynary House, Dunfermline the date of erection of this chapel and almshouse is unknown. They are not mentioned in any record until the year 1327, when their names occur in a charter in the Register of Dunfermline. The charter begins as follows: - `To all the sons of Holy Mother Church, Robert de Carell, by Divine permission, Abbot of Dunfermline, ` etc. The charter refers to the chapel, the almshouse and time of distributing alms to the poor, and also to the Port and the Gyrrh Bow.

In a deed of resignation dated 1566 the following passage occurs: - "All and whole our garden or orchard, commonly called St. Catherine's Yard, with the pigeon house built thereon, and all its pertinents *inter torrentem fortalii* between the tower or fortalice burn on the west and the mansion or chapel of St. Catherine on the east, and the garden of William Durie on the north and the Common road on the south." This refers to the old chapel of St. Catherine of date 1327, and was bounded on the east by a line running along the back of the houses in the lower part of St. Catherine's Wynd, on the south by the public road, and on the west by the margin of the Tower Burn. In the same year St. Catherine's yard or dovecot was let on feu charter to Allan Coutts, chancellor of the Abbey, with consent of the Commendator`. [Dunf. Historical Idylls p.47 by J.B. Mackie]

RUINS OF ST CATHERINE'S CHAPEL

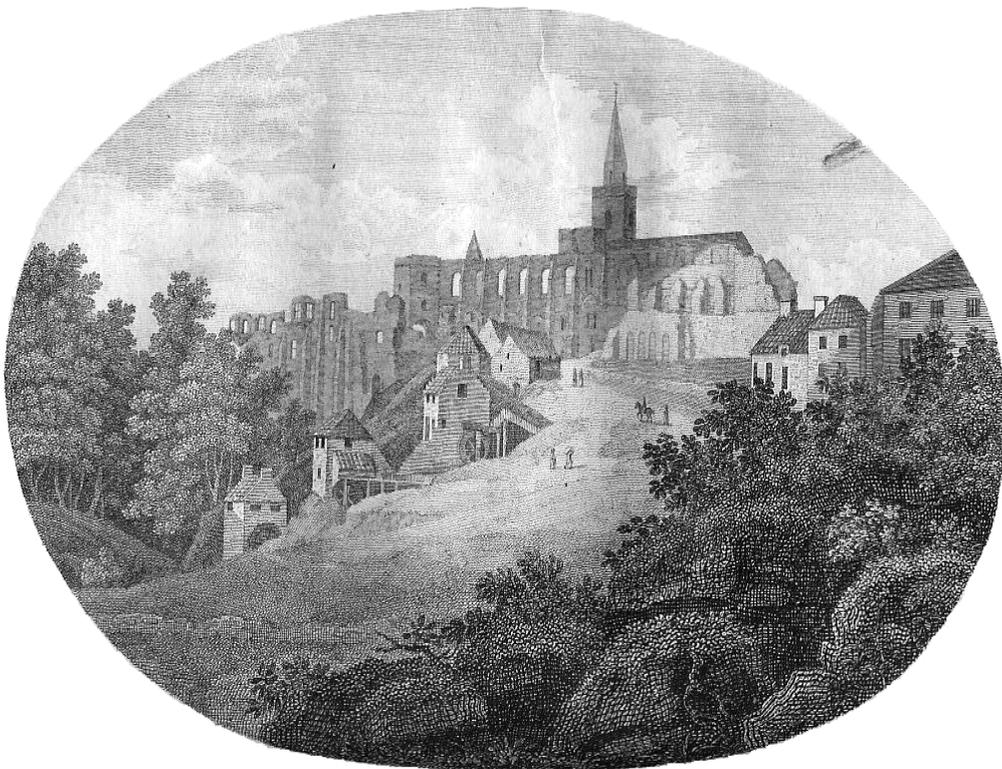


St Catherine's Chapel today, with trees growing out of the ancient ruins.

