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FIFE CONSTABULARY

The County of Fife holds a unique position on the map of Scotland. The "dog's head" positioned between the Firths of Tay and Forth is easily recognisable. Being a peninsula bound on the east by the North Sea, and on the west by Clackmannanshire, Kinross-shire and Perthshire (now Central and Tayside Regions), Fife was readily defended in times of strife.

The County is approximately 45 miles long, by 20 miles broad, and every one of its 52 Parishes tells of ancient and historical times. Two Royal Palaces are within its bounds, at Dunfermline and Falkland. The first university in Scotland was founded at St Andrews in 1411, and the town was at one time the ecclesiastical heart of the country, where martyrs died for their faith. Many of the Fife Kirks were built where Culdee Cells had stood in the early centuries of Christianity, hence the positioning of many of the present-day towns and villages.

Dunfermline was the capital of Scotland in the 11th century and there dwelt Malcolm III (Canmore) and his saintly Queen Margaret who did so much to introduce a more refined and humane way of life, in the place of the crude and barbarous manners previously associated with the Royal residence. These improvements travelled thence to all sections of the community, and so encouraged trade with other countries. Thus was the origin of a more civilised way of life in Scotland.

Through the centuries, Fife has prospered and advanced to take its place in the modern world. Every town and village has grown, some out of recognition, as in Glenrothes where a whole new town has sprung up from the nucleus of the village of Woodside. From a population of 150,000 in 1790, Fife now boasts of a population of approximately 348,400 souls. (1997)

As with all communities, whether small or large, law and order must play a vital part. What, therefore has been the history of the law-enforcers and law-breakers, in Fife?

The word "Police", is said to come from the Greek work "Polis" viz. a City governed by free citizens who made their own rules. "Constable" is derived from the Latin, "Count of the Stable" or "Marshall". From time immemorial, some kind of system for law, order and punishment has been necessary for the smooth running of community life.

Throughout the Bible, great stress is laid on laws, human behaviour, and punishment. Adam and Eve partaking of the forbidden fruit, the laying down of the Ten Commandments, the exhortations of the Scriptures, the breaking of them and resultant punishment have been with us since the world began.

Looking back in the mists of time, it can only be suggested as to what Fife must have been like. Probably it was a thickly forested region with rivers, lochs and bogs, abounding with wild animals, where the Pictish cave-dwellers of Wemyss and Caiplicie

who lived about 4,000 B.C. penetrated the forest with their primitive weapons, to hunt for food. Small settlements would be ruled over by headmen and elders, who would nominate one of their number to regulate the people and see that they kept the tribal laws.

It must have been a hard and miserable existence for the natives, with progress being very slow and laborious. Every-day life was often disrupted by invasions of their neighbours and eventually in the early centuries A.D. by Romans, Norsemen and Danes.

By the 11th century, a more united Scotland appeared under the Kingship of Malcolm III. The rich land-owning Lords meted out their own justice to their serfs and land-dwellers. Under these Burghs of Barony there was no punishment that the "Lords of the Manor" could not inflict. With the power invested on him by virtue of his position, he would have his own prison or dungeon, and his own gallows which he was not loath to use.

Burghs of Regality were created by Monasteries on lands belonging to them, with the permission of the Crown to hold courts and mete out punishment. These were ruled over by the Abbot who had the power of life and death.

The Kings of Scotland in the 12th century endowed certain towns with the title of Royal Burghs. Under the feudal system, each Royal Burgh was entitled to administer justice. Magistrates were appointed and acted as judges in most civil and criminal cases with the exceptions of pleas of the Crown - Murder, Robbery, Rape and Wilful Fire-raising, all of which were referred to the Higher Courts of Justiciary and Privy Council. Only Royal Burghs could send representatives to Parliament.

As the Churches grew in strength, so the Priests also had power over the common people. In the Post-Reformation Kirk Sessions, the Elders were the "watch-dogs" of their Parishes, and noted zealously the actions of the people, and punished them accordingly, as can be seen in the Kirk Session Records. During the witch-hunting period of the 17th century, if a parishioner was suspected of communing with the devil, he or she was first brought before the Kirk Session. They in turn reported to the Privy Council, who commissioned local Lairds or Magistrates to deal with the case. If the accused did not confess to practising witch-craft certain cruel tests were employed. Whether the alleged witch confessed or not, the result usually came to the same end, death for the poor soul.

Parish Constables, and in Towns Night Watchmen or Guards, existed for many years, but they did not prevent crime or pursue criminals beyond the extent of their own Parish, or Burgh.

The Parish Constables/Town Officers/Burgh Constables were appointed by and ruled by Town Councils i.e. The Provost, Burgesses, and Councillors in Burghs and in the Landward areas by committees comprising local Heritors/Landowners. The former appeared always to be at the beck and call of the latter, having to carry out their orders at all times. It is often in doubt whether these orders were often legal or otherwise, but the officers had to carry them out or look for another occupation. This power still

exists to a certain extent in the present day and Councillors still have the power to instruct a Constable to carry out a legal order/duty, though this seldom happens.

The authorities had to supply the Town Officers/Constables with uniforms and their accoutrements i.e. halberds, handcuffs, batons and rattles in some cases. It should be noted that at this period the Constable's baton or battoons, as sometimes described, were stamped with the Burgh or Area emblazoned and a number, and these were produced by him as his "Badge of Authority", or the equivalent of the present day Constable's Warrant Card". In certain areas Constables carried their halberds as their sign of authority as will be seen in the entry pertaining to the Burgh of Inverkeithing when the Magistrates instructed their Constables that halberds were not to be carried at funerals unless with the permission of the Provost, Burgesses or Council.

The Town Constables were normally paid men, but in the Landward Areas, leading residents or Special Constables were used to apply the law and often the work was done without remuneration. These duties of Special Constables were usually carried out under the directions and supervision of the Sheriff of the area. The landward or Parish Constables were normally picked by the local landlords/heritors as persons of good local character and popular repute. Often these chosen persons were aged and physically unable to carry out their tasks. The Special Constables were not always dependable as they did not turn out for duty at times willingly and when they did, were not very efficient. In addition to these law officers there were Sheriff Officers, normally working from towns where the Sheriff Court was located, and who charged fees for their services. Their services would not obviously be available to the poorer residents, and it would be a case of results depending on the amount paid. Their work was serving summons making enquiries and civil diligence. Taking in to consideration all these law officers, it was apparent that the County and Burghs were not served with an efficient service to protect them against law-breakers.

The Scottish Commissioners of Supply were first appointed by the Act of Convention, 1667. They were the forerunners of County Councils, and the leading local authorities of the day. Their main function was to levy the Land Tax. It is uncertain if the Fife Commissioners of Supply were in being as early as this. The first Minute Book in existence shows the first entry dated 20th August, 1772. The Commissioners were Landowners and Heritors, and they chose a different Preces or Chairman at each meeting, probably the wealthiest, or whoever ranked highest amongst those present. They sat in the Old Tolbooth at Cupar.

On the 6th October, 1772, the Commissioners sitting in Cupar, discussed the great number of vagrants with which Fife was 'infested', and they decided that it would be necessary to lay 20 pennies Scots money on each £100 Scots valued rent for each year. (12 pennies Scots = 1d. Sterling; £1 Scots = 1/8d. Sterling). They ordained the Collector of the Cess (tax) to collect the same from the persons liable. This revenue known as the "Rogue Money" was to be applied for apprehending and committing vagrants, and having them dealt with according to Common Law. With regard to the begging poor, the Heritors and Kirk Sessions of the several Parishes were to provide for them within their respective areas. In the Autumn of 1776, the Commissioners formed a Committee to form a plan for detecting and suppressing vagrants, sturdy

Mr. Jamieson, the Sheriff Substitute, was accorded great praise for his zeal and intelligence in the arrangements and organisation of the Police Establishment. The assessment for Rogue Money was then 8/-d. on each £100 Scots valued rent.

At this time there was a Bill pending in Parliament for vesting the appointment of a Procurator Fiscal for the different Counties in Scotland in the Crown, but the Fife Commissioners of Supply vigorously opposed this, being happy with the old arrangement whereby the appointment of a Public Prosecutor lay in the hands of the County Sheriff.

In April 1835, a Petition was presented to the Commissioners by Mrs. Jean Fairbairn, relict of John Innes, deceased, Weaver and Pensioner in Cupar. Her husband had been sworn in as a Special Constable for the County some years previous, and in the year in question, he was chosen as one of a number of Constables who were called to duty and ordered by the Sheriff to proceed to Auchtermuchty to preserve the peace during Polling Days there in January. In the course of this journey, the weather having been bitterly cold, Innes, whose health was rather delicate, became fatigued and was seized with apoplexy on the road to Auchtermuchty, and medical assistance was called, but he died a few hours after taking ill. His widow had thus been deprived of all means of support, as his pension ceased on this death. She requested a gratuity from the Commissioners to pay the funeral expenses and also one year's rent for a small grocery shop, so that she could earn a living. The Commissioners decided as the deceased had been engaged by the Sheriff to discharge his duties as a Special Constable, the widow would be allowed £5 from the General Purposes Fund.

It was felt in 1837, that more extensive accommodation was required in Cupar for holding the Courts and Meetings of the Sheriff, Justices of the Peace, and Commissioners of Supply for the County of Fife, also for the custody of records of said courts. The Commissioners therefore purchased the building known as the "Tontine" and others attached thereto, which belonged to the members of the Fife Hunt, to be altered, along with other premises belonging to the County. When the alterations and work were complete, the Commissioners were highly delighted in every respect with the superior and elegant accommodation achieved.

In November, 1838, a Committee appointed by the Commissioners of Supply to enquire into the constitution and expenditure of the Constabulary Police, was formed. The Sheriff read a report made by him in 1835 to the Royal Commission on Constabulary Police and other Regulations etc. After considering this, a communication was sent to Colonel Rowan, Superintendent of London Police to ascertain whether an officer could be appointed from that Force, to command a body of constables in Fife. Thus was the first indication of the formation of a properly regulated Police Force in Fife as we now know it.

In January, 1839, the Commissioners reported that although the system of preventative Police, established in 1833 had had a good measure of success in suppressing vagrancy, never the less the reduction in crime expected had not been realised, therefore recommendations were made to increase the efficiency and extent of the County of Fife Police. The importance of an efficient Superintendent was deemed to be essential, and a list of standards was given. He had to be "a man of

exemplary character, intelligence and activity, who would be able to command the respect and obedience of the men under his charge and who might be depended upon vigilantly to oversee and faithfully to report upon their conduct." It was also felt necessary that the Superintendent should be mounted on a good horse so as to maintain communications with the districts under his command.

Robert Adamson of the London Police was interviewed for the position. The salary offered to him was £150 per annum, from which he was expected to purchase and pay for the upkeep of a good horse, and pay all his travelling expenses. He was awarded £5 from the Rogue Money to defray his expenses coming from London.

On 24th January, 1839, the Commissioners resolved that Robert Adamson be recommended to the General Meeting of the Commissioners of Supply on 30th April, 1839, as being a suitable Officer to act as Superintendent of the proposed Constabulary Force, and so Mr Adamson took charge of the Vagrancy Police.

The next meeting of the Police Commissioners took place on 3rd February 1840. They discussed the County Constabulary Police, and felt a better system could be evolved. They agreed that the large and increasing amount of crime, was being committed by resident members of the population, and so the constabulary for the Suppression of Vagrancy should be disbanded, and a new Force of Constables be employed to prevent and detect crime. This Force would be under the command of the Sheriff as Chief Conservator of the Peace within the County. They also agreed that the geographical position of the County was advantageous for protection at a moderate expense, and it was felt that an efficient force against depredators should be employed. Mention was made of the skill and secrecy of thieves and burglars and of their methods of disposing of stolen goods. It was felt by the Committee that they "could not expect that persons already following trades and other occupations could be expected to have the time or sufficient intelligence and skill to detect and guard against crime, in their districts." It was therefore proposed that "it is to a disciplined body of men, possessed of a high degree of intelligence, courage and discretion, trained by a course of instruction to the office, and having no other occupation, that those who have enquired into the subject alone look for the qualifications necessary to the speedy and effectual detection and pursuit of crime, and for the combined exertions by which protections to the community maybe secured."

In a report to the Commissioners of Supply, the Police Committee suggested several measures be adopted,

- (1) That the Vagrancy Police be discharged;
- (2) That a new Police Force under the orders of Mr. Robert Adamson be recruited to form day and night patrols for the repression of vagrancy, depredation, poaching, smuggling, nuisance, offences against Highways Act, Weights & Measures Act and Sabbath Breaking. They were also to attend the Sheriffs' Criminal Courts, Quarter Sessions, and with the concurrence of the Sheriff, to execute criminal warrants, summonses and proofs whatsoever. These duties showing a compatibility and propriety in

the combination of these functions. To separate them would lead to confusion, inefficiency and expense.

- (3) A Police Committee of the Commissioners of Supply be appointed, all being Justices of the Peace, with the Sheriff and two Sheriff Substitutes as Ex-officio Members. The Committee would have the power to frame Regulations and orders, appoint pay of the various grades, supply equipment and clothing. They advised that as many men as possible be recruited from the London or Liverpool Police to avoid taking on men settled in the County and having local connections.
- (4) That the Force be moveable. Sergeants and Constables to be frequently moved around so that every man would get to know the whole County but not form local associations and connections.
- (5) The Force to be under the direction of the Sheriff. An Assessment to be made on the County to bring in £2,000, to be at the disposal of the Police Committee. Special Constables might be required on emergent occasions, and suggest that lists be made in every Parish of those willing and able to serve, a certain number being sworn in by the quarter Sessions.

Three English Counties were reported as trying a system whereby they appointed 1 Police Constable to 1,770 per head of population, but 1 Constable to 2,000 was considered sufficient for Fife. The population of Fife being 150,000 at that time, the Committee reckoned on a Force of 75 men:-

1 Superintendent	£200	per annum:
1 Inspector	£80	" "
2 Sergeants @ £50 each	£100	" "
2 Confidential Constables @ £45 each	£90	" "
36 Constables @ £42 each	£1512	" "

Total £1982

The Superintendent's salary to cover the expense of his uniform and a horse.

A letter from Mr. Alex. Monteith, Edinburgh, further suggested that the co-operation of the Burghs be sought. The Burghs themselves would benefit in having a Constable connected with a well organised Force on hand. Those Burghs who did not have a Policeman it was felt, might care to contribute to the general expense, the Committee having no power to include the Royal Burghs in the assessment.

At the Committee Meeting in May, 1840, Mr. Adamson, was called on to name any individual in the Force at that time who would be fit for the new establishment. He mentioned two, one being Thomas King at Largo, who had never been in any Police Establishment, and George Fortune in Auchtermuchty who was from the London Police. Mr. Adamson was then authorised to try and get from London, Liverpool or Glasgow Police, one Inspector, two Sergeants, and Constables. The Constables to be paid 14/-d. per week, liable to deduction of a shilling if lodgings were provided. One

month later Superintendent Adamson was instructed to set in motion the formation of a Constabulary Force without delay.

In July, Colonel Rowan, Superintendent of the London Police, wrote to say that he recommended two Constables from London to be Inspector in Fife, Donald Mackay from 'A' Division and James Hairsine of 'R' Division. Mr. Adamson was authorised to send for the men, and also to order 30 pairs of handcuffs, a pattern hat, pattern cape, 30 cutlasses and belts, and 10 pistols. He was also, in communication with the Sheriff to go to Dundee, Perth and Glasgow to procure men fit to be Constables.

