

Views of the High Street



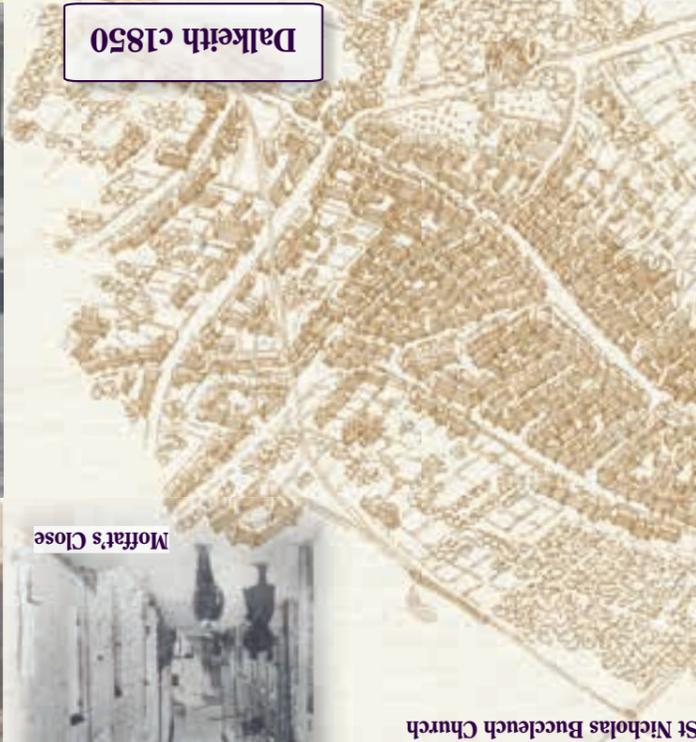
Looking down South Street



Bridge End, looking along Lugton Bridge



Dalkeith c1850



### Step back in time...

Within the town there were numerous industries - iron and brass foundries, flour mills, cork factories, hosties, tobacco and snuff manufacturers, a brewery, a carpet factory and a brush factory to name but a few. More recently an electronics factory, a woollen mill and a dairy publisher were established on the edge of town. The bird's eye view of the town in 1850 illustrates how densely packed the buildings were. The medieval linear street pattern still exists with a wide thoroughfare along the High Street where markets and fairs were held. Running off the High Street are still a number of closes connecting the busy street with the Back Street (now St Andrew Street) to the south and the backyards on the north side.

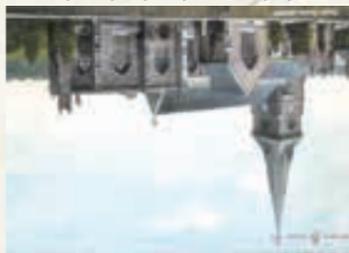
## Dalkeith in the 19th Century



Moffat's Close



St Nicholas Buccleuch Church



## Our Turbulent Past

The name Dalkeith first appeared in recorded history when land at "Dolchet" was granted by King David I to William de Graham, an Anglo-Norman Knight, in 1142.

200 years later the land passed by marriage to the powerful Douglas family and Sir James Douglas became the 1st Lord of Dalkeith in 1369.

In 1540 Dalkeith became a "Burgh of Barony & Regality" which gave the town the right, among other things, to hold a weekly market and annual fair.

The 7th Lord of Dalkeith, who was the 4th Earl of Morton, was Regent of Scotland during the early reign of James VI, from 1572 to 1578, and he controlled Scotland from Dalkeith Castle - "The Lion's Den".



Morton's successors ran into financial difficulties because of their support for Charles I and sold the Castle to the Buccleuch family in 1642.

Around this time Dalkeith became known as "a town where all witches were burnt" (in 1648-49 alone, 5 women were executed as witches). After the arrival of the Rev. William Calderwood in 1659 the number of witches being accused rose so rapidly that weekly witch trials were held in the town.

In 1650 Cromwell's army occupied Dalkeith after the Battle of Dunbar. His troops used the parish church as a barracks and stable and his Governor in Scotland, General Monck made the castle his HQ. Scotland was once more ruled from Dalkeith Castle and Monck while here made plans for the restoration of Charles II.