THE HEUCH MILLS – WITHIN - PITTENCRLEFF GLEN

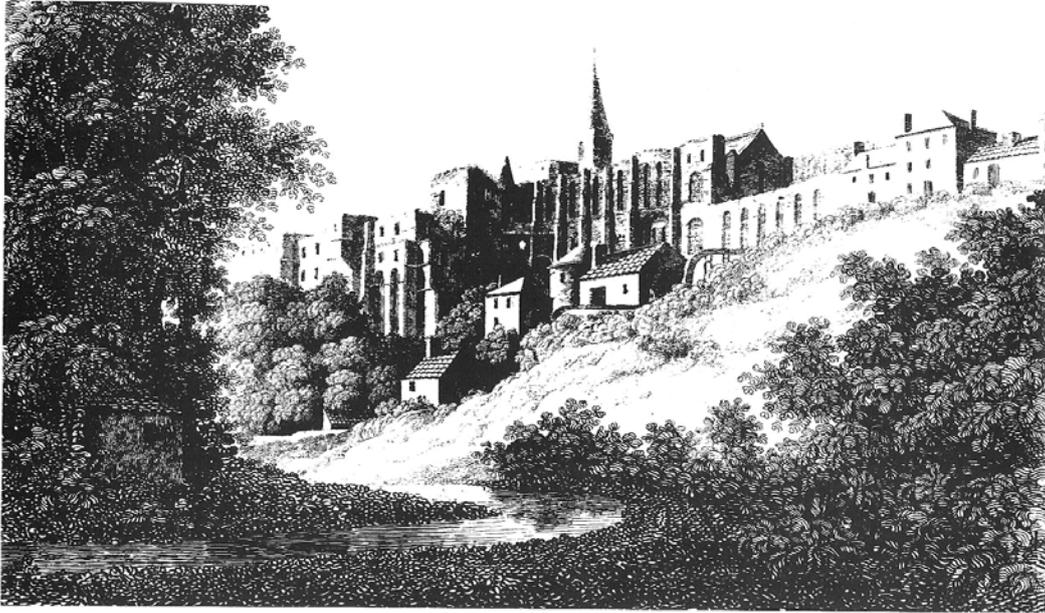


The Forrester Family Collection – Dunfermline Heritage Trust



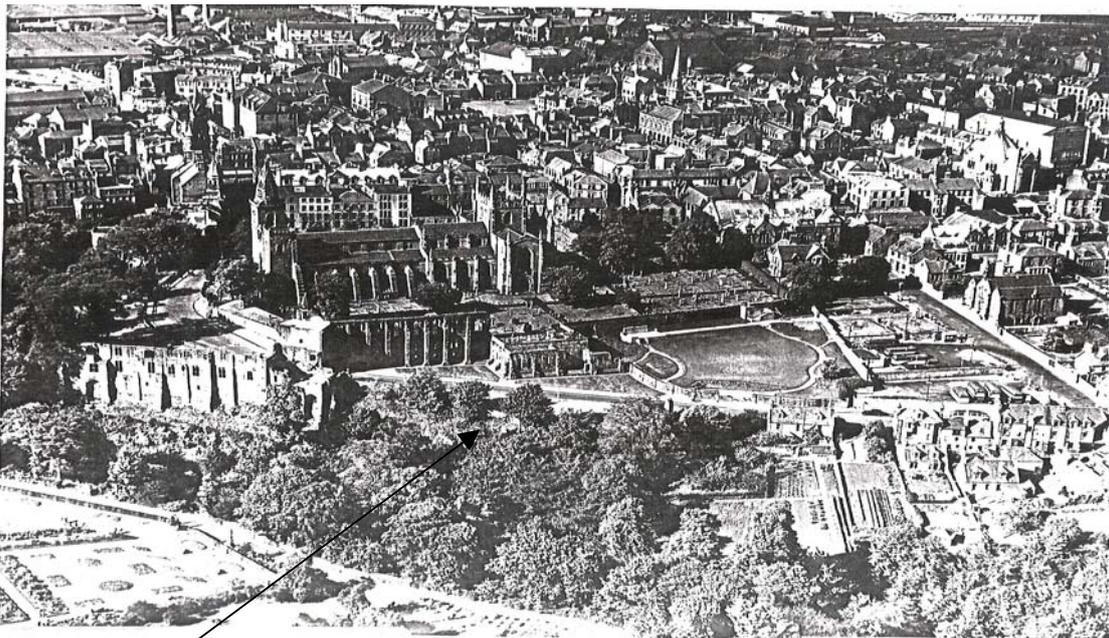
Drawn by F. Hay Engraved by R. Scott
Engraved for R. Tullis' Edition of Sibbalds' History of Fife