A fortnight later, nine men were interviewed as prospective Police Candidates and were accepted to start duty on 4th August, 1840. Mr. Adamson advised nine of the old Vagrancy Police that their services were dispensed with. George Fortune was recommended as a Chief Constable, 2nd class, Donald Mackay and James Hairsine as Chief Constables, 1st class. The following is a table of the men accepted as the first Constables in the new Police Force -

- (1) OSWALD, John, (24), Weaver, Dunning, married, read and wrote well;
- (2) MCQUEEN, John, (28), Police (Dundee), married, read well and wrote middling/legible; from Stirling;
- (3) OSNABURG, Archibald Stirling, (25), Shoemaker, Glasgow, married, wrote and read well;
- (4) MCPHERSON, Duncan, (32), Police (Dundee), Rattray, read well/wrote tolerably well; unmarried;
- (5) KING, John, (19), Labourer, St. Andrews, unmarried, read well/wrote pretty well;
- (6) DUNKELD, John Hill, (34), Civil Business, unmarried;
- (7) STEWART, Charles, (27), Weaver, Falkland, married, read well/wrote slow but legibly;
- (8) RITCHIE, Thomas, (27), Weaver, Malts, married, read and wrote badly;
- (9) RITCHIE, David, (31), Turner, Woolwich, married, read well/write middling.

Eight more of the old Police were given notice that they would be discharged on the 15th of September, the remainder on 1st October. Patterns of cloth for greatcoats and trousers were approved in respect to colour, the greatcoat being dark grey and the uniform coat - dark blue, the quality of the cloth was to be the same as the London Police. Capes, hats and stocks were to be obtained from London. Handcuffs in possession of the jailer at Cupar, and being the property of the County, were to be handed over to Mr. Adamson.

With the new Force still very much in its infancy many disciplinary actions took place. A few examples are as follows. On August, 25th, 1840, a P.C. was charged on the report of Superintendent Adamson, with being drunk on special duty the day before, and again that morning (25th). The Constable confessed he was drunk on the 24th, but not that morning. Witness George Stewart, P.C. "who being solemnly sworn purged of malice and partial Counsel and interrogated - Deponed - 'That yesterday he went into a Public House at Springfield with the accused and they had some whisky. He then went in pursuit of a culprit to Cults and left the other Constable in charge of a prisoner in the Public House. On his return from Cults about 3 p.m., he found the Constable still there with a bottle of Porter before him!

Donald Mackay, Chief Constable, deponed that "at 10 a.m. this morning (25th) he paraded the men and found the accused intoxicated and quite unfit for duty." The Court found the charge proven and awarded the penalty of dismissal.

Later three Constables were brought before the Committee by Superintendent Adamson for carelessness and inattention and were admonished.

In September, Chief Constable George Fortune was admonished and had 5/-d. deducted from his pay because he had incurred unnecessary expense in conveying a prisoner to Cupar.

The Committee accepted the following tenders for clothing - Coats - 28 at 29/6d.; Greatcoats - 32 at 26/-d.; Trousers - 32 at 14/-d.; Shoes - 64 pairs at 10/6d. Mr. Adamson was instructed to procure 24 Lanterns, and also to look for lodgings at the different stations at as reasonable cost as possible.

The County Prison Board was approached to see if the Constables could visit the various jails to see the prisoners therein confined, and also to see if any of the old prisons could be given up to the Police Committee as Police Stations.

By November, Burntisland and Kinghorn had joined the County, for Police purposes, but Newburgh, Dunfermline, Pittenweem, Auchtermuchty, Kirkcaldy and Cupar declined. Inverkeithing, Crail, Earlsferry, Anstruther Easter, Kilrenny and Leven also declined, and as Dysart, Anstruther Wester and Falkland did not reply, they were presumed to have declined.

In January, 1841, the Force was issued with their uniforms and as the Superintendent was to obtain metal numbers "in case the embroidered collars did not arrive in time", it is obvious that even in those days Constables were made to be easily identified.

The names of new candidates frequently appear in the Committee Minutes, but no detailed note is made of dismissals or resignations.

The number of new men, however, points to a very large turnover and wastage of Constables. Few seemed to stay in the service for more than a few weeks. In the progression of time, Policemen gradually acquired more and more duties. In Cupar for example, a sheep-stealer held in the lock-up cells in the County Buildings and in the charge of the Custodian effected his escape, and read the precognition which had

been taken on his case. In consequence the cell keys were thereafter ordered to be placed under the charge of the officer in the Police Station there, on the responsibility of the Superintendent. The office was to be manned day and night and if any one in custody required attention, the Constable and Custodian in charge of the County Buildings were to be together to open the cell. Even in those days authorities appeared to be crime prevention conscious and left nothing to chance.

An advertisement was placed in the newspaper in May, 1841, by Superintendent Adamson advising that neither he nor the County could be liable for debts incurred by any member of the Police Force. There appeared to be some underlying current in this circulation, probably because the men were paid monthly and easily incurred financial difficulties. The Superintendent also enforced his power of mulcting (fining) any Police Constable for dereliction of duty especially skulking from night-duty.

In those days if any Constable was injured during the course of duty, his medical fees were paid, and he also received full pay during the time he was off duty as a result of the injuries so received.

It appears in records that the Lamp Committee of Dunfermline were very grateful to Inspector Donald Mackay for discovering the parties responsible for breaking a number of lamps in the town, and they awarded him £1, which the Police Committee authorised him to retain for his own use.

Even members of the public benefited from 'having a go' and helping the Police. Mr. Hutton, a Slater in Dunfermline, received a gratuity of 10/-d. for rendering prompt and efficient assistance to Inspector Mackay when he was attacked by a number of Colliers. Inspector William Bell, Pathhead requested compensation as a result of having his trousers destroyed when apprehending a Weaver from Gallatown, however the Committee directed Inspector Bell to prosecute the Weaver before the Sheriff, and the Committee would defray his expenses should any be incurred.

Mr. Adamson recommended that it would be beneficial to have all the superior officers mounted, but as the Committee did not wish to add burdens on the County they suggested that one Inspector be discontinued and that one of the remaining Inspectors be mounted. It seemed that this was a case of 'putting the horse before the Inspector'. They also suggested that there should be four Sub-Inspectors or Sergeants, and that the office of Clerk of the Establishment be held by a separate officer who would officiate as a Constable when required. As Constables were paid extra for Night Patrol, it was suggested that the pay of a Sub-Inspector should be raised to 18/-d. per week as their usual rate of pay could be the same as a Constable who had done Night Patrol. An extra allowance was paid to the men for stationery, a Constable received fourpence per month, Sergeants sixpence and Inspectors a shilling.

The following is a copy of the Regulations of the Fifeshire Constabulary Force as revised and ordered to be recorded by Quarter Sessions of the Peace on the 27th day of October, 1840:-

The Establishment and pay of the Force is fixed for the present as follows:-

One Superintendent - Salary per Annum	£150.
One Superintendent in full for horse and appointments	£65.
Two Inspectors each - per annum	£65.
Two Inspectors each - per annum	£60.
Four Sub-Inspectors each per week	.15/2d.
Twenty-eight Constables per week, each,	.14/-d.

The pay of the Sub-Inspectors and Constables to be liable to a deduction of 1/-d. per week from each individual if lodgings are furnished.

In addition to the above rate of pay, the Inspectors at the end of each year, if they had given satisfaction, shall in case the Exchequer Fees, incurred by each of them during that period fall short of ten pounds, have that sum guaranteed and made up to each of them by the County.

Books and stationery shall be supplied to the Force with an allowance of £5 per annum for keeping the accounts.

Nights Patrols shall receive 6d. per night extra during the six Winter months.

The pay and allowances above regulated are declared to be in full payment for all duties performed by the members of the Force in the service of the County.

In the case of sickness, medical attendance shall be furnished at the expense of the County but under condition of deduction from the pay of the individual to such amount as the Police Committee may consider proper.

The prospect of pension is not held forth to the Force except in case of loss of limb or severe bodily injury equivalent thereto sustained in the course of public duty, but this will not preclude the consideration of special cases.

Every member however of the subordinate grade may look forward to promotion as the need for exemplary conduct and zealous performance of duty.

Any member of the Force who may become entitled to a pecuniary reward publicly and specially offered for the successful pursuit of a criminal or detection of a crime shall be bound on receipt of the amount thereof to pay it into a fund under the management of the Police Committee which shall be named the "Police Reward Fund". From this fund the Committee will grant pecuniary rewards to such amount as to them on consideration of circumstances shall appear fit to individuals of the Force reported to them by the Superintendent for extraordinary diligence and zeal in the performance of any particular duty, and in case of deficiency in the said fund when it may appear expedient to the Committee to grant a reward it shall be competent to them to make special application to the Commissioners of Supply for means to implement the same.

A Superannuation Fund for the benefit of the members of the Force shall be formed and regulate as follows:-

- (1) Each individual shall contribute on the first day of each month half a day's pay.
- (2) The Superintendent shall place to the account of the fund all fines inflicted by him on members of the Force for irregular conduct; also the proceeds of old uniform clothing sold.
- (3) Any member prosecuting as informer shall pay the amount of fine or portion of fine payable to him when recovered into the fund.
- (4) The fees of Constables chargeable on a Defender which may be recovered shall be paid into the fund.
- (5) The fund shall be managed by the Police Committee and shall be vested in the names of certain trustees by whom it shall be invested in some public security.
- (6) Sums payable to this fund shall be lodged weekly through or by the Superintendent in a bank approved by the Police Committee.
- (7) The accounts to be made up annually at Whit Sunday by the Police Clerk and to be open to the inspection of each member.
- (8) No member shall be entitled to any benefit from this fund unless he has served in the Force and contributes five years complete.
- (9) Any member who is dismissed the Force for misconduct or he absconds or is incapacitated to serve in the Force by sentence of a Court of Law shall be held to have forfeited all claims to benefit from this fund.
- (10) The interest which each member has in the fund is in the proportion of the amount of his contributions. That amount therefore with accumulated interest will be the minimum benefit he shall receive on retirement.
- (11) The case of the widow of a deceased Member shall be entitled to special consideration, and the Committee shall be entitled to make a grant from the fund to such an amount as may appear reasonable.
- (12) It cannot be expected that for many years this fund can be made available for pension, until that be practicable its operations therefore will be confined to making grants on retirement.

Candidates for admission shall be nominated by the Superintendent on his responsibility, subject to the approval of the Police Committee who will report to the Quarter Sessions for appointment.

The age of candidates shall not be under 21 years nor above 35 years, and their certificate of baptism or other satisfactory evidence of age shall be produced. Their height shall not be under five feet eight inches, form upright and athletic and if the

Committee see fit they shall appear before a surgeon for examination in like manner as a recruit for the army. They shall be able to read fluently and write a legible hand and shall produce testimonials of character. The examination by the Committee will be of the most rigid character into to all the foregoing particulars as it is of importance to engage such individuals as possess the highest qualifications.

The candidates when passed and before being sworn as Constables shall sign an obligation to abide by all standing orders and conform himself to all the regulations which may be made from time to time for the good of the service.

Every new Constable shall be stationed at or near Cupar under the immediate charge of the Superintendent until fully trained to all his duties including the service of warrants etc., and preparing of evidence.

The Force is under the command of the Superintendent and direction of the Sheriff. Promotions shall be ordered by the Police Committee on recommendation of the Superintendent.

Members of the Police Force will be appointed to the office of Sheriffs' man or criminal officer by the Sheriff in whom that appointment is constitutionally invested and as it is expected that every member shall be qualified for these duties should the Sheriff find it necessary to discharge anyone who has been once appointed for the exercise of the same - he shall be held as dismissed from the Force and report made thereon to the Committee by the Superintendent for the information of the Quarter Sessions.

The Superintendent is empowered to suspend any member of the Force for misconduct and in case of an offence inferring the penalty of dismissal to dismiss him forthwith and report the same to the Police Committee for information of Quarter Sessions and also to the Sheriff to enable him to take what steps he thinks proper.

Any member of the Force who maybe desirous of resigning, shall give one month's notice on the first lawful day of a month.

The principle on which the Force is established being that of a moveable one, the several individuals composing it shall from time to time be removed to different stations as to the Superintendent with approbation of the Sheriff may appear expedient.

The Day Patrols shall be regulated with a view to enable the Constables to meet and communicate with each other as frequently as possible as well on the borders as within their respective districts.

The Superior officers will endeavour to see during each day as many of the men on their beats as possible. The Patrols on Sunday to be so managed that each individual of the Force may have an opportunity of attending one diet of worship in the place where he may be or more if the circumstances of the neighbourhood permit. The occasional night patrols which though frequent should be irregular both as to time and route and shall be arranged that the presence of the Constable at one place at night or

at the commencement of their route shall be certified by an officer or clerk of the Peace and in like manner be certified in the ensuing morning at the end thereof; and in case of particular patrol in a neighbourhood the Constables shall endeavour to obtain the certificate of some one or more residents of their being active and moving about at certain hours of the night. These certificates shall be entered in their pocketbooks in the handwriting of the party certifying. The patrols shall as far as possible be performed by not less than two Constables together but this not to be understood as applying to night-watching.

The Force shall be clothed and equipped as follows at the expense of the County -

First Year

One Great coat
One oilskin cape
Two pairs of trousers
Two pairs of boots
One hat
One stock

Alternate Year

One uniform coat
One pair trousers
Two pair of boots
One hat.

Great coats to be of dark grey cloth with uniform buttons and numbers embroidered on the collar.

Coat dark blue single breasted Prussian collar with numbers embroidered in white from 1 upwards not including the Inspectors, no pocket flaps, pockets inside, white uniform buttons. The Sub-Inspectors to have a broad chevron of white lace with a blue stripe above the cuff of the right arm.

The Inspectors coats to be a button only on the collar and two buttons on each sleeve.

The Superintendent who furnishes his own uniform will have it made to the same pattern with four buttons on each sleeve.

Trousers Oxford mixture.

Hat pattern of Metropolitan Police.

It is to be understood that the uniform clothing furnished is the property of the County.

Each member of the Force to be furnished with a cutlass and belt which shall be worn during night patrols or on special dangerous service; also with a baton, a pair of

handcuffs, a Printed order book and a pocket memorandum book and pencil, and a copy of an approved summary of the powers and duties of Constables.

An Inspection shall be made every month, in such manner as the Superintendent may arrange whether by himself or subordinates of all articles in each members use and charge and a monthly report as per form No. 1 shall be given to the Committee.

The Superintendent will report to the Sheriff weekly or more frequently in such forms as that Magistrate may direct.

The Superintendent will on the first Thursday of each month lay before the Committee a report detailing the operations of the Force during the receding month, all occurrences of a public nature which have come under his cognisance and other information regarding the peace of the County from which reports the Committee will prepare their reports to Quarter Sessions.

In like manner, all abstracts and returns in respect to the expenses of the Establishment shall be laid monthly by the Superintendent before the Committee.

The Superintendent will either himself attend or cause an Inspector to attend Quarter Sessions and will cause a Sub-Inspector or Constable to attend all Courts of Petty Sessions and at all General County Meetings one or more Constables to be placed under the orders of the Bar Officer.

The Superintendent will supply such attendance to the Sheriff Court as the Sheriff may direct.

By 1842, the Committee decided to apply to the Commissioners of Supply to lease houses and fit them up with Strong Rooms at the following stations:- Leslie, St. Clair-Town, Auchtermuchty, Colinsburgh, Torryburn and Lochgelly. They also requested that vagrants brought by the Police to be passed out of the County on the Tay Ferry and Fife and Midlothian Ferry, be allowed passage free of charge.

A Superannuation Fund was set up, membership of which was obligatory for every member, each man paying a subscription of one day's pay per calendar month. The Committee also recommended that at least £3 of each man's pay be retained in hand, instead of £1, as security for good behaviour. If a man was dismissed for misconduct any arrears of pay due, would be forfeited.

In March, 1844, the coast Burghs offered £40 for the services of the constabulary, and the Committee agreed to same, and to an additional Constable being recruited for the East Neuk. At this time Dysart also applied to have the benefits of the County Police, the town paying £12 towards his expenses.