## Our Heritage

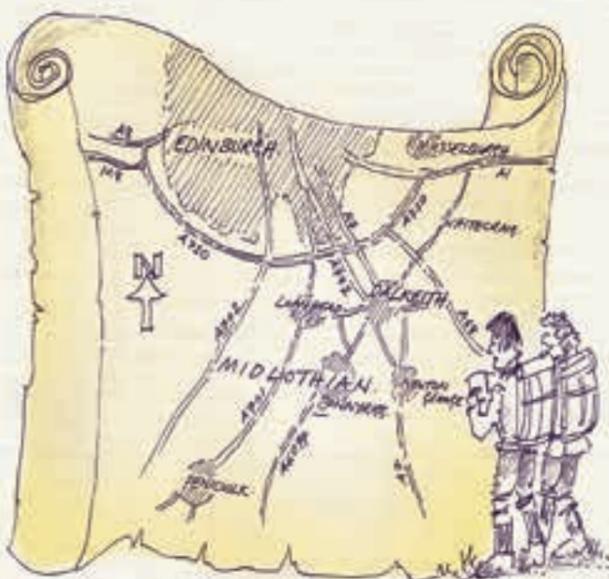
Dalkeith has a long and exciting history: a tale of Romans; kings, knights and castles; of beheadings, burnings and hangings; witches, dungeons and body-snatchers; of agriculture, coal mining and electronics.

Over the centuries Dalkeith has been at the heart of a rich agricultural area and before the coming of the railways it had the biggest grain market in Scotland.

In more recent times it was at the centre of Midlothian coal mining industry. Scotland's first railway, the Edinburgh & Dalkeith opened in 1831 for horse drawn wagons taking coal from the local pits to Edinburgh and by 1832 passengers were being carried on what became known as the "Innocent Railway".

A passenger railway has now returned to Dalkeith. The Borders Railway has a new station at Eskbank.

### This way to Dalkeith...



Compiled with the aid of the Dalkeith History Society.

Dalkeith Heritage Regeneration

# Dalkeith Heritage Trail



Take our well trodden path along the Dalkeith Heritage Trail and discover our thousand years of history.

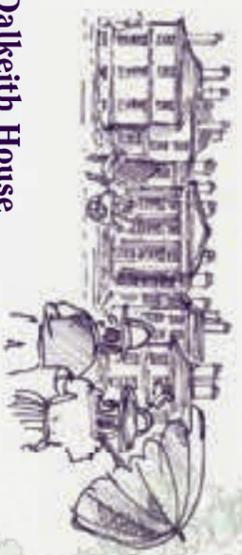


### St Mary's Church

Just inside the gates of Dalkeith Park stands St Mary's, a church built in the "English University" style for the Duke of Buccleuch in 1843-45. The remains of this family lie in the crypt.

It also houses Scotland's only currently working water-powered organ installed by Hamilton & Miller of Edinburgh in 1846.

An attempt by militant Suffragettes to blow up the church in 1913 was thwarted when an estate worker found the explosives. Today it has a more peaceful episcopal congregation.



### Dalkeith House

In the 12th century a castle was built by the Grahams on this prominent and easily defended site near where the North Esk and the South Esk rivers meet. It was the scene of sieges and royal visits. In the hands of the feared Regent Morton in the 1570s it was turned into a Scottish Renaissance palace, known locally as the *Lion's Den!* It was rebuilt in its present form in 1702-11 for Anne, Duchess of Buccleuch, widow of the Duke of Monmouth, (beheaded for his part in the Monmouth Rebellion of 1688). The house is now known as Dalkeith Palace due to a succession of royal visitors including King George IV, Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. Currently it is occupied by the University of Wisconsin.

### St Nicholas Buccleuch Church

A Chapel has been on this site since at least 1372. The main body of today's church was completed in 1420 and enlarged in 1475 by Sir James Douglas, 4th Lord of Dalkeith and 1st Earl of Morton. It was used by Cromwell's troops in 1650 as a billet and stables for their horses during their occupation of southern Scotland. During renovations in 1960 a small coffin containing the remains of the infant son of General Monck (Cromwell's Military Governor of Scotland) was found. The arrival of the Rev. Wm. Calderwood, a notorious witchfinder as parish minister in 1659 led to a huge increase in the numbers being accused of witchcraft and trials were held weekly in Dalkeith. The church was rebuilt between 1851-54 with a new steeple but this had to be replaced after a fire in 1885 which also sadly destroyed the 'cutty' stool, where sinners in the congregation were forced to sit and repent.

