

Dalhousie Castle History Timeline

In the Year of:

- 1066** An obscure German Pirate the progenitor of the Ramsay's follows William the Conqueror to England. This is the origin of the Ramsay Black Eagle battle emblem.
- 1090** He, or probably his son joined David I of Scotland and lived by robbing the natives!
- 1140** Simundus de Ramseia a French nobleman, also served with King David and was the first to have lands at Dalwolsie (now Dalhousie). The Ramsay's became notorious border raiders.
- 1140-1280** The Ramsay's acquired large estates through marriage with the heiress of the Maules, a family of Norman mercenaries who had also been hired by King David and who had secured royal grants of land in Midlothian and the Carse of Gowrie.
- 1280** Ramsay de Dalwolsie builds the inner Keep with Vaults and the Bottle Dungeon.
- 1296** Edward I of England stays at Castle before Battle of Falkirk against Sir William Wallace of Scotland.
- 1314** William Ramsay joins forces with King Robert the Bruce to defeat Edward II of England at Bannockburn.
- 1320** William Ramsay – Signatory to the Declaration of Arbroath where Scottish Barons appealed to the Pope against the oppression of the English.
- 1342** Sir Alexander de Ramsay helps re-capture castles and occupied lands from the English.
- 1342** Sir William Douglas abducts Sir Alexander de Ramsay from St Mary's Church in Hawick and has him incarcerated in Hermitage Castle. Ramsay's ghost is believed to haunt Hermitage.
- 1355** Sir William Ramsay defeats the English at Nisbet Moor in 1355.
- 1400** Dalhousie Castle withstands a six month siege by King Henry IV of England - The death of Sir Alexander Ramsay at Homildon Hill mentioned in Shakespeare's Henry IV (Part 1).
- Circa 1450** Castle Drum Tower and Well added to the existing present L shaped inner keep structure.

- Circa 1500** Origin of the "Grey Lady", an apparition of a Lady Catherine, a mistress of one of the Ramsay lairds of this period. A vengeful wife had her locked up in one of the Castle turrets, where she perished. Her apparition has been seen on the stairs and in the dungeons, including other reported manifestations of the rustling of her gown and unexplained noises!
- 1513** The Great Great Grandson of Sir Alexander Ramsay slain at the Battle of Flodden against the English.
- 1563** Wednesday 30th June Mary, Queen of Scots sleeps the night at Daousy (Dalhousie) as she journeys on her third Progress through her realm. She comes from Borthwick Castle and leaves the following day for Roslin (Rosslyn Castle).
- 1568** Laird of Dalwolsie (Dalhousie) meets Mary, Queen of Scots and fights under her banner on 13th May at Langside (near Glasgow) where they are unfortunately defeated.
- 1600** Sir John Ramsay saved the life of King James VI of Scotland by killing the Earl of Gowrie who was plotting to kidnap the King, known as "The Gowrie Conspiracy". King James VI visits the Castle and becomes James I of the new United Kingdom of Scotland and England.
- 1618** Royal recognition granting Sir George Ramsay the title of Lord Ramsay of Dalhousie - initials are on the outer wall of the Keep.
- 1633** Lord William Ramsay raised to the Earl of Dalhousie.
- Circa 1635** Area between outside curtain wall and the inner Keep built up by this, the 1st Earl of Dalhousie.
- 1648** Oliver Cromwell lays siege to the Castle, then uses as his lowland headquarters, during the Parliamentarian and Royalist conflict. Musket shot is still embedded in the outer walls.
- 1710** 5th Earl of Dalhousie aids the Archduke Charles in the wars of Spanish succession.
- 1759** The then current Earl acted as Signatory to the capitulation of Quebec, in Canada to General Wolfe.
- 1778-79** Castle structure "Georgianised" by George Paterson.
- 1795** 9th Earl George - Governor-in-Chief of North America. Also fought alongside the Duke of Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo.
- 1808** Sir Walter Scott stays at the Castle.
- 1816** 9th Earl is appointed Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia. Founded one of the finest educational centres in Canada – Dalhousie University in Halifax.

- 1825-1828** 9th Earl with the famous Scottish Architect William Burn, "rebarionalises" the Castle into the mansion as it stands today.
- 1832** 9th Earl dies and mourned by his old school friend Sir Walter Scott.
- 1840** Queen Victoria visits the Castle to take tea with her devoted servant the 10th Earl, James Ramsay.
- 1847** 10th Earl James Ramsay appointed Governor General of India at the age of 36 years, and was eventually made Marquis. Brought to Britain the "Koh-I-Noor" whose name means "Mountain of Light", the most famous diamond in the World, strapped to his waist to ensure a safe passage. Mined in the 16th Century this 105.6-carat diamond is now the centrepiece of the Queen Mother's state crown. Died at only 48 years old in 1860 and is buried in the family vault in the nearby Cockpen Church. "No man ever gave his life to his Country, more completely or with more consuming devotion": Lord Curzon - British Government in India.
- 1874** In 1874 The Ramsay family landholding was:
- | | Acres | Gross Annual Rental |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Edinburghshire | 1,419 | 3,002 |
| Forfarshire (Mines) | - | 450 |
| Dalhousie Estate | <u>136,602</u> | <u>55,601</u> |
| | <u>138,021</u> | <u>£59,053</u> |
- 1878 – 1925** The 14th Earl of Dalhousie succeeded his father at the age of nine. Lord Dalhousie served with distinction in the South African war (1901 – 1902) and was wounded in Flanders during the First World War.
- Circa early 1900's** Earls of Dalhousie move to reside at Brechin Castle
- 1925-early 1950's** Became a Private Preparatory Boarding "Dalhousie" School. Moved to Melville House near Ladybank, Fife in early 1950's. The school's motto was "Efficiunt, Clarum, Studia".
- Early 1950's-1972** Castle was uninhabited until 1972 when converted into a hotel.
- 1994** Present owners carried out major repairs and renovations.
- 1997** Nearby over 100 year old Quarry House, purchased and converted into Lodge bedrooms.
- 1998** New owners of Feuhold (freehold) and lands. Privileged to be custodians and to maintain the Castle and lands in good order for future generations.
- 1999** 16th Earl - Governor General of Rhodesia and Nyasaland before their dissolution in the 1960's, passed away at the age of 93 on 16th July 1999.

- 2000** New "Orangery" addition to Castle on the South side patio opened. The first extension to the Castle for 170 years! The 250 year old storage vaults converted into a new "Aqueous Spa", including a State of the Art Hydropool, the first of its' kind in Scotland.
- 2012** In March 2012 it was announced that Robert Parker, owner of Doxford, Eshott and Guyzance Hall in Northumberland had purchased Dalhousie Castle for an undisclosed sum.
- 2014** "Castle Rocks" Rooms and Suites, formerly known as The Dower House or The Lodge was fully refurbished. Castle Rocks was the 13th century workers Lodge which is a 2 minute walk away from the castle over Dalhousie Bridge next to the quarry where Dalhousie Castle was quarried from.

We hope you have enjoyed sharing 850 years history in the making, as much as we have in discovering its' events.

"To all, to each a fair good-night, and pleasing dreams, and slumbers light!"
Sir Walter Scott - Castle Guest in 1808