The cost of fitting up lock-up cells in Crail (probably attached to the Constable's house), was about £18. Annual rent for a house and garden for a Constable averaged £6. Some officers had a reduction in their rent on condition that they kept the cells clean.

Small towns seem to have been hard pressed to pay their dues towards the upkeep of a resident Constable and seem to be forever cancelling their agreement with the Police Committee, then some months later when crime, breaches of the peace and disturbances had increased, requesting the return of the Constable. Kinghorn is an example of this. The Committee decided not to renew the agreement but they asked Superintendent Adamson to give more protection to the town. This added attention was brought about by the man at Kirkton (Burntisland) being advised to give more attention to Kinghorn. This had the predictable outcome of the Provost of Burntisland complaining about Kirkton being neglected to the benefit of Kinghorn.

Local gentry were able to apply to the Police Committee for the services of a Constable. Captain Wemyss offered to pay the expenses of a Policeman to be stationed at East Wemyss, and stated if his application were granted, the Committee were to ascertain that the prospective Constable "be a clever fellow". Mr. Balfour of Balbirnie, Markinch, also offered to bear the expense of fitting up a house for a lock-up and Constable's lodging at Markinch.

Places of employment were also able to apply to pay part of the expenses of a Constable. The Proprietor of the Forth Iron Works, was told he could have a Constable stationed at Carnock, providing he paid £20 annually, however as he could only pay £10 he did not get an officer.

To encourage enlisting a superior class of men, the Committee started at the end of 1845 to pay an extra 1/-d. per week to the Beat Constables. At this time Kirkcaldy joined the County Constabulary, and an Inspector and Constable were stationed there. The Provost of Kirkcaldy suggested the Burgh should have another Constable and this request was granted.

Superintendent Adamson was advised to make arrangements to remove the Police Horse from Dunfermline to Kirkcaldy in consequence of Kirkcaldy Burgh having joined the County for Police purposes.

The railway was going through Kirkcaldy District at that time and it was felt that the Inspector's duties had become more responsible for fatiguing than they formerly were, and a horse was essential for him.

In November, 1846 wage increases were made. Twenty-eight men were to have 1/-d. per week, 2 men 1/9d., 1 Sergeant 2/-d., 1 Inspector 4/-d. and another Inspector 2/-d. Wages were to be paid fortnightly instead of monthly.

The Superannuation Fund came under discussion in January, 1848. It was agreed that the idea was excellent if the men were employed in the Force for many years, but in the short period of the Forces existence, the personnel had been renewed four times. Six men had served for six years, 26 men for less than 2 years and 17 for less than 1 year. These continual changes were deplored by the Committee. Efficiency was diminished by many of the Constables being new and unacquainted with their duties. High wages were being paid to labourers employed in building the railways, and this proved an enticement to the Constables. To counteract this it was suggested that stoppages for the mens' pay be discontinued, and the remaining individuals should

have repayment made to them of all sums paid by them into the Superannuation Fund, plus accrued interest on same. The money left over after this repayment (£486.8/3¼d.) was to be left in the hands of Trustees, as the foundation of a reward and compensation fund. These plans were passed by the Quarter Sessions.

From time to time expenses were incurred in regard to the setting up of lock-ups which were added to existing Police houses. Repairs were also required from time to time. For example in 1848 the lock-up at Crail was damaged by a Michael Milligan who was in custody on a charge of Breach of the Peace. Superintendent Adamson was authorised to prosecute Milligan to recover the expense of the repairs.

Care had to be taken with the provision of lock-ups to ensure that the accommodation came up to a certain standard to appease the Prisons Board who carried out annual inspections. The Inspector of Poor at Pittenweem, representing the Board of Health reported on the unhealthy state of the lock-up there. After inspection, Superintendent Adamson estimated the cost of repairs necessary to be £14, but as the Burgh of Anstruther was contemplating the construction of a lock-up there, it was decided to have the repair held over until the position was clarified.

Complaints against the Police were not unknown even in those days. A person calling himself Townsend was detained in custody for some undisclosed reason and the matter was brought to the notice of the Sheriff. He ordered that the Sheriff Substitute Mr. Douglas precognosce the persons concerned. After hearing the Superintendent and considering the matter fully the Sheriff felt it his duty to reprimand Superintendent Adamson and fined him 3 guineas. Delay in disposing of the matter was to afford time to the party alleged to have been aggrieved to come forward and make his complaint, but he failed to do so. The Police Committee agreed with the view taken by the Sheriff as well as his finding.

In October, 1849, a letter was received from the Clerk to the Sanitary Committee of the Parochial Board in Dunfermline, stating that they wished to have an extra Police Constable to assist in carrying into effect sanitary measures of that board. The Police stated that as the appointment for officers for sanitary purposes came under the jurisdiction of the Parochial Board, the chief object of the letter was to have appointed a person with the character and costume of a Police Constable without the expense falling on the Parochial Board. They therefore recommended that the individual chosen for the post, be given the status of a Constable, and if the Board had difficulty in selecting someone for the office, the Police Superintendent would assist them. The Committee granted the use of Police Clothing for the person appointed, but made it clear that all other expenses was to be borne by the Parochial Board.

A letter was received from the Police Committee of Ross-shire in March, 1853, containing a Resolution to apply to Parliament for the purpose of having the Rural Police Forces of the Counties of Scotland placed on the footing of a National Force under control and expense of the Government.

A report was made by a special Sub Committee appointed by the Fife Police Committee to look into the matter. This report had several points:-

- (1) That it was desirable to have a uniform system of Police, but that it would not benefit Fife, as their Force was equal to any in efficiency.
- (2) It would increase efficiency to have a Police H.Q., in a populous city, where the Constable could be trained in one system, then sent to the various localities for permanent duty, but the expenses would be much greater.
- (3) The Committee failed to see how a generalised system would work, unless the Chief and other officers, were permanently resident, and responsible to the County Authorities alone.
- (4) The case of Ireland is quite peculiar. It should be considered as one large County.
- (5) Scotland ought to have the advantage of England in that where ever there was an Establishment of regular Police, half the cost should be chargeable on the consolidated Fund. If a National Force was established, then payment be made entirely from that fund.
- (6) An important consideration in favour of a National Police Force would be, that it could afford the means of a Superannuation Fund, and thus encourage recruitment of men of high qualifications.

The report closed with the statement:-

"There is no call for this County taking any active steps. When these Counties which have hitherto been without Police, feel their wants more for a general measure, then we may interfere."

These, then were the events which led up to and occurred in, the first years after the inauguration of a Police Force as we know it today. Over the years, the number of Police Stations in the County have varied, usually between seventy and eighty, and in the following chapters we will try to trace the law enforcing agents in each area.

CUPAR DISTRICT

ROYAL BURGH OF CUPAR -

In 1356, Cupar became a Royal Burgh and the saying "He that will tae Cupar maun tae Cupar," reminds us that it is also the County Town. It is here that the Thaners of Fife (Thane being a holder of lands by virtue of military service, and ranking between nobility and freeman) held their Courts of Justice from the earliest times. The First Statistical Account of Scotland tells of a Chartulary of the monks of Dunfermline in 1239, stating that of the fines imposed in the Court at Cupar, 1/8th portion was to be given to the monastery. It is recorded that the town possessed a tolbooth in 1441, and in a map of Cupar drawn by Reverend J. Gordon, Rothiemay, 1642, the "Tollbuith" is shown as being close to where the Cross is now. This building consisted of two flats above ground, the upper storey being the Debtors Prison and the ground floor being the Weigh House, Below ground level was the "Iron House", where the criminals were incarcerated.

It was a dark, damp, vaulted dungeon, built entirely of stone, with a small aperture to admit what little light as could penetrate. There was no fireplace, and the only means of ventilation was a slit in the wall, 30" x 2", and even this was reduced in size by a heavy iron bar. Prisoners were often held there for several months as the High Court for the County was held at Perth in the Spring and Autumn. How anyone could endure the rigours of a severe Winter in the place is beyond comprehension. This was of course, the public jail of the County of Fife, but the upkeep of it and the persons held prisoner was by the town of Cupar itself, without aid from the rest of the County.

The Debtors fared rather better, in that their room was above ground, and reasonably well-lit. Food was very scarce, and often a small bag was lowered on a piece of string, in the hope that some passer-by would place a little food in it, or even some tobacco, and thus provide some sustenance for the prisoners.

The County Room was situated within the Tolbooth and, in 1779, an Architect inspected this room which was ruinous. Repairs were to cost £300, and so the County was assessed 10/- Scots on each £100 Scots of value rent. Just essential repairs were done, and in 1786 the Correction House, which appears to have been a separate establishment, was sold for £48 and this money was used to rebuild the east gable of the County Room. About this time, a Ballroom was built, adjoining the Town House, and paid for by the Gentlemen of the County. A Tearoom and other apartments were added at a later date.

The Magistrates of Cupar in the Eighteenth Century comprised a Provost, three Bailies, a Dean of Guild, fourteen Councillors, and eight Deacons who represented the Merchants of the town. There were also the three Town Officers. In 1810, a proposal was made to open a new wide street (St. Catherine's Street), the building of the south side of which would necessitate the removal of the County Rooms and Tolbooth and alteration to the course of the River Eden. This was to be done at no expense to the County but the necessary permission had to be obtained and this was freely given.

The new County Building and Town Hall were erected about 1816. In 1837, the Commissioners of Supply purchased the Tontine Hotel which belonged to the members of the Fife Hunt, along with other various properties, and adapted them to form suitable buildings for the Courts, conducting the public business of Fife, and for safe custody of the records of the County. When these buildings were finished, the Commissioners were highly pleased in every respect, and thought the accommodation provided was equal if not superior to similar establishments in Scotland.

Cupar employed a town officer, a drummer and a jailer. James Fernie was town officer for many years during the late eighteenth century and early part of the nineteenth but, by 1811, the Town Council decided that he was old and infirm and no longer able to attend to his duties. The Council decided that William Henderson, the Town Drummer, take over Fernie's duties as well and because Henderson drew considerable emoluments, he should perform these duties gratis thus allowing Fernie to continue his salary in view of his long services to the Town.

James Loudon, the jailer, was dismissed in 1813 for "improper conduct", and Robert Gowans was appointed interim jailer until such times as a permanent man could be employed. The jailer received £10 sterling per year, and his duties included attending to the Police (public order) of the Burgh, and particularly to the keeping of vagrants and beggars from the Town. John Brand, a weaver in Cupar, applied for and was given the post. By 1824 however, Brand was described as old and infirm, and even with the assistance of his wife, could not attend to his duties, and so the position was to be advertised. He must have continued as jailer because a year later, Brand, along with William Henderson and Robert Gowans, were reported as being inefficient and unable to perform their duties, and were therefore ordered to retire. The men were to be paid their wages during the Council's pleasure.

Advertisements were prepared, asking for "three efficient and stout men", one to act as jailer for £10 per annum, another as drummer for £5 per annum, and the third to post all handbills, for £10 yearly. The financial state of the Burgh was rather poor at this time and it was suggested that the Guildry and Trades appoint officers at their own expense and that they should wear red uniforms instead of blue, however this suggestion was waived and James Christie, who had been keeper of the Lock-up house in Edinburgh, was appointed Jailer and Town officer. Robert Inglis, who resided in Kirkcaldy, was to be a Town Officer and Drummer, and Geoffrey Goddard of Dundee Police, was to be the third officer. James Christie resigned after only one month, and Robert Inglis took his place.

In October of 1827, the Magistrates and Mr. Sheriff Clephane discussed and carried into effect the suggestion that Geoffrey Goddard, Town Officer, should officiate as Constable for the Burgh of Cupar. This man was eventually appointed and thus became the first official Policemen to take up duty in this Burgh. He was allowed £10 sterling annually and was ordered not to leave the Burgh when on duty. He was at all times at the command of the Magistrates. A house was provided for Goddard in property which was owned by the Town and situated in the Bonnygate.

John Kennedy, from the Police Establishment in Dundee, was appointed Town Officer and Drummer in 1829. He was given a house at the Gaol (where Watt,

Seedsman, is now) £10 a year, a drum and clothing. Also in this year, a Cupar resident, William Morrison became a Town officer, but he only received £2 a year as he was Interim Guildry Officer.

When the Vagrancy Police commenced in 1833, the Superintendent John Loney was stationed in Cupar, as was the Deputy Superintendent Alexander Seath. The former received a salary of £40 a year, and Seath received £25.

When the regular Police Force was instigated in 1840, Cupar declined to join with the County, but ten years later the Magistrates applied to take advantage of the County offer, and gave £30 for the services of a Constable for a year. At the end of this year the Burgh decided half the time of a Constable would suffice, and so the service was continued for another year.

Cupar Magistrates decided in 1858 that the Town should have a Superintendent of Police. They asked the advice of Superintendent Adamson of the County Constabulary. He recommended Mr Thomas Simpson, who was formerly connected with the Police but was at that time, railway agent at Ladybank. Mr. Simpson wrote to the Magistrates of Cupar, applying for the vacancy, and suggesting a salary of £60, with free dwellinghouse of £5 allowance for rent. He pointed out that he had a large family and could not therefore consider the post if the salary was less than he anticipated. The Magistrates decided that this was a satisfactory arrangement and from 22nd February, 1858, Thomas Simpson was appointed Superintendent of Police and Watchman. He was paid monthly, and was allowed an extra £5 per year for rent. John Thomson was to be Police Officer and Watchman with a salary of £15 per annum besides his other public emoluments. John Lumsden, who was Superintendent of Cleaning, was to act as an additional officer of Police and Watchman within the Burgh.

The following year, John Thomson took over the Railway Tavern in Cupar and was told he must resign from his post as Constable and Town Officer or give up the Tavern. He chose the former alternative and so his job was advertised. Fourteen men applied, and a short list of three were interviewed. All were Constables in the County Force, Oliver Howie, Birkhill; Robert Green, Cupar, and Thomas Hepburn, Kirkcaldy. The last-named was appointed at a salary of £15 p.a. paid quarterly, with a suit of clothes provided annually, plus the privilege of the Town Drum and bill sticking.

Some of the entries in the records are rather quaint. For example in May, 1860, Mr. Lumsden, Superintendent of Scavengers and Inspector of Nuisances stated he had not got a horse for the Police cart, but had one on loan. A month later the Police Commissioners of the Burgh bought a horse and harness for £14. This appears to have been a bad buy as a year later, another horse had to be procured as the original one was "quite done". After five years the new horse was "much worn out", but the advice of a Veterinary Surgeon was sought before purchasing a new one.

By February, 1862, agreement was reached to consolidate the Burgh Force with that of the County. A report of 1868 shows the length of time the Constables were expected to be on duty and makes an interesting comparison with the present day. There were two Constables stationed in the Burgh, which was divided into two beats,

the east and the west and which were taken alternately weekly. On week days the officers were on duty from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 1.45 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and from 5.45 p.m. till midnight or later, especially on Saturdays when it was often 2 a.m. or later till the men finished work. If the reserve man at Headquarters was not otherwise engaged, he relieved the Burgh men on alternate nights from 9 p.m. onwards. On Sundays, one man was allowed off alternately, and the officer on duty worked from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., then from 6.30 p.m. till 9.30 p.m. or later. The average hours worked were 13 hours on week-days, 15 hours on Saturdays and 10 hours on Sundays, a total of 90 hours per week.