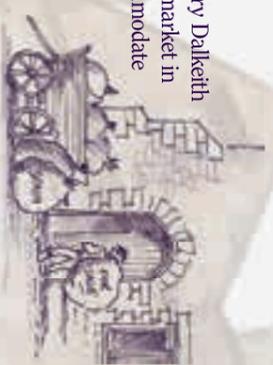
### Corn Exchange

By the mid 19th century Dalkeith was the leading grain market in Scotland and to accommodate this thriving trade the Tudor style edifice was opened in 1854. On each side of the main entrance there is a door.

The left was for the sacks of grain going in for sale and the right door for taking them out after being sold.

Amongst its many uses it was the venue for social functions, exhibitions and political rallies. The most famous was the Midlothian Campaign of 1879 in which the Liberal leader, William Gladstone created a new style of electioneering and unseated the Earl of Dalkeith as M.P. for Midlothian.

The building was restored in 2014 to accommodate new offices for Melville Housing Association and the new Dalkeith Museum.



### Former Cross Keys Hotel

Built in 1804 as a coaching inn, the door on the right was the carriage pend. The hotel was a popular venue for official balls and banquets. It was

the Earl of Dalkeith's Conservative HQ in the 1890 election in his losing campaign to Gladstone. After the election a rioting mob attacked the building and smashed the windows. Politics in Dalkeith are taken seriously!

### The Burrs Monument

A Victorian cast iron fountain erected in the High Street in 1899 to commemorate the centenary of the death of Robert Burns. It was restored in 2016 and relocated back in the High Street.



### Tolbooth

The Tolbooth was built in the early 1700s, (ignore the date of 1648 which has come from another building), as the town court and prison and was maintained by money raised from the tolls on

the bridges across the rivers North and South Esk. Inside was a weigh-room used by excise men on market day to collect taxes. Apart from the 'upper' prison there is also a dungeon known as the "black hole". Note the stone circle in front of the door: this marks the site of the last public hanging in Dalkeith.

William Thomson was hanged there on 1 March 1827 for highway robbery. The building was later used by the Dalkeith Scientific Association as their lecture hall from 1835 to 1929.



### Whites Close

This is typical of the many 'closes' which connected the High Street with the Back Street (now St. Andrew Street). 'Closes' were narrow lanes leading off a main road with housing, commercial activities and recreational uses.

This close once boasted a high quality baker's shop making the tastiest pies in the district. It still has some housing to this day.

### The Watch Tower, Old Edinburgh Road Cemetery

This is an octagonal tower with castellated top built in 1827 to accommodate armed watchmen whose job it was to prevent body