THE HEUCH MILLS – WITHIN PITTENCRIEFF GLEN



The Heugh Mills - 18th century view

Immediately below the Frater-hall to the south side of the street, and on the declivity towards the wooded dell of Pittencrieff, were the Heugh mills, three in number, a flour, a meal, and a snuff mill, of which there are some remains, well shewn in Juke's engraving, and still more anciently there was a mill farther south and west in the glen the site of which, as well as the lead of water to it, are yet visible and for which there was a dam near the Towerhill, exhibited in one of the views of Slezer's *Theatrum Scotiae*. The water from the last mill was conveyed along the west side of the Tower burn to the Lady's mill, near the toll on the Limekilns road, still called the Lady's mill toll, probably in consequence of some dues having been paid, in Roman Catholic times, from the property there, in support of the chaplain at "Our Lady's altar," in the Abbey Church. [History of Dunf, by P. Chalmers Vol. 1.p.114]



The Heuch Mills at present lie in ruins in the trees unseen even from the air

HEUCH MILLS AND DOVECOT PITTENCRIEFF GLEN

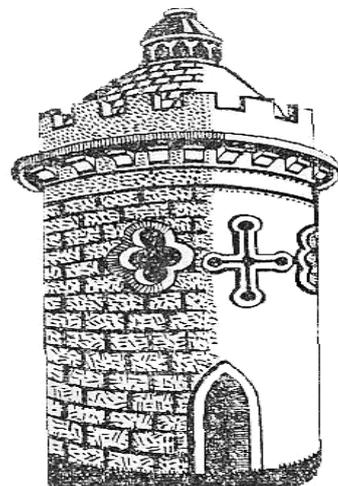


View of the Abbey, Palace, Frattery, Snuff Mills and Dovecot Minister's Glebe
Forrester Collection - in colour - Dunfermline Heritage Trust

VIEW OF THE MINISTER'S DOVCOT



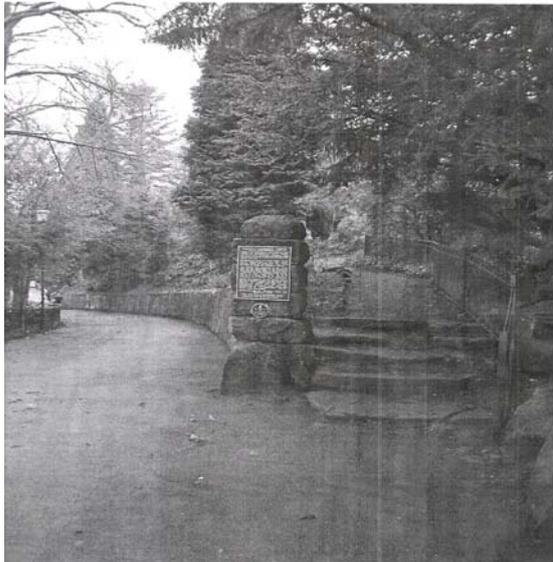
By John Baine Engineer Edinburgh
Sketches to Illustrate 1790 - Dunfermline Carnegie Library



Dovecot Pittencrieff



This is the entry to the Glen from the Dunfermline Abbey West Door
The Louise Carnegie gates are at the foot of Bridge Street Pittencrieff Street has two entries, another entry at West Nethertown and 'The Nether Yet Lower Gateway' at the foot of St Margaret St.