Police accommodation at Cupar varied over the years, although remaining within the County Buildings. In 1879, a room on the upper flat of these buildings was used for the detention of prisoners awaiting trial and part of this room was partitioned off to form a store. The Police Orderly room was the site of a stove for heating the building. Lack of proper Police cells was becoming a problem, and so in 1885, alterations were made to the basement, the cost being shared by the Police Committee, Fife Courthouse Commissioners, and the Commissioners of Supply. These cells were situated where the Tolbooth Restaurant is now, and which is used as a dining-room on special occasions by County Officials. Some of the later cells are still insitu and are used as stores. In an effort to increase accommodation for the Police in 1902, the Armoury and a Store-room were made into a new Orderly Room. A front office became the Chief Constable's Clerking Room, and the Chief Constable's office was given to the Inspector. A telephone-communication system was in use between the Police Rooms. Four years later, a man who had been assaulted and robbed on the highway near Cupar during the night, complained that he had experienced great difficulty in finding the Police Station, and so the words "Police Office" were inscribed in a window of one of the rooms, and a bell marked "Police" was provided, which connected to the room of the Constable in charge. A lamp was fitted to the front of the County Buildings indicating the position of the Police premises.

A Sergeant's house, Charge Room, and four Police cells were built in 1925, immediately south of the County Buildings, and this property were later utilised by the Regional Council. These premises served as a Divisional Headquarters for Cupar District.

In 1938, extensions were carried out at the eastern end of the County Buildings, and these premises served as Police Headquarters for the County of Fife until shortly after 1949 when the amalgamation of Fife County, Kirkcaldy Burgh and Dunfermline City Police, took place and Headquarters was then moved to Kirkcaldy. The former headquarters premises at Cupar were then used as a Divisional Station for Cupar District until 1962, when a new Divisional H.Q. was officially opened on 30th March, by Lord Craigton. The siting of this new edifice is Rathcluan, on the north side of Carslogie Road, which enters the town from the west. The building presents a pleasing and spacious image, a very far cry from the miserable "Tolbuith" which was demolished 150 years earlier.

ROYAL BURGH OF AUCHTERMUCHTY

On 25th May 1517 Auchtermuchty received a Charter from King James V making the Town into a Royal Burgh, but it was never represented in Parliament or in the Convention of Royal Burghs.

The Town House which has a square central tower, flanked on each side by two storey buildings, is dated 1728. From 1601, three Baillies were chosen annually to Michaelmas, along with 15 councillors, three of whom held the positions of clerk, treasurer and fiscal, with officers and Dempsters. Proclamation for Council meetings was made through the Burgh by tuck of drum on the preceding day by the Town Officer.

In 1822, John Stark, his son James, and Thomas Donaldson were appointed Town Officers for the ensuing year, and were given their oaths. The Town was in dire financial straits at this time, and much of the Town property was put up for sale, but a special petition was prepared to prevent the sale of the jail and this was successful, as the Townhouse, jail and bell were ordered to be struck out of the warrant sale.

Some of the Burgh residents were summoned each year to be sworn in as Constables (the equivalent of present day Special Constables), "for the preservation of the good order, and police of the same". Occasionally some of those residents failed to attend, and if this happened they could be fined £10 Scots, and if they failed to pay, were liable to prosecution.

The Town was reduced to one Officer for a time in 1827, as James Stark had left the Town and Thomas Donaldson was totally unfit for duty. The Magistrates decided that when a proclamation was made, it was to be done by the Officers in uniform dress, one of whom carried a halbert.

Auchtermuchty had a Vagrancy Policemen in the Town, resident and stationed from 1834 onwards. His name was George Stark. When the Burgh was given the chance to join with the County for Police purposes in 1840, the Magistrates declined. The County Sergeant Alexander Mackie, wife Barbara and three of a family resided in the Town and he was in charge of the County Police in this District until the early 1850's when he was moved to Dunshelt. The Sergeant station was later moved to Trafalgar for better coverage. When the Council did unite with the County in 1857, alterations were made to part of the Townhouse to accommodate the Constable. He was given one room, measuring 14½' x 9½' with a closet entering off it 11' x 6', and having a window looking to the back of the property. This closet could also be entered from the passage leading from the front door to the cells. The house was damp, and there was no washing-house, privy, ash-pit or coal cellar. A small enclosed piece of ground at the back of the cells was used for these purposes, entrance to which was by a passage leading from the street, 10 yards down from the Constable's house. There were two cells which were damp, cold, low-roofed, and badly lit and ventilated. From this description it will be obvious that the Station was far from popular among the Policemen.

In 1871, the Constable William Crombie, his wife Annie, and son, were moved from the afore-mentioned house to one in Cupar Road, and subsequently property in Station Road, adjoining the Cupar and District Infectious Diseases Hospital became the Police Station. An office and cells were provided at this Station, but there was only a sitting-room and one bed-room, both very small, with a kitchen and scullery combined. The washing-house had no tubs and the boiler was not in working order. There was a W.C. in the house, but only pail closets in the cells. During an air-raid in 1940, this station was badly damaged, and the Sergeant moved into St. Stephen Manse on a temporary lease. Plans were made to build a new station but due to war-time restrictions, these had to be shelved and repairs were carried out to the old building. This then remained in use until 1955, when a new office and two dwellinghouses were opened.

BIRKHILL

Birkhill is an estate belonging to the Scrymgeour-Wedderburn family, in the north of Fife, lying close to the River Tay between Balmerino and Flisk. A Constable Alexander Robertson, was stationed here at Muirden in the 1850s in what was a one-roomed house. As this officer had five children conditions must have been cramped, to say the least of it, but in 1864, another house was obtained at Corbiehill, which lies just to the east of Hazelton Walls. Alterations and improvements were made to this house in 1880 and 1895, the rent being raised by £1 per annum each time, so that in 1895 it cost £5 a year for rent. This beat was very much a rural one, the Constable's duties mainly concerned with the farms and large houses in the area.

In 1935 it was thought no longer feasible to have a Police Station here and Mr. Savi, the Chief Constable, suggested moving the officer to Rathillet, however this was postponed because of possible developments in the area if the plans for a proposed Tay Road Bridge were to go ahead. With the advent of the Second World War, these plans were shelved, but a Constable remained at Birkhill until the 1950s, when the area was covered by a Constable from Cupar on a motor cycle.

CERES

Ceres was erected a Burgh of Barony under the Hopes of Craighall in 1620. The Tolbooth of Ceres still stands adjoining the Weigh House, which is now having a renewed life as the Fife Folk Museum. The original dungeon can still be viewed, complete with "prisoner", whilst outside the door, the "jougs" hang, and a carved stone above the entrance tells us "God Bless the Just".

A Constable was stationed at Ceres in 1858, but it is not known where the Police Station was situated at this time. It is merely described as a two-roomed house in the Town of Ceres, and was occupied by a P.C. John Greig and his wife, Martha, in 1861. It was in use until 1870, when the lease of a house was procured in St. Andrews Road. Sixty-five years later this house, was in a great state of disrepair. There were four rooms, with a dilapidated dry privy at the bottom of the garden which the P.C. had built himself. The water supply was from a pump well. (This house is now obviously modernised, and is named 'Clarewood'). New premises were sought, and eventually property at No. 2 Anstruther Road was purchased in 1937. This house was in a row of terraced dwellings, and there was no access to the rear, other than through the house itself, all coal, garden manure etc., had to be carried through the living quarters.

A new Police Office and dwellinghouse was erected in Main Street, Ceres, in 1964.

ROYAL BURGH OF FALKLAND

Falkland, a village nestling at the foot of the north side of the East Lomond, was a favourite haunt of the Stuart Kings. It was originally a Burgh of Barony under the Earls of Fife, (the Clan Macduff), but in 1458, received a Charter from King James II making it a Royal Burgh, 'the most Royal of Royal Burghs' it is said, because it received this honour for the convenience and pleasure of the Royal Household. The Charter was re-newed by King James VI in 1595.

The village is dominated by the Royal Palace, the building of which commenced in the early fifteenth century, and replaced the old Castle of Falkland. It is said that the Castle Tower was used as a State Prison for many years.

The Keeper or Constable of the Royal Palace had the authority to administer justice to miscreants within the Palace boundaries. The Gatehouse of the Palace contained the guardroom, the prison being below ground level, the only entrance to which was by means of a narrow opening which also served to admit what light and air could penetrate. Falkland Palace has to this day a Hereditary Constable, Captain and Keeper.

The Magistrates of the Burgh in the 18th century comprised three bailies and fifteen councillors, one of those being clerk, and another a treasurer.

The present Townhouse of the Burgh was built in 1801, on the site of the original one. The Town Hall and Chambers were in the upper storey with the lower flat being used as a prison or lock-up. A Vagrancy Policeman was employed in Falkland, named Hugh Robertson, who had a salary of £23.10/-d. per year. When the County Police Force came into being in 1840 Falkland did not participate but eventually joined in 1858. At this time the Burgh/Sheriff Officer, John Kilgour, resided at Back Wynd and Alexander Clark was the Police Constable residing at East Port. This house seems to have been in use until 1886 when Mr. Tyndall Bruce leased a house at Mill Yard, Falkland for a rent of £8 per annum. Two cells and an office were added to the rear of this building which comprised two storeys, containing four rooms, with a W.C. for this household which was situated in, and opened off, the Police Office. The Mill Yard house which is still in use as a modern private dwellinghouse, ceased to be a Police Station in 1939. Another house was purchased by the Police Authority at the Pleasance, near to the 'Pleasance Garage'. This house remained in use for twenty years, when a new office and house was built nearby.

FREUCHIE

Freuchie is thought to have been a dormitory village for some of the servants of Falkland Palace. It was also considered a place of punishment for those who fell into dis-favour at the Palace, and even today, some Fifers use the term "Gae to Freuchie" when disgusted by the actions of someone.

It is uncertain when a Constable was first stationed here, but in 1891 a two roomed house in Main Street was occupied by John Annand, Police Constable, with his wife Jane and three children. This house is described in 1935 as comprising two rooms with an attic used for sleeping quarters, access to which was by a ladder. The height of this attic was only 5' 4". An outbuilding behind the house served as a scullery and contained a sink and boiler. Part of this structure was partitioned off with wood-boarding to form a W.C.

Application was made to the Fife County Council for the rent of a council house, and from 1942 to 1959 a house at 9 Queen Crescent was occupied as a Police Station. The tenancy of this house was given up in 1959, after the erection of a house and office at the entrance to Queen Street.

KENNOWAY

Kennoway, appears in 1448, to have come under the Barony of Blackhall Castle, which was the home of the Seton family. Gallowhill at Baintown was the site of the instrument of final retribution in this era. The village is recorded as a Burgh of Barony in 1663, possible under Preston of Airdrie. The Reverend Mr. Patrick Wright wrote in 1793 that no one belonging to the Parish had been punished for any crime, or been imprisoned, during the previous 20 years.

A year after the County Constabulary came into being, the Markinch Constable was moved to Kennoway, but he was not resident there for long, as in 1843, the inhabitants of the village petitioned for the services of a Policeman. This was not granted, and so in 1867, they again applied. Although not immediately successful, a man was eventually stationed there. Prior to this, the Leven and Markinch Constables were responsible for the village, Leven being two miles south-east of Kennoway and Markinch 2 miles west.

In 1891 the Constable, Francis Page, lived in a single storey dwellinghouse in New Road, which was used as a Police Station, but later a double storey house nearby became the Constable's house. These two properties are still in existence and are located on the west side of New Road, approximately 200 yards north of its junction with the south end of the Causeway. The houses are on the south and north side of the lane leading to Causeway, Kennoway Den and Spa Bridge.

In 1930, the Policeman moved to a new house in Denhead. This house is situated near to the Roadmen's houses and adjoining the footpath leading to the Cardie Well in Kennoway Den, and remained in use as a Police Station until 1951.

In 1948 the transfer of miners from the West of Scotland was taking place, and the villages of Woodside and Kennoway were chosen to become the new towns to house the incomers. From Woodside grew the Town of Glenrothes, but the development at Kennoway was more restricted though large enough to increase the local Police complement from one Constable to a Sergeant and four Constables.

In 1951, the Sergeant's house at 39, Castle Terrace, became the Police Station, one of his spare bedrooms being used as an office and later a wooden hut was erected in the garden for use as an office. The hut measured approximately 10' x 6' x 6', and was very handy for the Constable as he could sit on a seat at the desk and reach any part of the premise without moving! It was heated with a 'Valor' paraffin stove, and it was often hinted jokingly by the public, that the Policemen looked more like "kippered herring" after being in the premises for some time. This remained in use until two dwellinghouses and an office were opened in Leven Road in 1957. The former Police Office had been tucked away in a remote part of the housing scheme, but with the new office being much more centrally positioned, the number of callers increased greatly, sometimes making the Policemen think that it had been too conveniently placed.

KINGSKETTLE/LADYBANK

The Earls of Fife were once the owners of Kettle, but after forfeiture, this became the property of the Crown. In a Charter of 1541 the village was given the prefix 'Kings' although the Parish is still named Kettle.

In 1845 a house was rented in a village and fitted with a lock-up. A local builder examined the adjoining property in 1865 and reported that due to the state of this building the occupants of the Police Station were in danger, so when Mr. Arnot of Chapel offered the temporary use of a house in Kettlebridge to the Police Committee, they accepted. Eight months later, the Policemen, John Melvin transferred to a house and strong-rooms leased from Andrew Danskin, Farmer, Kennoway. This house in Kettlebridge remained in use until 1888. At this time the population was increasing, as was the railway traffic at Ladybank Junction. The Chief Constable suggested moving the officer to Ladybank, and this was agreed to by the Police Committee. This action was not approved of by the inhabitants of Kingskettle and district however, and on several occasions between 1888 and 1898, they petitioned to have a resident Constable again. In order to relieve the Ladybank officer of part of his beat which was a large one, a man was once more stationed at Kingskettle in the Autumn of 1889. This house was situated at No. 1 Ladybank Road, and had three rooms with a W.C. located in the scullery. Access to the W.C. could only be gained by passing through a press. In 1942, a Council house was rented for the Policeman at 1 Crown Square, but this was given up in 1960 when he was transferred to a rented house in Ladybank.

LADYBANK:-

In 1889, a house in Kinloch Street, standing immediately west of the Auction Rooms, was altered to include an office and two cells. These premises were in use until 1963, when a new office and two dwellinghouses were opened at Hill Street.

LETHAM/MONIMAIL

Letham is the largest village in the Parish of Monimail. In the Reverend W. McGraw's book on the 'History of Monimail', he tells of the Letham Village Committee which was instigated by Earl Alexander of Melville House in 1815. The Committee appear to have functioned like a Town Council, as they termed themselves Baillies and Magistrates, and had a Town Clerk and Town Officer. Their main duties were with maintaining good water supplies and general cleanliness of the village but small complaints were also dealt with. One James Muir served as Town Officer for 69 years. Any serious crimes or offences at this time, occurring in this area, would be dealt with from Cupar by the Sheriff Substitute as shown on the Murder of James Millie at Whinnypark Cottage, in 1830 - See Chapter on Serious Crimes. This Committee was finally disbanded in 1952.

A Police Constable was stationed here in the early 1900s. Prior to this, the village was attended to by the Monimail Officer. This house was situated in The Row, Letham and contained two rooms with a wooden lean-to at the back for use as a wash-house and coal store. There was a wooden privy in the garden. In 1936/37 the Constable moved into temporary accommodation and the old house was modernised and fitted with a bathroom and water supply. It remained in use until 1962, when a new house and office were built on the south side of the road leading to the village, near its junction with the A.92.

MONIMAIL:-

Monimail was a Burgh of Barony under the Archbishop of St. Andrews. The village stood at the junction of the Stirling/St. Andrew road, and the Perth/Cupar road, but in more modern times these roads by-passed Monimail and it is now a quiet country back-water.

William Todd, Police Constable No. 1, Fife Constabulary, who retired about 1913, after 34 years Police service, was stationed at Monimail for most of his time in the Police.

A request was made in 1899 to have the officer in Monimail moved to Collessie as this would be a more central position but, as rooms were unobtainable there, the Constable remained in this lodgings at Monimail, near to the Kirkyard. After P.C. Todd retired from the service, a house was rented in Letham for the incoming P.C.

