



Dalhousie Castle

AND THE RAMSAY FAMILY

"850 YEARS OF HISTORY IN THE MAKING"

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 Ramesie a French nobleman, also served with King David and was the first to have landed at Dalwolsie (now Dalhousie). The Ramsay's became notorious border raiders and were always in demand when throats were to be cut!
- 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 when Sir William Wallace was defeated.
- 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 I).
- 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.
- Laird of Dalwolsie (Dalhousie) meets Mary Queen of Scots and fights under her banner at Langside.
- 1600** John Ramsay saved the life of King James VI of Scotland by killing the Earl of Gowrie who was plotting to kidnap the King. "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 and 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 a Signatory to the capitulation of Quebec to General Wolfe.
- 1795** 9th Earl George - Governor-in-Chief of North America and present 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** 9th Earl with the famous Scottish Architect Burns, re-builds the ancient Castle into a large mansion as it stands today.
- 1838** 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 Marquess. 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 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>

Circa early 1900's The Earls of Dalhousie have resided at Brechin Castle.

1950's 16th Earl - Governor General of Rhodesia and Nyasaland before their dissolution in the 1960's.

1925-1950 Became a Private Preparatory Boarding School, of Melville House, Fife.

1972 Castle was converted into a Hotel.

1994 Present owners leased the Castle and carried out major renovations.

1997 Nearby over 100 year old Quarry House, purchased and converted into Lodge bedrooms.

1998 New owners of Feuhold and lands, privileged to be custodians and to maintain the Castle and lands in good order for the next 850 years!

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