Walk-way to King Malcolm's Tower



The old romantic walk-way under the Palace Walls now closed



The summer hut within the Glen



Fork to the right leads to the double bridge



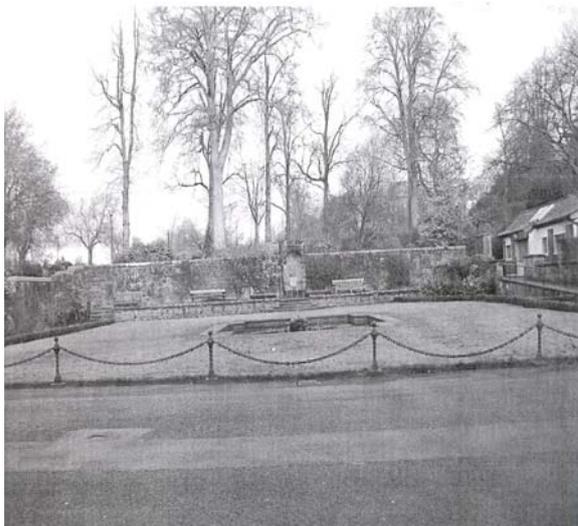
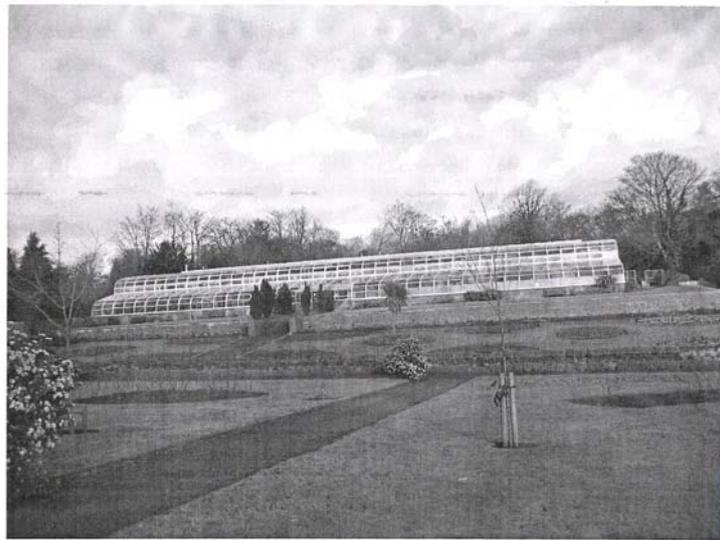
Walk-way past the sunken garden and passing the unused telephone booth and unused Paddling Pool, continuing onwards to the Mansion House



Where the drinking fountain once stood near the mansion house



The Ambition Fountain



Two lost treasures the drinking well in the alcove at the back of the sunken Garden and the statue of Peter Pan in the pond both stolen and not yet replaced.



The Pavilion the - Pillar of Peace

on the extreme right



Great favourite with the children



New Play area for children

The entrance gates at junction of Nethertown and the Limekilns Road and Lady's Mill.

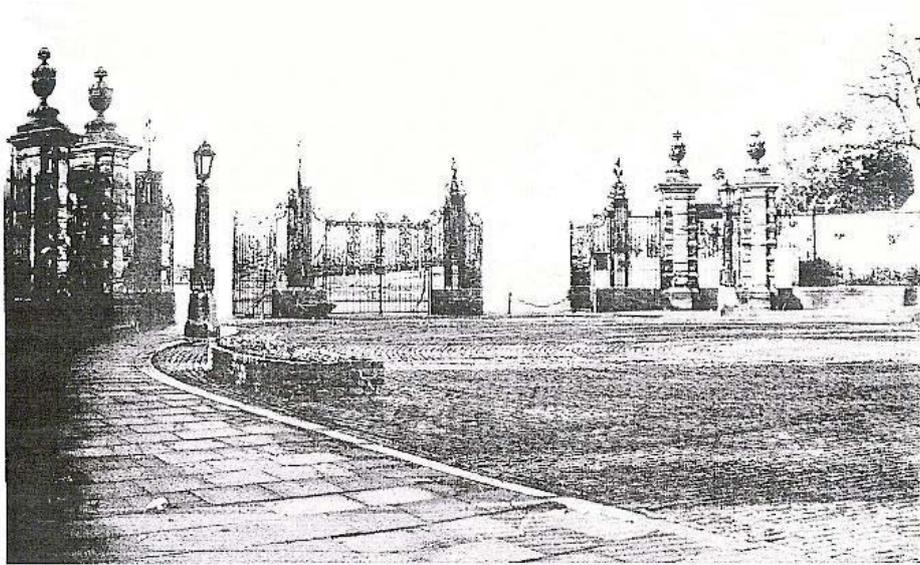


A sad scene, part of what was the Aviary and children's animal area now closed and derelict.