MILTON OF BALGONIE

Alexander Leslie was created Earl of Leven and Lord Balgonie in 1641 and took over Balgonie Castle making considerable additions and turning it into a baronial mansion. Being 'Lord of the Manor' Leslie would probably deal with all small crimes and offences which occurred on his estates, as beholding his position. The original square keep is still standing however and is now being restored by the present owner.

In 1824, the Barony of Balgonie was sold to James Balfour, Esq of Whittingham, probably one of the forbears of the Balfours of Balbirnie Estate, some of whom later served on the County Council, Commissioners of Supply and Police Commissioners Committees.

Balgonie Castle is situated on the south side of the River Leven, equi-distant between the villages of Milton and Coaltown of Balgonie and Markinch. These villages were in 1833 onwards, patrolled by the Vagrancy Policeman, Reid Anderson, who was based at Markinch.

In the more modern times law and order in these places were under the care of the Markinch and Thornton Constables, but in 1908 a complaint was received from Mr. Neil Ballingal, Factor of Balbirnie Estate, Markinch, pointing out the increased lawlessness in the inhabitants of Milton of Balgonie. Numerous cases of wilful destruction of property had taken place and the estate servants of Balgonie had been annoyed and threatened with violence in the execution of their duties. Some miners from Milton had concocted a scheme to involve the Markinch Constable in a brawl, and then assault him. This plan was only partly successful, as the District Sanitary Inspector had come to the aid of the Constable. The principal offenders were tried at Markinch Police Court and were severely punished.

The fore-going incident, along with others, convinced the Police Committee of the need to have a Policeman stationed at Milton, with responsibility for Coaltown. The Constable stayed at 27 Main Street until 1949 when the Police were given tenancy of a new Council house at 12 Balfour Place. The Constable was moved from Milton in 1960, when the new Police Station was opened at Windygates and the former was covered from there.

ROYAL BURGH OF NEWBURGH

Despite its name, Newburgh is an ancient Burgh which owes its foundations to the Benedictine Monastery of Lindores, which was founded in 1191. Alexander III granted a Charter in 1266, erecting the Town into a Burgh of Barony under the Abbot of Lindores. In the early sixteenth century, King James IV formed the lands and possessions of the Abbey into a Burgh of Regality, the Abbot appointing David Barclay of Collearnie to act in his stead as Judge. Finally, in 1631, the Town became a Royal Burgh by Charles I.

In the 12th century, Burgesses of this Town had various rights one of which was to order the right of combat for the settlement of disputes. If a man did not want to bring a case before a Court, he could ask that the dispute be settled by a combat between himself and the complainer. The Burgesses were quite in agreement to this state of affairs, assuming that righteousness would prevail and God be champion of the innocent.

Courts were held every two weeks for the administration of Justice and Civil Matters. Three Head Courts were convened annually. If the Burgesses did not attend these Court heavy penalties were inflicted upon them. These three Head Courts in the Burgh were under the power of the Abbot of Lindores Abbey. The cases heard in these Courts were for example - Bludewyt (an offence to the effusion of blood), and Stokisdynt (a stroke with a baton or stick).

The Burgh Court in the 15th century in Newburgh was held in the Chapel of St. Katherine. King James I in 1426, ordained in an Act of Parliament that the Serjeands or Sergeants (Burgh Officers) in a Regality were to carry a wand at least three quarters a yard long, one end red and the other white. A Serjeand in a Barony carried a white wand one ell long. The Burgh Officers wand was all red. If the officer did not carry his wand of office in the Burgh he was fined eight shillings.

Charles II laid down in 1661 an Act of Parliament listing fines for those found guilty of cursing and swearing:- £20 on a nobleman; 20 merks on a Baron, 10 merks on a gentleman, heritor or burgess, 40/- on a yeoman, 20/- on a servant, and if the miscreant be a minister, the fifth part of this stipend was confiscated. If a magistrate refused to enforce this law he stood to be fined £100 Scots, which was put to use of the poor of the local Parish.

David Spence, a member of the Vagrancy Police was stationed in Newburgh, with a salary of £23.10/-d. per year. Along with the other Royal Burghs, Newburgh was asked to join with the County for Police purposes in 1840, but the Town declined to do so. In June 1850 however, the Town Clerk of Newburgh wrote to the Police Committee requesting the services of a County Constable. The Burgh offered to pay £10 per year and also provide a house and cells situated in the Town House free for the Constable. The Committee agreed to these arrangements, but requested £15 a year to be paid instead of £10 and this the Magistrates would not agree to. Six months later the Chief Magistrate of the Town appeared before the Police Committee

requesting that their agreement be cancelled, as the Town now had an efficient Burgh Officer and this cancellation was accepted.

In 1858 Newburgh again declined to join with the County, preferring to have their own Police Establishment maintained by an assessment on the Burgh, but another year later found them requesting consolidation with the County. The Magistrates pointed out that a Constable already patrolled the harbour on the northside of the Town, and the Mount Pleasant District on the hill to the south, where the Railway Station was situated at that time. The coverage of these aforementioned places was probably carried out by P.C. Robert McKay of the County Police who was stationed at Glenburnie at this time, and resided there with his wife, Margaret and four children. It is not certain whether any implementation was made to the Magistrate's request, but in 1869, ten years later, another application was made by the Town Council to consolidate with the County. This was discussed and a decision made that the Town would pay £45 per year for a Constable. The Police Committee were to pay a rent of £5 per annum for the use of the two cells and house adjoining the Town House, providing those were put in order.

The H.M. Inspector wrote to the Chief Constable of Fife stating that to be properly efficient, Burgh Forces should have two Constables and that Newburgh should not be an exception to this. It was proposed that the Constable then stationed at Glenburnie be moved into Newburgh where he could assist the Newburgh Officer.

Mr. Bremner the Chief Constable inspected the policies at the Town House, which is in the centre of the Town on the south side of the High Street, and made several observations. The entrance to the house was from a lane running at right-angles to said street. There were three rooms all entering from one another, one being in use as an office. Two of the rooms were small, and one fairly large. All were dirty, both walls and ceilings, and the stone floors were in bad order. The house was poorly lit and ventilated and the chimney smoked badly. There was only one wall cupboard, and there was no washing-house, water closet, ash-pit, back-court, or garden attached. The house, being situated at the Town Hall, was obviously in a suitable central position in the Town, and was adjacent to the two cells. These were quite large. One was lit by an aperture in the north gable which fronted on to the High Street. The inner cell only had a space above the door, which admitted light from the adjoining room. Both cells were dirty, but were floored with wood and the locks were in fair order. With the accommodation for the Constable being in such poor condition, it was suggested that a house be rented and part of it converted into strongrooms. The Newburgh Magistrates were agreeable to this, but were having great difficulty in finding a suitable site or house. The situation becoming somewhat stalemate, the Police Committee realised they would not receive the government allowance for the Newburgh Constable until a proper agreement was reached with the Magistrates of the Town. They informed them that they would have to pay £60 per annum for the Constable's pay and clothing. On receipt of this ultimatum, Newburgh decided to change the Council Rooms into two cells and alter the dwellinghouse and existing cells into suitable accommodation. The alterations and re-decorations of the house were to cost £54, the Police Committee paying half of this account. A garden and ash-pit was to be rented for the use of the Constable. This agreement was eventually

signed in August, 1870 and by December, the premises were ready and the Constable stationed at Glenburnie, moved into Newburgh.

A rather odd situation came to light in April 1872 when the Magistrates of Newburgh used the Police Office as a venue for the trial of prisoners. Instructions were issued that this must not occur again, and the Constable was to ensure these instructions were adhered to.

Ten years later in 1882, Newburgh resolved to sever from the County in Police matters, however as the procedure with such an event had not been followed correctly the Police Committee resolved to take no action in the matter.

With the building of the Newburgh and North Fife Railway, in 1907, a Constable, David Glen was stationed in the vicinity of these workings. On 18th May, of that year, Glen left to cite a witness in Dundee for the Court. However, he saw this witness at Wormit and cited her there. As he was in plain clothes, he went on to Dundee. About 12.30 a.m. the following morning, the driver of an engine reported to the signalman at Dundee that he thought he had struck something on the Tay Bridge. A search ensued, and Constable Glen was found lying severely injured. He was taken to Dundee Infirmary where he died shortly afterwards. Glen had served 5 years in the Police.

In 1929, plans were made for a new station comprising two houses, containing kitchen, two rooms, scullery, larder, bathroom and coalhouse, also an office and two cells. This building was completed in 1931 at a cost of £1521.15/5d. The Town Council took over the old Police Station. This new property was located at Shorehead and remained in use until 1969, when two dwelling-houses and an office were built at Cupar Road.

SPRINGFIELD

Springfield is a village lying to the south-west of Cupar. Close-by is what was formerly the Fife and Kinross District Asylum, but which was fortunately in more informed and enlightened times, changed to Stratheden Hospital.

The inhabitants of Springfield petitioned for a resident Policeman in 1858, but this was refused and it continued to be covered by the Cupar County Police. A County Policeman was eventually stationed in this village, it is thought in 1875. The Constable's house was situated on the east side of Main Street. It was originally a two-roomed cottage, one of the rooms acting as an office. Water was available from a pump, 60 yards away. Oil lamps were used and there was a dry closet in the garden. This station was eventually sold by the Police Authority and is now a privately owned modernised dwellinghouse, numbered No. 26 Main Street.

In 1938 however, new premises were built in Station Road.

STRATHMIGLO

Strathmiglo was licensed as a Barony in 1509, under Sir William Scott (of Balwearie) but was eventually erected into a Burgh of Barony in 1600, under Sir James Scott, who was the last of the Balwearie family to hold the lands of Strathmiglo. About 1535, Thomas Scott built Cairneyflappet Castle, the name given to it by King James V, who was much amused by the hasty construction of the edifice. The Castle fell into ruin and the Burgesses of the town used the stones to build the tower and steeple of the Strathmiglo Tolbooth. The Townhouse itself was rebuilt during the last century and the lock-up for the town remained in the base of the tower.

Robert Bruce, a member of the Vagrancy Police, was stationed in Strathmiglo with a salary of £23.10/-d. per year. The old lock-up in the Tolbooth tower was not in use in 1848, as the inhabitants of the town asked that a lock-up house be established there. Premises were offered at a rent of £6 per year, plus an allowance of £7 for fitting up same, and this offer was accepted.

By 1862, it was felt unnecessary to maintain the strongrooms here, as the Auchtermuchty cells would serve both villages and so a suitable house for the Constable was sought but it was not until 1872 that another house was procured at No. 1 Skene Street. In 1879, strongrooms were added to this station. As the town did not have a gravitation water system or a satisfactory supply of any kind, the well at the Police Station was used by the occupants of a number of houses in the vicinity, and this was continued up to the early 1920's at least.

Reconstruction of the office and cells took place in 1914. The office measured 5' x 7' and the cells 6' x 2'. They were sited within a lean-to construction on the gable of the dwellinghouse. In 1957 a new house and office was built in the High Street. The house at Skene Street is still insitu and has been modernised as a private residence, though the outline of the property retains evidence of its former Police occupants.

TRAFALGAR

T.G. Snoddy, in his book "Tween Forth and Tay" tells how, in the early 19th century, an Innkeeper at Collessie thought that her business would be improved by building a new Inn nearer to the main crossroads of the Stirling/St. Andrews and Perth/Kirkcaldy roads. With Nelson's victory in 1805, the new hostelry was named after the famous battle, and a succession of household dogs were always named "Nelson".

In 1853 a house at Trafalgar was leased to the Police Committee at a rent of £5 a year. It was adjacent to said hostelry. The Sergeant for the District dwelt there, and the Newburgh, Strathmiglo, and Auchtermuchty Constables used Trafalgar as a rendezvous point. In 1879 this situation was occupied by a P.C. James Spark who had a very good 'capture' whilst traversing his beat between Ladybank and Dunshalt. He came across a man resting by the side of the highway whom he questioned, and afterwards recognised as a person suspected of uttering spurious coins in the Cupar area. The man had a large quantity of bread with him, and the Constable challenged him with begging which he admitted. He then searched his suspect and found a 'bad' shilling piece in his possession. After this find the officer proceeded with a closer search and found another coin. Further enquiries were made and it was learned that accused had resided in Auchtermuchty with his daughter for the previous eight days. Assisted by his neighbour, P.C. Morrison, P.C. Spark obtained a Search Warrant from a local J.P. and went to accused's home and carried out a search, uncovering various pieces of equipment for making counterfeit coins and also more spurious money. The man had moulds hidden in his home and had used lead, pewter and melted tea-spoons for the metal content of the coins. The suspect's daughter had also been apparently active in this nefarious business and she too was apprehended. There is no doubt they would face the consequences of their actions at the Court later and get their 'just deserts'. It is interesting to note that P.C. Spark's offsprings served in Fife Constabulary up to the 1980's.

By 1892 this house at Trafalgar was in a very bad state, and more suitable premises were looked for in Collessie. Eventually the Constable at Trafalgar was moved to Newburgh, and a single man took up residence on Collessie for a short period before moving to Monimail.

DUNFERMLINE CITY POLICE

In George S. Pryde's Book 'The Burghs of Scotland' he states the town of Dunfermline was mentioned as a Burgh of Barony in 1488, and erected a Burgh of Regality in 1588, but that after the Reformation, came to be recognised as a Royal Burgh. Dunfermline, ancient capital of Scotland, was the birthplace of Royalty, and within the Abbey precincts lie the remains of eight Kings, four Queens, five Princes and two Princesses.

The earliest records of the Town, still in existence are ecclesiastical ones, but the earliest existing Burgh Records date back to 1473. The first election of Magistrates occurred in 1488 when the Council, which comprised one Provost, two Bailies, two Sergeants and fourteen Councillors met in the 'Tolbuchd'. It appears that the tolbooth or townhouse stood on or near the same site for centuries. The original tolbooth was probably destroyed in the Great Fire of 1624, and a new one erected in its place about 1626. This building had the Council Chamber on the upper storey, underneath was the Limehouse (where female prisoners were sometimes kept), and the Laigh (low) prison. The 'Bull's Hole' was a cellar at the back of the premises, and other cellars were known as 'Witches Hole' and 'Thieves' Hole'. Above the Council Chamber was the Debtors prison. In 1769 the Townhouse was removed to make room for the construction of Bridge Street, and a new tolbooth was built, occupying the site of the present building. It was opened in 1717 and stood for just over one hundred years.

The foundation stone of the present Townhouse at Kirkgate was laid in 1876, and the building was ready for occupation in 1879. The premises included Police accommodation for the Dunfermline City Force, comprising Superintendent and Officers' Rooms, Miscellaneous offices, ten cells, and a dwellinghouse for the Policeman serving as Turnkey/Officer-in-charge.

Lawbreakers were not only liable to be brought before the Magistrates, but could also appear before the Regality Court, which prior to the Reformation was held in the Chapter House of the Abbey, but later the meetings were held in a house situated in the Nethertown, where in later years Court Records were found.

One of the earliest mentions of 'Constables' being used in Dunfermline Burgh Records is in the year 1596, and in regard to 'Constable of the Palace'. At this time Queen Anne granted a Charter to Lord Seton, Lord President of the Court of Session appointing him and his heirs-male "Heritable Baillies of the Lordship of Dunfermline and undoubted and irrevocable Keepers, Guardians or Constables of the Palace of Dunfermline and edifices adjacent". This was probably an honorary rank with jurisdiction within the Palace precincts and lands.

Local Landowners were permitted to have their own private gallows in this era, and the Laird of Baldrige's seems to have been frequently used. For example, in 1587, a vagabond named Hew Watt was found guilty for some minor crime by the Regality Court and sentenced to be either hanged on the Baldrige Gallows or drowned 'at will of the Judgis'.