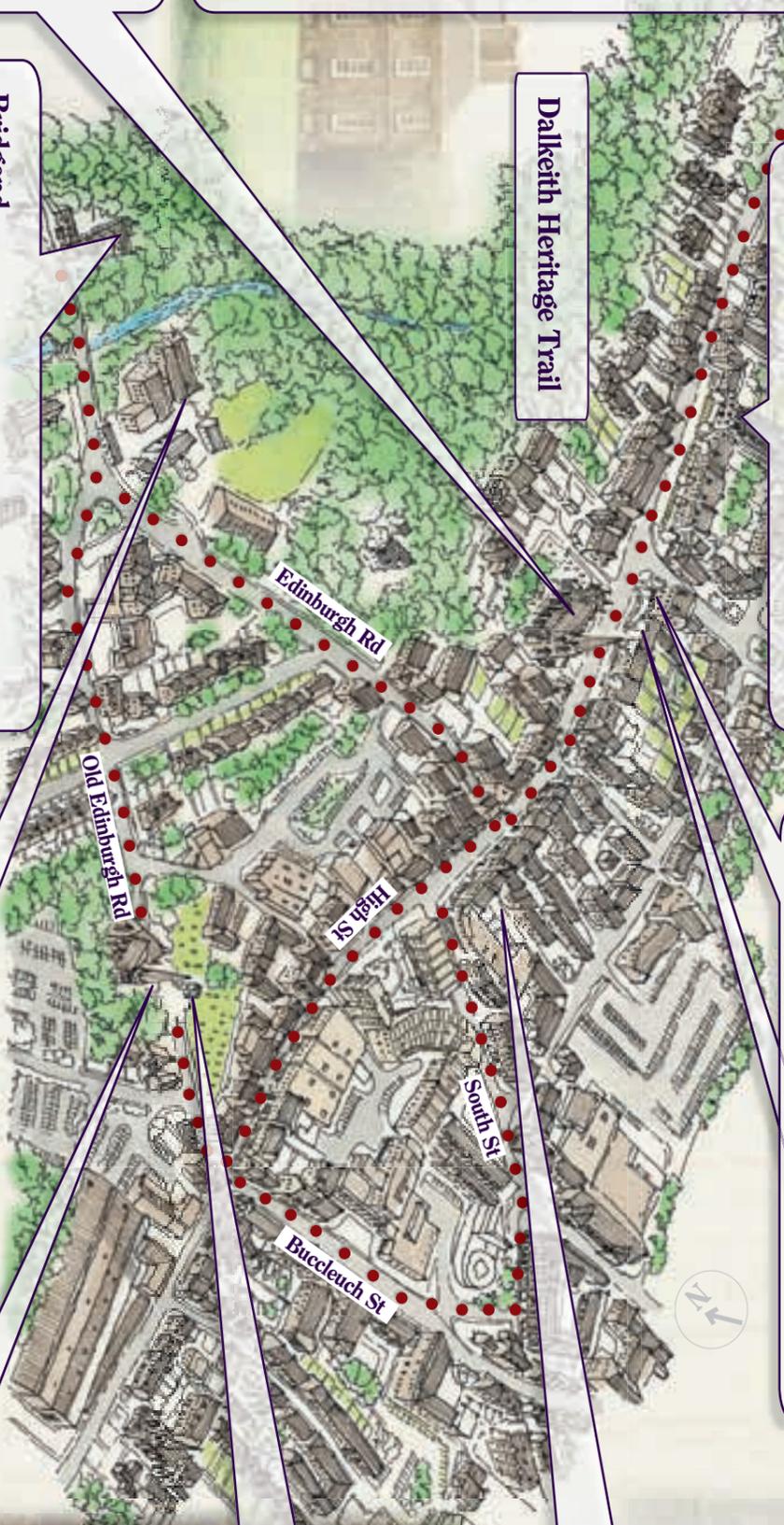
snatchers from robbing newly filled graves. In the early 19th century the medical school in Edinburgh paid for fresh cadavers for students to 'work on'. The infamous Burke and Hare found it more expedient to murder their victims than dig up bodies in the dead of night!



### West Parish Church

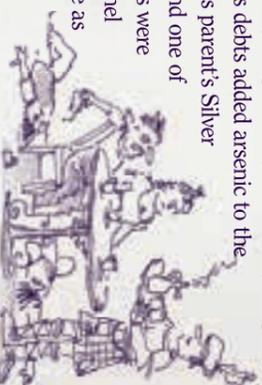
This was built in 1840 to take the overflow from St Nicholas Church. The site was gifted by the Duke of Buccleuch who also paid the building costs. It closed in 1989 and was given a new lease of life as a high quality cabinetmaker's workshop.

### Dalkeith Heritage Trail



### Bridgend

This site is believed to be the crossing point over the river North Esk used by the Romans who had a camp nearby. The current bridge dates from 1764. Just to the South of the bridge stood a toll house where travellers paid the charge for crossing the bridge. These tolls were used for the 'public good' in Dalkeith. A house just north of the bridge was the scene of the Brigend poisoning in 1911. A young man desperate to pay off his debts added arsenic to the after dinner coffee during his parents' Silver Wedding party. His father and one of the guests died, many others were very ill. He fled to the Channel Islands and took his own life as the police closed in on him.



### Dalkeith Flour Mills

(Granites Park - Dalkeithian for Granary Park)

A group of three buildings dating from the late 18th century. The mill continued to function even after a major fire in 1959 but was converted to light industrial use in the mid-1970s.