One of the many views of the Abbey from the Glen

“SWEETNESS AND LIGHT”

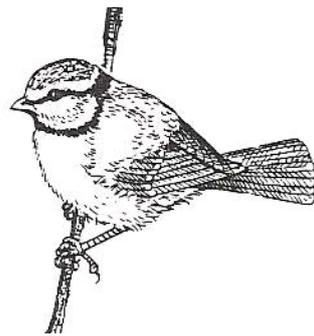
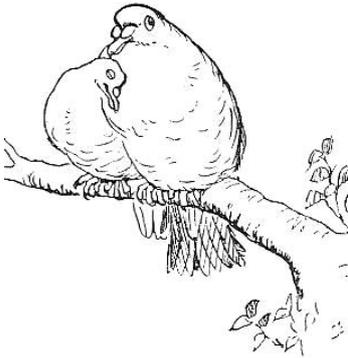
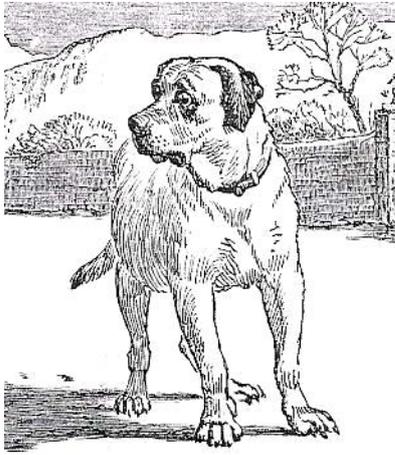
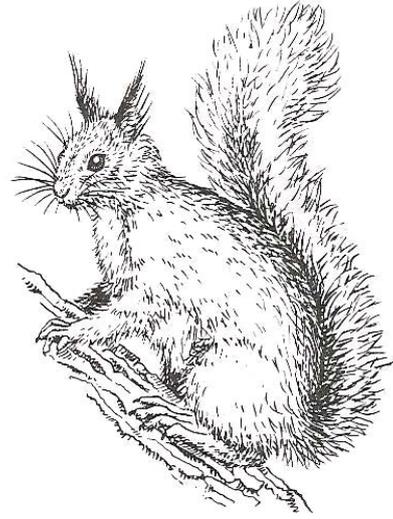
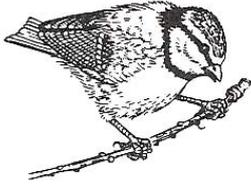


The Louise Carnegie Gates

Possibly the oldest thing known about the Glen is its name. Its story must have begun long before the memorials of an old-world human life, now piously cherished in its midst, and any existence. In the prehistoric times, many centuries before the Culdees sought shelter in its neighbourhood, as they strove to train the semi barbarian Caledonians in the knowledge and worship of God, it must have been a hiding-place for savage aborigines as they ran wild in woods; a hunting ground as well as a resting-place for the beasts of the forest; and a paradise for the birds [Pittencrieff Glen &c p.23]

In this deep recess of the wood, where water was abundant and the trees yielded their fruit in its season, natural life must have found a congenial home long before Malcolm Canmore built his tower. Pittencrieff, however, did not give its name to the town, whose establishment and growth marked the development of a new and higher order of life. The noisy stream, which for untold centuries flowed between the two sides of the wooded valley and sang its cheerful, confiding song in harmony with the birds, was, however, a contributory. The Lyne became associated with Malcolm's fortified keep or castle, and thus was produced Fermeloduni, the order form of Dunfermline – a strong tower on the Lyne. The ancient seal of the burgh showed in an exterior circle the old name, Fermeloduni; and in the interior the legend, *Esto Rupes Inaccessa*. On the reverse side was the figure of a lady holding a sceptre, and on each side an inverted sword, handle downwards, surrounded by the words, *Margareta Regina Scotorum*. It was only when in the later part of the eleventh century King Malcolm founded his home “in the middle of the pleasant level ground at the top of the precipitous rock, in a place, according to Fordun – “*Non homini facilis, vix adeunda feris*” – not easy for man, scarcely to be approached by wild beasts – that the glen became historical and famous. [Pittencrieff Glen its History, Antiquities, and Legends p.23-24. Dunf. Journal Office]