The Town Gallows were situated a little to the east of present day Townhill Road, and during the witch-hunting of the 17th century, Witches Knowe was the burial place of these poor women, without even the dignity of a coffin, after they had been burned to death at Witches Loan. According to Chalmers Historical and Statistical Account of Dunfermline, wood from the Gallows was in later years used as part of a Damask Loom. The Town Stocks are still in existence and can be seen in the museum at Viewfield Terrace.

In the middle of the seventeenth century, the Burgh Hangman and Witch-burner was Pat Mayne, who seems to have been a notorious character and whose name has been remembered long after others of his trade were forgotten.

The branks were another form of punishment often meted out to women, whilst branding with a hot iron provided an indelible record of wrong-doing.

The Kirk Session often ordered these punishments to be carried out. For example in March, 1648, the Session decreed that because of scolding and drunkenness, Margaret Nicholson was to spend two hours with the branks on her mouth. Later that year, Janet Robertson was branded with a hot iron, scourged through the Town, then banished from the Parish, her offence being assault, both physical and verbal.

At this time the Town Officers and Constables acted as arresting officers for law-breakers, and when funds permitted, Night Watchmen patrolled the Town. Stranger beggars were proving a nuisance, and in 1698, orders were given to the Town Officers to remove these persons from the Burgh. The local poor were given badges to wear so that they could easily be identified. Constables were paid out of Fine Money levied by the Courts.

By the end of 1723, there seems to have been a spate of robbing and stealing in Dunfermline, and so the Council appointed ten men to be Night Guards. One of their number was chosen to be Captain, and they were given coal and candles for use in the Guardhouse, which was situated in the Meal Mercat. The tenants in the flat above the guardhouse were soon complaining of noise, and the fact that a gun had been fired and the ball had gone through the ceiling of the guardhouse and floor of the flat. The Magistrates arranged to have deafening put in the space between the ceiling and the floor and the offenders were cautioned. Trouble was also experienced in the Tolbooth, as several prisoners escaped and orders were given for iron cages to be made in which to incarcerate the law-breakers.

Town Officers were supplied with a livery, and refusal to wear this resulted in their dismissal. In Burgh where Royalty dwelt, Town Officers wore a scarlet uniform and this applied to Dunfermline. The coats, vest and breeches were in scarlet, the coat vest and cocked hat were trimmed with white lace, but the colour of this uniform was changed to blue in William IV's time in honour of the 'Sailor King'.

The last execution in Dunfermline took place in 1732, and the following is an extract from Ebenezer Henderson's book 'Annals of Dunfermline':-

'1732 - EXECUTION OF JAMES RAMSAY AT TOP OF WITCH-LOAN ROAD.

James Ramsay of Labhill in Perthshire, his brother Andrew, his sister Helen and her husband, Andrew Hutson, in Pliverhall, of Drumtuthell, near Dunfermline, were tried by the Regality Court of Dunfermline in February, 1732, for cattle-stealing, & c. The Judges at the trial were James Dewar of Lassodie, Captain Peter Halket, younger of Pitfirrane, and Henry Wellwood of Garvock, and a jury of fifteen. The following notes regarding Ramsay's apprehension and execution are from the Burgh Records:-

"James and Andrew Ramsay, after a long and violent resistance were apprehended within a hut in Pitconochie, dean-park, in the barony of Pitfirrane. The place where the hut stood, on a small eminence, was much covered with whins and broom to screen it from observation. In the hut there were found a quantity of straw, two pairs of blankets, a bee-hive with some honey in it, the foot of a sheep, raw, a timber-plate, with mutton-collops, a cap which contained honey, and in which there were large lumps of fat and livers and also the lead of a window".

The crimes which the jury found proven against James Ramsay were, the stealing four oxen and a quey from John Carswell, tenent in South Cults, in the Parish of Saline, and a bee-hive out of the gardens of Pitfirrance. The Sentence of the Court is dated 8th February, 1732, and so far as it relates to James Ramsay, was as follows:-

"The Judges of the Court of Justiciary and Regality of Dunfermline. Having considered the foregoing Verdict of Assyze, of the date 5th current, returned against James Ramsay, Andrew Ramsay, Andrew Hutson and Helen Ramsay; they in respect whereof, by the Mouth of John Cummin, Dempster of Court - decern and Adjudge the said James Ramsay to be taken fra the tolbooth of Dunfermline upon Wednesday being the twenty-second day of March next to come, to that place of the common Muir of Dunfermline, called the Witch Loan; and there betwixt the hours of 2 and 4 o'clock afternoon of the said day to be hanged by the neck upon the gibbet till he be dead. And ordains all his moveable goods and gear to be escheat and inbrought for the use of the fiscal of court. Which is pronounced for Doom." (Regality Records, and Fernie's Hist. Dunf. pp. 179 to 172).

In the Caledonian Mercury Newspaper for 11th February, 1732, there is the following paragraph regarding the trial:-

"Dunfermline, February, 8th, 1732 - This day was finished here a very tedious trial of four gypsies (or gypses habit and repute), strollers of vagabonds which lasted between 18 and 19 hours, by the honoured Captain Halket, James Dewar of Lassodie, and Henry Wellwood of Garvock - deputies of the most Honourable the Marquis of Tweeddale, as hereditary bailie of justiciary and regality courts of Dunfermline; when on a full and plain proof James Ramsay, one of the gang was sentenced to be hanged the 22nd March next; and the other three to be whipped the first Wednesday of each month for one half year, and afterwards to be banished the regality forever."

"James Ramsay has since his sentence was pronounced, confessed to Rev. Mr. Ralph Erskine that he stole the four oxen and young cow - one of the branches of the indictment. During his confinement in prison the Rev. Ralph Erskine frequently

visited Ramsay for spiritual advice and consolation; he also went with him to his place of execution, soothing this mind, and offered up a fervent prayer on his behalf to the fountain of mercy, as he was turned off."

Two burglars were tried and condemned in the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh in 1825. They were ordered to be brought back to Dunfermline (the scene of their crimes), to be hanged. As the town no longer possessed gallows, the Edinburgh one was hired and made ready, but the prisoners were reprieved from death and instead were banished to Botany Bay.

Transportation to the colonies was a dreaded sentence, even in 1829, quite a number of prisoners were dealt with in this way. They were kept in the local jail until it was ascertained on which date the ship was to sail from Woolwich on the River Thames, they were then taken to the Calton Jail Edinburgh, and from there to London. Transportation was the punishment for theft, housebreaking, assault and rape, usually a term of seven years being the length of sentence.

In 1833, James Johnstone was due to stand trial for forgery, but he managed to escape from prison, which at that time was in the Townhouse built prior to the present one. Johnstone forced his way through the partition of the cell (which was on the third floor) into the lobby of the jail, then using a saw he cut through an iron bar, wrenched it aside and let himself down with a rope to the street. A description of the man was sent to the Police in Edinburgh and Leith and notice of a reward for his recapture was placed in the Edinburgh Advertiser but it is not known whether or not he was apprehended.

It appears that a number of prisoners effected escape about this time and criticism was levelled at the Townhouse. There were only six 'apartments' available for prisoners, the walls of which were of lathe and plaster. Communication with the public was easily granted, and to counteract this, venetian blinds were fitted to the windows, and this seems to have had the desired effect. In the interests of economy, the Superintendent of Police also acted as Jailer, but eventually another man was employed for the latter position.

The methods of caring of prisoners in the early 19th century differed greatly from modern times. They used to be provided with bread, and a little money with which to buy food, presumably prevailing on the jaoler or members of the public to make their purchases for them. By 1837, the prisoners received porridge and molasses, and were forced to wash their hands and faces daily. A shortage of water, plus lack of facilities made all-over washing impossible. The use of tobacco and snuff was permitted, but attempts were made to stop this. Because of lack of room and lighting, no work could be given to the prisoners.

A woman prisoner who broke several panes of glass in the jail, was moved to 'the black hole'. After she was returned to the common cell, she was refused leave to purchase porter and ale for Hansel Monday, and this made her determined for revenge. As the weather was very cold, a fire was allowed in the cell during the day, and on the Saturday night, she took some embers from the fire and pushed them through the small window of the cell into the passage where some straw was lying. Just after

midnight, the Superintendent and Jailer who were in the street outside, noticed the jail windows lit up. They found the lobby of the jail full of smoke and burning straw, but managed to put the fire out without further damage. The prisoner was promptly put down in the 'black hole' again for her pains!

The ministers of the town started to make regular visits to the prisoners on Sunday evenings. This seems to have been done on a rota system. Reports state that the prisoners listened more attentively to what was said to them, and 'seemed grateful for the privilege'.

Problems regarding the subsistence allowance for prisoners arose in 1837. Before trial, an allowance of 6d. per day was given for food, but after trial this was reduced to fourpence per day. The question was raised that should the 6d. per day prisoners receive more food, or should they have the same ration as the 4d. a day prisoners, and the extra 2d. saved up for them. The problem was resolved thus:-

<u>Untried Prisoners</u>		<u>Tried Prisoners</u>	
12 ozs. Meal	1½d.	10 ozs. Meal	1¼d.
Beer or Milk	½d.	Beer or Milk	¼d.
Soup	1 d.	Soup	½d.
16 ozs. Bread	2 d.	12 ozs. Bread	1½d.
To Jailer for trouble, expense & cooking	<u>1 d.</u>	To Jailer for trouble, expense & cooking	<u>½d.</u>
	<u>6 d.</u>		<u>4 d.</u>

The prison was eventually enlarged and re-organised in 1840 under the new Jail Act, providing two cells in which convicted prisoners could do work. Persons awaiting trial could not be forced to work, but most chose to do a task of some kind. Women prisoners did sewing and also cooking and washing for those incarcerated. Male prisoners, depending on their own skills and abilities, could put their hands to various tasks. Weaving, joinery, shoemaking, and tailoring was among the work available, or teasing wool and oakum. The profits from this work went towards the upkeep of the prison, but the prisoners were sometimes paid for extra work, making perhaps about 3d. per day.

The County Prison Board employed a Jailer, usually a married man, whose wife acted as a Matron to the female prisoners. A rent-free house was supplied, with free coal and candle. A local Doctor was given an annual sum of money to attend prisoners when necessary, and a Chaplain was also employed. When the new prison at the Town Green (now Leys Park Road) was opened in 1845, convicted prisoners and those who had been remanded in custody were incarcerated there, leaving the Townhouse cells for overnight prisoners only. The same arrangements remained when the new Townhouse was built in 1876.

In Chalmer's Historical and Statistical Account of Dunfermline he tells that the Constabulary Force of the Burgh was of long standing, and that the Town Council annually elected twenty or twenty-five Constables whose duties were to aid the Police

in generally preserving the peace. These men would be the equivalent of the present day Special Constables.

When the Commissioners of Police were set up, this body of men appointed "a person of activity" who was to act as Superintendent of Police and as Procurator Fiscal in petty Police cases. He was also Billet Master, and had two officers to assist him execute warrants and sentences. The first known mention of a Police Superintendent for Dunfermline City occurs in the Burgh Records of 1832, when Superintendent William Cunning was considered for the added duties of Jailer. It is probable that Cunning held the rank of Superintendent for some years prior to this decision, which was brought about by the death of the former Jailer John Couston. In 1835 James Simpson became Superintendent and served until his death in 1842.

Dunfermline had been given the opportunity to join with the County when the new Fife County Police was set up in 1840, but the Magistrates declined to do this, preferring to retain their own system of keeping law and order. One of the Town Officers was dismissed from office in 1841, and William Mitchell, the Sheriff Officer in Coupar Angus was his successor. Mitchell's wage was to be 12/-d. per week from September to April and 10/5d. per week during the summer months. He received a pound to defray his expenses in coming to Dunfermline and was to receive another £2 to remove his family to Fife. When Superintendent James Simpson died in 1842, William Mitchell acted as interim Superintendent until a new man was appointed. The post was advertised, offering a salary of £70 per annum, plus a free house and the offer of a wage increase should the successful applicant prove efficient. Thirty-two men applied for the post, and from a short leet of three, John Livingstone of Glasgow was chosen. William Mitchell and Robert Jeffrey, the Town Officers, each received extra money at this time for the extra work entailed during the vacancy.

The following year the inhabitants of the Burgh sent a petition to the Council. Apparently the officers of the peace had been acting in an over-bearing and tyrannical manner when persuing the course of their duties, especially after nightfall, and the Superintendent was often absent when the inhabitants thought he should have been controlling the conduct of the Officers. One incident in particular was highlighted. A citizen Robert Taylor, who had been ill in bed was visited one night by the officers. Taylor was dragged from his bed and taken to prison in an undressed state. Shortly after this Taylor died. Officer William Mitchell was suspended from duty and Superintendent Livingstone handed in his resignation. During Mitchell's suspension from duty, his son Charles took over his work. For this, Charles received 6/-d. per week, but he appealed for more money, as he was performing most of his father's duties with the exception of some labouring work for which he was not physically capable and was awarded an extra 3/-d. a week.

The Superintendent's post was advertised and a great many applications were received. These were narrowed down to a short leet of five, and of those, John Livingstone was re-elected. After an investigation, William Mitchell was reinstated as an officer, but a year later he was dismissed for habitual intoxication, and Thomas Lambert took his place.

It soon became obvious that more law officers were required. After being on duty until the early hours of Sunday morning, no one was left to deal with frequent cases of drunkenness and disorderly conduct which were taking place on Sunday forenoons, and so Alexander Dundas was engaged. Handcuffs were issued to the officers at this time, and they became generally known as Police Officers rather than Town Officers.

The salary of Thomas Lambert in 1845 was 12/-d. per the week during the summer, and 14/-d. per week during winter, with Assistant Police Officer Dundas receiving slightly less. His duties were still varied, and included reporting as to the cleanliness of the streets and pavements. By 1848, a Sub-Committee of the Dunfermline Magistrates discussed how they could best increase and re-organise the Police Force in the Burgh. The County Force at this time was giving assistance to the Burgh men, but it was felt this could not go on. As always, the main stumbling block was a financial one, the Council did not wish to put the town in debt by the adoption of the General Police Act, and to join with the County Force would prove too expensive, and so it was suggested that as the Police Force at this time numbered four men, the town could afford to employ another 3 Constables, but it is not known whether this suggestion was carried out or not.

The Police Superintendent was in charge of the Fire Engine, and he saw to it that accounts were tendered for the use of the engine and for extinguishing fires. For example, a fire at Brucefield on 25/7/1846, resulted in an account for £10.1/6d. being sent to the owner of the property.

Mr. Livingstone, Police Superintendent, was suspended from duty in October, 1846, after complaints were received against him, and was finally dismissed, Thomas Lambert, being given his position with a salary of £50 per annum. He occupied the house vacated by his predecessor rent free, but had to pay for gas used in the dwelling.

The Dunfermline Police Officers were paid quarterly, with the exception of one man who had financial difficulties, and was paid fortnightly. There appears to have been a system where-by if the day-shift Constable was dismissed, a night-duty man was promoted to the post, and a new man employed on night-shift.

Discipline in the Police was tightened up when Mr. Lambert was Superintendent, and a set of rules laid down in 1848. The officers had to report to the Superintendent every morning including Sundays, in the Townhouse at 10 a.m. dressed in their uniforms and shaved. Stress was placed on Church attendance, and every Sunday afternoon, the men again reported at the Townhouse to inform the Superintendent whether or not they had attended divine worship, and if they had not, then how their time was spent. No man was allowed to leave the Town on any pretext other than with Mr. Lambert's written permission. Notes were to be made about occurrences and when patrolling the town, there was to be no gossiping or loitering. The only occasion on which they could enter a Public House was in the course of duty. Any deviation from these rules resulted in disciplinary action, the ultimate being dismissal. The latter course was taken in the case of Police Officers Robert Jeffrey and John Walls, who were accused of neglect of duty and failure to conform to the regulations.