A SURVEY OF THE POLICIES

The Mansion house commands as fair a prospect as is to be seen in all Scotland. As one is tempted to cross the lawn in order to get the uninterrupted southern view, he should take note of a venerable larch, the last of two which were believed to have been brought from Switzerland and placed in a position opposite one another, the present one still standing in its original place. They were planted thus when the policies were first laid out after the building of the mansion in the sixteenth century. Two trees of the same species imported about the same time are preserved at Dunkeld, and two others beautify the grounds of Duneira at Crieff. The Pittencrieff larch, exposed as it has been to the blasts of three centuries, now presents an appearance somewhat suggestive of the riddle and tattered old regimental flag, and may not long survive its neighbour. A still greater antiquity was claimed for the relic of a pear tree in the garden on the left side of the lawn and of the house, which, according to tradition, was planted by a monk in the fifteenth century.

Unfortunately it had to be removed when the present Conservatories were built by the Carnegie Trustees at a cost of nearly £5,000.

The Gardens, which are under the charge of Mr Graham, an accomplished florist, present scenes of beauty when the flowers are in bloom at their different seasons, which cannot easily be surpassed anywhere. The visitor is tempted to linger within the floral paradise; but other attractions press for notice. As he emerges from it and descends the pathway leading to the level of the stream, he gets the view of the Palace Ruins, which gives the greatest impression of their massiveness and beauty. Pursuing the shaded walk between the stream and the Glebe Park, now acquired by the Trust, he is led to the foot of Pittencrieff Park. There under the shelter of the trees that adorn the Lovers' Loan and the southern boundary of the Park, he looks northward and realises afresh the extent and the value of the gift Mr Carnegie has bestowed upon his fellow citizens. Whether he completes the circuit of the field or walks across the sward he will not fail to be made sensible of the charm of the environment. When he regains the higher level he will probably find himself in the neighbourhood of the neatly constructed and tastefully appointed tea-room provided by the Trust. Behind it, as he crosses the old Stirling road or western approach to the Abbey, and moves along the avenue leading to the Pittencrieff Street entrance, he may note the four memorial trees, planted some time after the opening by Mr Carnegie, Mrs Carnegie, Miss Whitfield for Miss Carnegie, and Dr Ross, the first Chairman of the Carnegie Trust. A climbing tree-shaded pathway allures him to the right to the northern end of the Park and guides him past the ancient emblem of Scottish lairdship – a dovecot. As he follows the winding pathway he will observe the closeness with which the old town clings to the Glen and adapts the formation of its streets, to the curving course of the crooked stream. Presently he finds himself at the base of the massive statue of Mr Carnegie, which the citizens have erected as an expression of gratitude to their munificent benefactor. Then he descends the hollow of the Glen, and, looking upwards, he gets through the trees a glimpse of the Abbey Church, and feels he is approaching holy ground, he will note with appreciation on the west slope of the ravine the piously preserved fragment supposed to be all that remains of the Saint Catherine Chapel, dating back to at least 1327. [Guide to Dunf by J Mackie]

THE CITIZENS' CLAIM

Many generations of Dunfermline men and women looked upon the Glen, in spite of the purchase moneys, already detailed, as by right public property. They resented the gradual enclosure of the Glen and their exclusion from it. For enclosed within the walls were possessions linking the story of the town with the national history, which patriotic citizens felt should be public property. A long litigation between the Crown and the owner of the estate regarding these public national rights kept alive the old faith and desire. The Crown officers did not show that zeal or push in asserting the national claims which a former generation of Dunfermline citizens thought they should have exhibited; and many evil reports regarding the supposed subserviency of the Government of that day to wealth and social influences had currency. During his long tenancy of the Lord Advocateship of Scotland the late Lord James Moncrieff found time and opportunity to bring the case repeatedly before the Law Courts, and during the long contest for political supremacy in Edinburgh between Parliament House and Independent Liberalism, Lord Advocate Moncrieff, as the champion of the lawyers, had some sympathisers even among the Radicals of Dunfermline, lest his defeat at the poll should lead to a suspension or abandonment of the litigation with Mr Hunt about the ownership of the Palace Ruins.

The sense of local grievance caused by the exclusion of the public from the Palace grounds and Glen, the centre and source of stories and legends that have for centuries formed no small part of the life of the towns-folk and have moulded their character, doubtless accounted in some degree for the ready sympathy given in Dunfermline to the Chartist movement and to Radical political opinions. The family from which Mr Carnegie has sprung largely shared the popular feeling of resentment, and indeed did not a little to sustain and stimulate it. Two Thomas Morrisons, father and son, were the successive leaders of Radical opinion in Dunfermline. The second Thomas Morrison was Mr Carnegie's uncle. A native of Dunfermline who knows the story well thus writes: -

“What made Thomas Morrison a Chartist? What kept him the friend of the people, the advocate and defender of popular rights to the end of his days? He was an omnivorous reader. He was in touch with some of the best minds in Scotland. Russel, of the *Scotsman*, who often met Morrison on angling expeditions, had the highest opinion of his ability”. But what moved Morrison, Chartist champion and the peoples' friend more than all his reading was probably an object lesson, which was constantly in his thoughts, and influenced him as it has influenced generations in Dunfermline. `The Glen` he passed three times a day in going to and from his boot shop is one of Scotland's beauty spots, rich in romance and Royal story, but was rigorously closed. Every boy and girl knew by heart the story of King Malcolm and his saintly Queen; they knew of the tower on the mount Malcolm built; they knew of the `rivulet that runs below` they could see the ruins of the Palace of the Scottish Kings, then claimed as part and parcel of the Pittencrieff Glen; but to one and all the sacred ground was prohibited. The boys and girls who were Andrew Carnegie's contemporaries never got more than a peep of the paradise within the high, forbidding, prison-like walls that shut out the view from the roadway, and yet not one of them but regarded `The Glen` as their property by right of citizenship. [Pittencrieff Glen p.85 by Journal Office 1903]

**Letter by MR CARNEGIE to the
TRUSTEES expressing the purpose of the TRUST**

SKIBO CASTLE
DORNOCH, August 2nd 1903

Gentlemen of the Commission,

The Trust Deed, of which this may be considered explanatory, transfers to you Pittencrieff Park and Glen and Two million five hundred thousand dollars in 5 per cent, bonds, giving you an annual revenue of Twenty-five thousand pounds, all to be used in attempts to bring into the monotonous lives of the toiling masses of Dunfermline more of sweetness and light; to give them – especially the young – some charm, some happiness, some elevating conditions of life which residence elsewhere would have denied; that the child of my native town, looking back in after years, however far from home it may have roamed, will feel that simply by virtue of being such, life has been made happier and better. If this be the fruit of your labours you will have succeeded, if not, you will have failed.

It is more than twenty years since I provided in my will for this experiment, for experiment it is. My retirement from business enables me to act in my own lifetime, and the fortunate acquisition of Pittencrieff, with its lovely glen, furnishes the needed foundation upon which you can build, beginning your work by making it a recreation park for the people. Needed structures will have admirable sites upon its edge, in the very centre of population. I have said your work is experimental. The problem you have to solve is “What can be done in towns for the benefit of the masses by money in the hands of the most public-spirited citizens?” If you prove that good can be done you open new fields in the rich which I am certain they are to be more and more anxious to find for their surplus wealth.

Remember you are pioneers and do not be afraid of making mistakes; those who never make mistakes never make anything. Try many things freely, but discard just as freely.

As it is the masses you are to benefit, it follows you have to keep in touch with them and must carry them with you. Therefore do not put before their first steps that which they cannot take easily, but always that which leads upwards as their tastes improve.

Not what other cities have is your standard; it is the something beyond this which they lack, and your funds should be strictly devoted to this. It is not intended that Dunfermline should be relieved from keeping herself abreast of other towns, generation after generation, according to the standards of the time. This is her duty, and no doubt will continue to be her pride.

I can imagine it may be our duty in the future to abandon beneficent fields from time to time when municipalities enlarge their spheres of action and embrace these. When they attend to any department it is time for you to abandon it and march forward to new triumphs. “Pioneers, always ahead” would not be a bad motto for you.

As conditions of life change rapidly, you will not be restricted as to your plans or the scope of your activities.