The wages scale of the Force was lowered in April, 1848, due to financial difficulties. These decreases varied from 3/-d. per week to 1/4d., although the Superintendent's wage remained intact.

The turn-over of Police Officers at this time was large. Vacancies were advertised in the local press for "active, sober, and cleanly men as officers of police". Names of officers mentioned in records in 1848 include James Laing, Alexander McLean, John Hablick and James Cram.

Lack of money was an ever-present stumbling block, and by the Spring of 1850, it was suggested that the night officers be dispensed with, and the rest to have their wages cut. Realisation that the protection of the Burgh was important prevented the first idea, but the reduction in wages was carried out.

In September, 1852, when a Cholera epidemic from the east was fast approaching Britain, Dr. Kinniburgh, the Parochial Surgeon, along with Superintendent Lambert and John Pearson, Superintendent of the Poor, toured the lodging houses in Dunfermline as the doctor felt the insanitary conditions of these houses would accelerate the progress of any disease in the area. Their report makes horrifying reading in this day and age.

There were a large number of these houses in the town, most of them exceedingly filthy and quite unfit for human habitation. Two in particular, situated below ground level, were said not to be fit even for cows or pigs. Overcrowding added to the disgusting state of the lodgings. Suggestions were put forward that the proprietors be compelled to put their properties into good repairs, then whitewash and clean the houses thoroughly. No more than two beds were to be allowed in each room with no more than two persons per bed, and the tenants were to ventilate the rooms by opening the windows. The drains were to be flushed out regularly, and everything done to promote cleanliness in the town as a whole. There was a Dung Depot at Martyrs Place and Hallyblude Acres (near where the present-day Police H.Q. is located) and Mr. Lambert was instructed to see that this was given up and the area thoroughly cleansed. Dunfermline apparently avoided the Cholera epidemic, but the emergency did some good in promoting the cleanliness of the town.

In 1854, the Superintendent Mr. Lambert had various charges levelled against him, and he resolved to resign from his post. Advertisements were placed in the North British Advertiser, Scotsman, Glasgow Herald and some of the Dunfermline newspapers published during that time. The short leet listed men from Edinburgh, Kirriemuir, Paisley, Banff and Dunfermline, and George Stuart, of the latter town was elected to the post of Superintendent and Procurator Fiscal. Mr. Stuart received £80 per year with a rent free house. This was the underground flat of the Townhouse, but as the accommodation was insufficient, a dwellinghouse was rented in the Kirkgate for him. The flat, was given rent free, plus free gas and water to Andrew Stark, a Burgh Labourer; in return for his assistance to the Police on Saturday evenings and any other necessary occasion.

Two years later, Mr. Stuart was appointed Inspector of Nuisances and Inspector of Lodging Houses at £12 per annum, so the range of his work was increased.

A spate of housebreakings in the town in 1858 led to the reinstatement of the Night Police, three men being employed during the Winter months, and one in the Summer months. The Night Police did not have uniforms, so when one of the Night Officers had to do duty in the afternoons, he had to provided with a coat and hat.

Colonel Kinloch, the H.M. Inspector of Police, visited the Town in September, 1858, he strongly recommended union with the Fife County Police, but if Dunfermline wished to proceed with a separate Force, a request could be made to the Government to receive one fourth of the expenses of such a Force, providing several recommendations were carried out. The Dunfermline Magistrates agreed to this, and a Night Force of one Sergeant and two P.C.s patrolled the streets between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. One Day Officer came on duty at 6 a.m. and the other at 9 a.m., both remaining on duty until 9 p.m. or later if required. The weekly rates of pay were as follows:-

John Habbick, Sergeant	£1-0-6d.
Thomas Strang, Day Officer	17-6d.
James Dall, Day Officer	17-6d.
James Reid, Night Officer	16-6d.
Alex. Farquharson, Night Officer	<u>16-6d.</u>
	<u>£4-8-6d.</u>

Total expenditure for the year was:-

Mr. Taylor for two coats	£4-18-0d.
Mr. Thomson for fourteen pairs of trousers ..	9-10-0d.
Mr. McKay for two coats	3-10-0d.
Mr. Nicol for five hats	2-12-6d.
Mr. Innes for one greatcoat	1- 7-7d.
Messrs. Grieve & Oliver for five capes	4- 6-3d.
Messrs. Tipson & Newly for buttons etc	1- 1-6d.
Mr. France for two uniform stocks	3--d.
Mr. McKay for altering three coats	<u>7-6d.</u>
	<u>£27-16-4d.</u>
Wages for 12 months	£230- 2--d.
Superintendent's Salary	<u>£ 87- -d.</u>
	<u>£344-18-4d.</u>

This was obviously the commencement of a truly regular full uniformed body of Police in Dunfermline. Prior to this, arrangements had been somewhat haphazard and very prone to the vagaries of financial situations as they arose. Alarm was felt in the Council Chambers when, in 1859, Superintendent Stuart asked for a Certificate of Character so that he could apply for a similar post in Kilmarnock. Rather than lose Mr. Stuart, they offered to raise his salary to £100, and this he accepted.

H.M. Inspector of Police continued to be satisfied with the efficiency of the Dunfermline Police but, in 1865, criticised the state of the lock-up facilities (these

were in the Townhouse prior to the present one). The lock-ups were so bad they were described as about the worst in Scotland. Various remedial suggestions were put forward, but as the boundaries of the Royal Burgh were to be extended, the cell problem was postponed.

There do not seem to be any pictures depicting the Police uniform at this time, but it appears to have comprised trousers, a surtout (a close-bodied frock coat) and a helmet. The helmets, ordered from Robert Nicol at the cost of 9/6d. each, were of black felt, so it seems reasonable to assume that the uniform was also black.

The Officers in 1870 had various other duties other than Police work. They had to inspect the common lodginghouses, give tickets to persons applying for admission to the Poor House, undertake Inspection of Nuisances and Inspection of Weights & Measures. When there was a fire, the Constables on duty had to summon the firemen, who in turn reported to the Fire Station.

The West of Fife Coal Company, complained bitterly to the Magistrates in 1878 about the damage done to their property in Townhill/Kingseat area, and they urgently requested that a Policeman be placed in the village. Two men were recruited, one to do duty in the Townhill/Kingseat area, and the other to augment the town force. This brought the Police complement of Dunfermline to 11, which as the H.M.I. the Honourable Charles Carnegie pointed out, was barely sufficient for a manufacturing and mining population of 16,302, and where there was a considerable amount of crime, however he reported the Force as efficient at that time.

Pay rises were awarded to the Dunfermline Policemen about this time as they had complained they were paid less than their County counterparts. This meant that the Sergeant received 26/- per week and the Constables varied between 23/6d. and 22/-d. per week.

By 1884, the Force comprised 14 men, 1 Superintendent, 2 Sergeants, and 11 Constables, and the expenditure estimate for that year was as follows:-

Salaries & Wages -	£1019 - 18 - -.
Clothing for Sergeants & Constables	73 - 16 - 6.
Food for prisoners	6 - - .
Gas Lighting	16 - - .
Salary for Clerk of Court	20 - - .
Stationery, printing etc.	12 - - .
	<u>£1147 - 14 - 6.</u>

Mr. Stuart, who had been Superintendent of Police in Dunfermline for 30 years, resigned from his post in 1884. Advertisements in various in various newspapers produced seventeen applications for the position:-

Alexander, J.D., 12 St. John's Street, Edinburgh	Age 33
Booth, Arthur, Lieutenant of Police, St. Rollox, Glasgow	Age 35
Burt, George, Detective Officer, Maryhill, Glasgow	Age 37

Cumming, Duncan, lately Inspector of Police & presently Inspector of Cleansing, Perth	Age 40
Dobbie, David, Shipping Clerk, Grangemouth	Age 28
Forbes, Wm. Inspector of Midlothian Constabulary, at Portobello	Age 36
Hunter, Charles, Inspector Fife Constabulary, Dysart	Age 41
Knight, David, Superintendent of Markets, Dundee	Age 40
Lamb, Wm., Lieutenant of City Police, Edinburgh	Age 39
McIntosh, George, Town Officer, Inverkeithing	Age 40
McKay, Wm. Forbes, Superintendent of Police, Maxwellton, Dumfries.	Age 43
Murray, Gilbert, Surveyor, Stranraer	Age 47
Robertson, Robert, Inspector of River Police, Peebles	Age 41
Stark, Alexander, Joiner, 22 Willowbank Cres., Glasgow	---
Thomson, William, Police Constable, Patna, Glasgow	Age 34
Watson, James, Lieutenant of Police, Govan	Age 35
Webster, Arthur, Inspector, Fife Constabulary, Dunfermline	Age 38

Eventually William Forbes was offered the position, and became the new Superintendent.

Various accoutrements were ordered for the Police, including twenty truncheons, "fully painted with Crown; the letters 'V.R.' and Dunfermline City Police' at a cost of 4/-d. each, also 14 whistles and chains at 1/9d. each, new registers and books, and a copying letters press. Uniform also ordered at this time was priced as follows:-

- Tunics - 30/-d. each
- Overcoats - 30/-d. each
- Trousers - 17/9d. per pair
- Helmets (same as Edinburgh City Police) - 7/6d. each
- Suit for Burgh Officer - £3-17-6d.
- Suit for Town Drummer - £3-1-0d.
- Waterproof capes - 15/-d. each.

New scales of pay were introduced in 1886, and the following year, Superintendent Forbes suggested a telephone might be installed for Police purposes, but this was deemed too expensive.

As the Forth Railway Bridge was now under construction, and a large number of workmen being resident in Dunfermline, the Superintendent pointed out that more men were needed. Relative to population, Dunfermline City Police was the weakest in Scotland, and so one third-class Constable was instated. Consolidation with Fife County Police was again suggested but again rebuffed.

Besides being Superintendent of Police, Mr. Forbes was also the Procurator Fiscal of the Police Court, Inspector of Cleansing and Lighting, Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Common Lodginghouses and Inspector of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops. With

such a variety of jobs, the local Council obviously were able to save money by delegating them all to one man.

A telephone was installed in the Police Office in 1888, after an agreement was signed with the National Telephone Co. Ltd., and thirteen bells were placed in the firemen's houses. Two ambulance stretchers were bought for the use of the Police office.

In 1891 horse buses were providing regular services between the Town and the country areas. The departure place for Culross, Torryburn and Saline buses was in Bridge Street, and this caused obstruction and general interruption of traffic. The buses were eventually moved to the east side of Chalmers Street for their arrivals and departures. As happens in modern time, shopkeepers and 'bus passengers alike protested at this decision affecting their travel arrangements, but they were over-ruled and the 'buses left from Chalmers Street.

A year later the basement floor of the Townhouse was fitted up as cells, and licensed for short term prisoners. Difficulty was experienced in recruiting and retaining men as Policemen and so it was decided that the Dunfermline City personnel be paid on the same scale as the Fife County and Kirkcaldy Burgh Forces.

The title of Superintendent of Police was altered to Chief Constable in 1893. For many years the wife of the Turnkey, Sergeant Beveridge at the cells in the Town House, had been paid £6.5/-d. per year for cleaning the cells, supervising female prisoners and cooking food for all the prison in-mates. As her work had greatly increased, her wages were doubled to £12.10/0d. a year. A sum of just under 5/-d. a week for all the dirty and unpleasant tasks this woman had to do, was surely slave labour indeed.

The Townhill Constable resided in the old Forrester's House which was situated in a small lane off Forrest Road and is now a private bungalow. This was used until the new premises were built in 1941, on the Main Street in Townhill, but which were given up in 1973. Telephonic communication was first provided for the local Constable in 1902.

Gradually the Chief Constable's duties other than direct Police work, were reduced to being Burgh Prosecutor, but grew again as various Acts came into force, so that by 1901, Mr. Forbes was Inspector under the Explosives Acts, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts and Inspector under the Shop Hours Act. After a short period of ill-health, Chief Constable Forbes died in November, 1901, having served with Dunfermline City Police for a period of 17 years. Inspector Henry Stewart acted as Interim Chief Constable. Twenty-four applicants replied to the advertisements for a Chief Constable. The successful man was a George Bruce, aged 41, who was Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable at Elginshire, stationed at Forres. Mr. Bruce introduced Ambulance training for the Force, and eventually all men in the service held First Aid Certificates. They were also subjected to regular period of drill. The new Chief Constable introduced the rank of Acting Sergeant, which made the 1902 complement of men comprise one Chief Constable, one Inspector, two Sergeants, two Acting Sergeants and 14 Constables. The Police Officer in the

Municipal Buildings were re-arranged to provide more convenient and comfortable accommodation.

Sergeant William Willox was promoted in 1903 to Detective Sergeant, a position he held for a number of years.

The first mention of a Police Pensioner was made in 1905, when Sergeant James Beveridge, aged 55 years, retired after 34 years service, with a pension of £58.1d/-d. per year. He remained the only pensioner until 1912, when a Constable retired with the sum of £51.11.4d. per year.

With the extension of the Burgh Boundary in 1911 which included the H.M. Dockyard, Rosyth, two Constables were added to the Force, and three officers, maintained by the Admiralty and Contractors did duty at the Dockyard, but were under the control of the Dunfermline Chief Constable. The latter were increased by another seven officers with the commencement of hostilities in 1914. Three temporary Constables were recruited to the regular Force for the period of the war. 350 Special Constables were enrolled, and these men assisted the Regular Force by regularly coming out on patrol duty in the evenings, thus allowing the City Force to pursue normal Police work. Twelve men were eventually serving in the army, and one in the Navy, and their jobs had to be left open for them to return to after the war ceased.

In 1919, the strength of the Force was 35. The men serving in the H.M. Forces had returned with the exception of Thomas Lothian, who was killed in action in 1917. The Police at the Dockyard were reduced to five men, and one Constable patrolled in Pittencrieff Park and Glen, paid by the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust. All the Special Constables were relieved of duty, and Mr. Bruce praised the services of these men who had given of their time during a period of great need. 'Specials' were again recruited in 1926 for duty during the General Strike emergency, and again they discharged their duties in a highly satisfactory manner.

Instruction in educational subjects for the City Police, was introduced in 1924, for those qualifying for promotion. When the examination was held, five men passed the Advanced part whilst four succeeded in the Elementary one.

Chief Constable George Bruce retired from office in November, 1927, and Inspector Robert Stronach of Dunfermline City Police was appointed in his place.

During the early 1930s, it was decided to purchase a black Austin car, registration number FG-8981, this was augmented later with a 12 H.P. motor van.

When Mr. Stronach retired in November, 1942, having served 40 years in the Burgh Force, Mr. John R. Inch of Lanarkshire Constabulary was elected to the post of Chief Constable. Mr. Inch remained in this position until 15th May, 1949, when he took over as Chief Constable of the new Fife Constabulary, following the amalgamation of Fife County Police, Kirkcaldy Burgh Police and Dunfermline City Police.

The accommodation at the Town House was gradually becoming more cramped and unsatisfactory, and premises were acquired at 13 Abbey Park Place, which after alterations and adaptations, were occupied by the Police in October, 1946. More accommodation was required, and Ling House in Canmore Street was used as an annexe.

With the amalgamation of the Fife Forces in 1949, Dunfermline City Police ceased to exist. There are still various mementoes of this City Force retained in the library of the new Police H.Q., at Holyrood Place, which was opened in 1973. These items help to remind us of the small band of Officers who provided a most invaluable service to the community of Dunfermline. Despite the separate Forces in the area, a good alliance was formed between the City and County personnel down through the ages. Amongst the items in the aforementioned library and taking prime place is the cap badge of the City Force i.e. the City Arms, comprising Malcolm Canmore's Tower, and the motto 'Esto Rupes Inaccessa'.