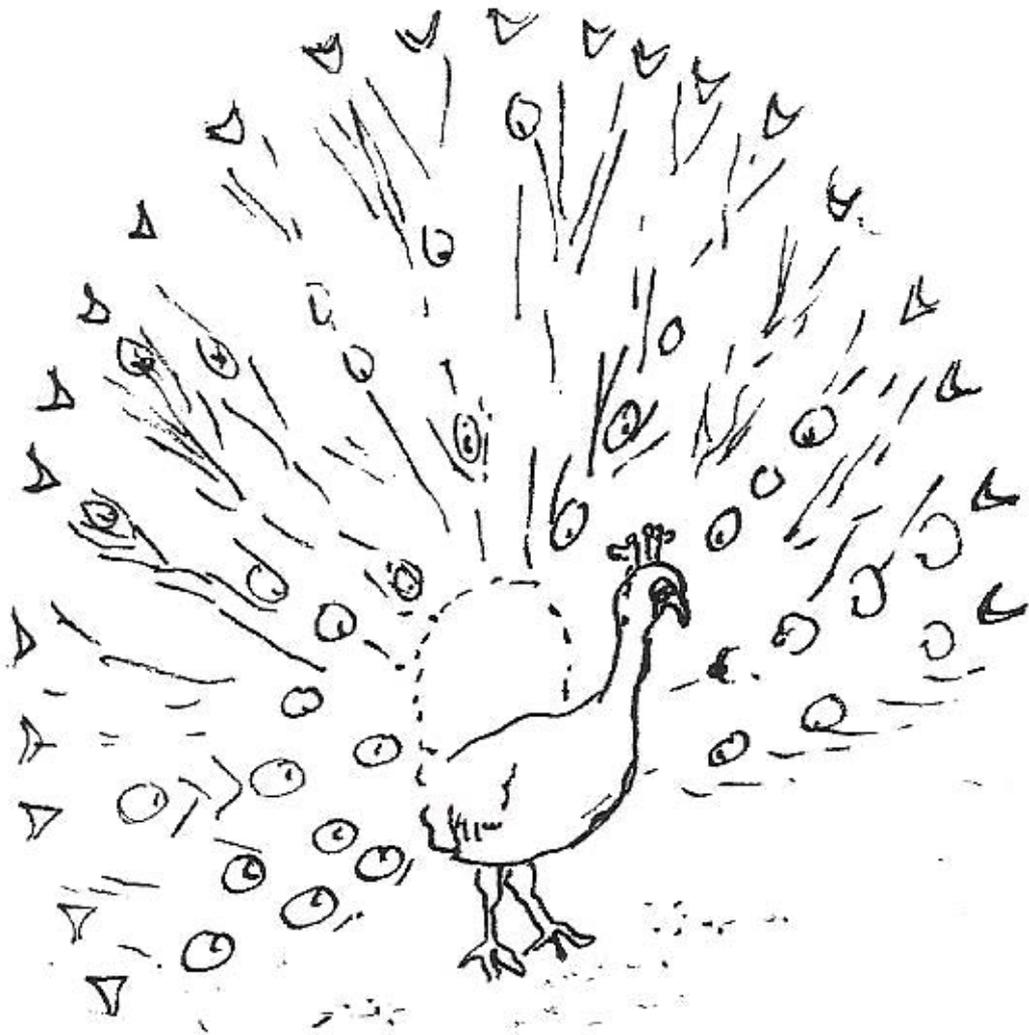
Permit me to thank you one and all for the cordial acceptance of the onerous duties of the Trust. Britain is most fortunate in the number and character of able educated men of affairs who labour zealously for the public good without other reward than the consciousness of service done for others. I am most fortunate in having a companion commission in charge of the Trust for the Universities of Scotland, also another in charge of Pittsburgh Institute, whose success has been phenomenal as I believe yours is to be. Let me commend a great truth to you which has been one of my supports in life: “The gods send thread for a web begun.” Thread will be sent for that you are about to weave. I am well assured. You have the first instalment already in your Chairman – emphatically the right man in the right place. Indeed, Dr John Ross seems specially designed for this very task, original though it be.

Gratefully,

Your obliged fellow townsman,

ANDREW CARNEGIE.

THE END



Drawing by Mary Johnston





**“Pittencrieff Glen is the most soul satisfying public gift
I ever made, or ever can make, to the people of Dunfermline
forever.**

**This is the crowning mercy of my career!
I set it apart from all my other public gifts.”**

[Andrew Carnegie, My Own Story p.150]