DUNFERMLINE - COUNTY

A Deputy Superintendent of the Vagrancy Police was stationed in Dunfermline in 1834. His name was George Waugh and he received the salary of £30 per year. Dunfermline did not join with the County for Police purposes when asked to do so in 1840, but as the County wished to make Dunfermline the headquarters for the Western Division of Fife, it was decided to look for suitable premises in the Town. The County Police dealt with the area outside the Royalty of Dunfermline to the extent of the Parliamentary Boundary. In February, 1845, Superintendent Adamson made enquiries to see if accommodation could be obtained in the old jail at Dunfermline for a lock-up and Constable's apartments, but he was informed that the premises were the property of the Prison Board. Later that year the Committee agreed to rent premises for six months at a rent of £8. They would pay £4 and the Burgh Authorities would pay the remainder. A letter was received from the Magistrates of Dunfermline suggesting an increase of three Constables for the suburbs of the Burgh because there was a scarcity of work and a probability of disturbances occurring. The Superintendent was authorised to enlist three additional men for one month only but not to continue beyond this time unless the Municipal Authorities made a proportional increase of the Burgh Police Force corresponding to the population so as to provide for the preservation of the peace within the Royalty as in the suburbs.

In March, 1847, the Committee discussed the high rent and expense incurred for the County Police accommodation.

Superintendent Adamson was asked to enquire about other premises in or near the Burgh and he found a suitable house, the owner of which, was willing to make alterations and rent it to the Police Committee. This building seems to have been in Chalmers Street but the Committee decided that it was not expedient to have the County Police Station within the Burgh of Dunfermline as long as the Burgh declined to join with the County for common purposes in the maintenance of a Police Force.

The Magistrates of Dunfermline at the beginning of the 19th century erected a Guild Hall. The exterior of the building was completed in 1808 but the interior remained unfinished and in 1817 it was sold and became the Spire Inn and Hotel. It again changed hands in 1849, becoming the County Buildings, housing the Sheriff Court, Procurator Fiscal's Offices and it even contained the Post Office which was located in one of the rooms fronting the High Street. To the rear of the building were located strong-rooms and in 1864, a Constable was given a dwellinghouse next to these cells.

In March, 1849, three night watchmen were discharged from their duties and received their wages due up to the time of their discharge. Later that year the Clerk to the Sanitary Committee of the Parochial Board of Dunfermline requested the appointment of an additional Constable to assist in carrying into effect the Sanitary Measures of that Board. The Police Committee refused this request, but stated they were willing to allow the Superintendent to assist the Board in appointing a suitable person, and would grant use of Police Clothing for this person, but all other expenses were to be borne by the Parochial Board. In January 1858 Dunfermline again declined to consolidate with the County for Police purposes and four months later, the Police

Committee applied to the Court House Commissioners to grant them the use of a room on the first flat of the County Buildings to be used as an office for the Inspector of the District. The Committee were offered the room at a rent of £3 per year with £1 towards cleaning allowance. The Police Committee were to pay for heating and lighting this room. They felt that this rent was too high and suggested £2 per annum and £1 cleaning expenses. This offer was accepted. At this time the Burgh within the Parliamentary limits, including the Royalty, contained an area of about 1124 imperial acres and had a population of 13,836. The portion between the Royalty and Parliamentary Limits had an area of about 670 imperial acres with a population of 5,259. Two Constables were stationed there to keep the peace. In June, 1863, enquiries were made into providing strong-rooms at Dunfermline preferably in the County Buildings. Sir Arthur Halkett suggested that the cells under the County Buildings might be used and an offer was put forward to pay £5 Annual Rent for same. It was also pointed out that the house adjoining the cells which was used as a Militia Store could, if repaired, be used to house a Constable. The Court House Commissioners wanted a rent of £7.10/-d. per annum because of the alterations and repairs necessary. The Police Committee agreed to this and also agreed to keep the premises clean and in good repair. Shortly afterwards the Chief Constable pointed out that no provision had been made for a press and bed in the Constable's room both of which was usual and necessary to have. The Court House Commissioners were requested to have this attended to, however, as they were short of funds they suggested the Police Committee attend to same.

A Complaint was received from the Court House Commissioners in 1866, stating that damage had been done to the outside gate of the County Buildings by a cart conveying P.C. Chisholm's furniture from there to Inverkeithing and asking that the Police Committee repair same, this they agreed to do. The Chief Constable pointed out that Mrs. Charles Nisbet, County Buildings had for three years cleaned out the Police Rooms and put on fires without receiving remuneration. The Committee granted her the sum of 30/d. for her troubles.

In March, 1905, a letter was received from the Secretary of the Carnegie Trust asking the cost of a full services of a Constable for duty in the Park. At that time a Constable patrolled the area periodically but the Park Committee of the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust thought it desirable to have a man there all the time especially to care for the Palace ruins and grounds. A staff of Rangers were employed but they would like a Policeman's Authority there too. The extent of the Park was about 67 acres.

The Chief Constable reported that during the Summer and Autumn a Police Constable patrolled the Park two or three times daily and on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays patrolled the whole of the afternoons and evenings. During the Winter and early Spring two hours duty daily in the Park sufficed. The staff at Dunfermline consisted of one Inspector who had a very large and important Division of forty men to supervise; one sergeant who acted as the Procurator Fiscal's Officer and Detective Officer throughout this division when necessary; and three Constables, two of whom, had beats surrounding the Burgh of Dunfermline. There was a large number of Court clerical, and escorting duties at this Station and the Force was merely sufficient in normal times.

The estimated cost of pay, clothing and lodging per year was given as follows:-

Third class Constable	£74.13/3d.
Second class Constable	£77.14/1d.
First class Constable	£80.23/11d.

The Carnegie Trust agreed to pay the expenses of a Constable for duty in the Park. A Government Grant was not available for additional Police.

In January, 1908, the Dunfermline Police Division was sub-divided with an Inspector to be stationed at Cowdenbeath and Dunfermline respectively. The Dunfermline Inspector covered the Parishes of Aberdour, Carnock, Culross, Dalgety, Dunfermline, Inverkeithing, Saline, Torryburn and Tulliallan. The H.Q. for the County area surrounding Dunfermline continued to be sited within the Sheriff Court Building up to 1949, when the Police H.Q. for the City and the surrounding areas, was in Abbey Park Place.

The new Divisional H.Q., at Holyrood Place Dunfermline was officially opened on 30th March, 1973, by Right Honourable A. Buchanan-Smith, M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Home Affairs. This edifice is a worthy addition to the Royal Capital, and the bronze statue in the forecourt of the building is a permanent reminder of the care and protection aspect of Police duties, which is surely every bit as important as the crime fighting activities more commonly associated with the Police Force.

ABERDOUR

Aberdour was a Burgh of Barony under the proprietors of Aberdour Castle, the most famous names connected with the estate being Vipont, Mortimer, Douglas and Morton. In 1383, King Robert II made the barony of Aberdour into a Regality, and in 1500, James IV issued a charter making Wester Aberdour into a Burgh of Barony under the Abbot of Inchcolme.

Constable John Dewar was a member of the Vagrancy Police stationed at Aberdour, with a salary of £23.10/d., per year. With the introduction of Fife Constabulary in 1840, an officer was stationed in the village, but the house had no lock-up facilities. Eventually in 1863, an agreement was made to fit up one of Lord Moray's houses in Wester Aberdour with cells. This house stood in the High Street, and apparently one of the upper rooms was rented to another tenant; however, in order to give the whole house over to Police Purposes this tenant was given notice to leave.

Then, as now, Aberdour was a popular holiday resort with a great influx of visitors, especially on Sabbath days in the Summer. Many complaints were made about the unruly conduct and drunkenness of the in-comers, and on such occasions the local man received assistance from other Police Officers.

By 1875, the condition of the High Street house was deteriorating, and two years later ground was purchased for £140 and plans were drawn-up for a house and lock-up. These plans proved too costly, and alterations were made with a view to reducing the cost, and eventually tenders were accepted amounting to £545. This property was in Livingstone Lane, and is still in use today. Gas was introduced for lighting in 1900, and in 1903, a flush toilet was installed at the top of the garden. The house consisted of three rooms with a small scullery, and a wash-house was sited in the garden. The office was very small and the two cells had dry-pail closets. Modernisation of the building took place in 1938, when a second storey was added. This station is one of the few in Fife still to have the blue enamel Police sign on the front wall, showing the "Thane of Fife" on horseback, the figure formerly used for the Fife County Police cap badge.

AUCHTERDERRAN/DUNDONALD

In the Reverend A. Houston's book on this Parish, he quotes from the minutes of the Kirkcaldy Presbytery, 1635, "anent the chusing of Constables, Master John Chalmer nominat for the parochine of Auchterdirran, James Bedson of Glenistone, and James Grig in Balbedie". These men were the equivalent of Special Constables today.

A large part of Auchterderran was, in the 12th century, under the authority of Lord Lochore. The Barony of Cardoun or Carden belonged to a family named 'Martin'. Several other families owned it over the years and it was eventually under the care of the Fergusons of Raith. The stronghold of this Barony was Carden Tower, high on a ridge overlooking the Carden Den, and of which very little now remains.

In the late nineteenth century, policing in this Parish was by the Fife County Police officers stationed at Kinglassie, Chapel and Lochgelly, but by the turn of the century the population was increasing rapidly due to the extensive mining operations in the area. Attempts were made in 1903 to procure a site on which to build a Police Station, but care had to be taken as the Bowhill Coal Company stipulated that in the event of damage to the building from underground workings, no compensation could be paid. A site was offered by a Mr. Mungall, who said that the tenants of the minerals would meet all claims of damage to any property built thereon. Plans went ahead for this site, and a double station house and cells were erected in Jamphlars Road and remained in use until 1955. At this time two houses with an office and detention room were built at Cardenden Road, Cardenden.

DUNDONALD

In November, 1927, the Chief Constable pointed to the need of establishing a new Police Station and beat for this area as the population had risen to 1,655. It was agreed to rent a house from Kirkcaldy District Council a 1, Dundonald Park, but this closed when the new Station opened at Cardenden Road in 1955.

BALLINGRY/LOCHORE/CROSSHILL

This area came under the authority of the owners of Lochore Castle. Sir Constantine de Lochore was Sheriff of Fife in 1291. The estate passed to the Vallance family, and eventually to the Wardlaws of Torrie who held the lands from the 15th century. Very little remains today of the castle. It originally stood on an island on Loch Ore. Attempts were made to drain the Loch in the early nineteenth century, but gradually the water again gathered, although the Castle remained untouched by the re-encroachment of the water. This Castle (it is said the walls were 9' thick), would have its dungeons for the punishment of wrongdoers, but no sign of these remain today as the ruins stand, overlooking the Lochore Meadows, that reclaimed expanse of green meadows and Loch where once were pit bings, machinery, and all the black squalor associated with coal mining. The only evidence of mineworks which has been kept insitu as a memorial to this industry is the pulley wheels and tower of the 'Big Mary' Pit, which was the site of the murder of a woman several years ago.

At first there was no regular Police Constable in this District, and passing coverage would possibly be given by a Parish Constable and later by a Vagrancy Policeman from Crossgates - probably George Morgan, who was based at that village in 1834.

In 1885, a petition was received from Mr. Briggs Constable, of Benarty and others, requesting that an officer be stationed in Lochore. A year later, another petition was sent from Mr. G.K. Constable of Glenraig, along with residents of Ballingry District, again requesting a resident Constable, but these were refused at that time. These requests were probably made by the influx of the mining industry into this district. By 1891, a single man, Ewan McLean was in lodgings at Ballingry House. This was rather inconvenient, as Ballingry House lay on the northern extremity of the Beat. Mr. Liddell of Navitie complained of malicious mischief and other crimes being committed in the area, and so other accommodation nearer to the centre of the Beat was sought. A house was rented about 100 yards to the north of Glenraig in 1902. Two years later, with a large and growing population to consider, which would be further increased with the opening of the 'Mary Pit', the Police Committee looked for a suitable site for a lock-up. In 1905, a house with two cells attached was built at 33, Main Street, Crosshill costing £520. Another two cells were added in 1908 (four cells being the maximum suitable for a single station). Consideration was given to the building of new premises from 1947 onwards, but eventually two houses, an office and detention room were built in Kinross Road, Ballingry, and opened in 1955.

BLAIRHALL

Blairhall was once a large property with a fine Mansion House. Sir George Bruce of Carnock (late sixteenth early seventeenth century) was a member of the family who owned the estate. It was eventually sold to Sir Robert Preston of Valleyfield, who bequeathed it to the Earls of Elgin and Kincardine, thus returning it to the Bruce family.

The village of Blairhall came into being with the opening of Blairhall coal pit in the early part of this century. Prior to this, the area was policed by the Carnock Constable, but around 1915, a house was rented from the Coal Company. It was situated in the "Dandie Row". The houses were supplied with electric light provided from the pit, quite an innovation at that time. In fact it was so rare, that it was the job of Thomas Davidson, the local Constable, to replace fuses in any of the Company houses when necessary.

A modern council house at 12 East Avenue was used as a Police Station up to 1958 with a hut in the garden sufficing for an office. In that year a dwellinghouse and office were built in Rintoul Avenue.

CARNOCK

Carnock was a Burgh of Barony, held by different families at various times, the more renowned being the Ramsays of Carnock, Lord Lindsay of the Byres, and later by Sir George Bruce, his Charter being ratified in 1606. The Castle or Tower of Carnock was still in existence at the beginning of the 17th century but it is impossible to be certain where the building stood. The Reverend J.M. Webster, M.A., B.D., author of 'The History of Carnock', suggests the tower stood near Newbigging which lies to the north east of Carnock village and probably was the seat of law and order in early days, the owner being judge and jury.

With the advent of the Forth Ironworks at Comrie in the middle of the nineteenth century, a big work force moved into the area, and houses were built at Oakley and Comrie. The Ironworks did not prove profitable however, and the population moved away, only to return again when the Kinneddar Pit opened in the 1890s, later to be the scene of a tragic underground disaster claiming the lives of miners working therein.

In 1845 Mr. Alison, Proprietor of the Forth Ironworks, offered to pay £20 per annum towards the expense of having a Constable stationed at the works. After much discussion however, he eventually agreed that the Policeman be at Carnock instead of the Ironworks. The Constable, David Young had lodgings in the village.

Eight years later, in 1853, the Company declined to contribute further to the upkeep of the Constable, and severed the agreement with the Police Committee. A Policeman remained in Carnock, and a house was rented for his use. This house, containing three rooms, stood in a large, triangular-shaped garden at the east end of the village, on the north side of the road to Dunfermline. It was purchased by the Police Committee in 1919, for £346. There was neither water nor drainage laid on, and by 1935, still no modern conveniences of any kind had been installed. The house was sold in 1936, and lodgings provided for a single man.

Various sites in Oakley were considered for the erection of a new Police Station and, in 1939, two dwellinghouses for a Sergeant and P.C.s and office and two cells were built in Station Road. As the mining industry increased, the Police Strength was implemented and comprised of 1 Sergeant and four P.C.s.

The original Carnock Police House is now privately owned, obviously modernised, and named 'Greenacres'.

COWDENBEATH

In the First Statistical report of Scotland (1793) the population of Beath Parish was said to comprise about 100 families and there was only one colliery in production. As the need for coal grew, so did the mining inhabitants, and in May, 1852, the Reverend Dr. James Ferguson, along with others, sent a petition to the Police Committee. They said that in consequence of the Forth Iron Company and Lochgelly Iron Company having leased mineral rights in the district, and resulting in daily increases in the mining population, they requested a Constable and Lock-up house for Cowdenbeath. Superintendent Adamson suggested that the supervision of this area could be done by the Officer at Crossgates, which lay about 1¼ miles distant. This arrangement continued for a time, until a resident Policeman was stationed in Cowdenbeath, probably in 1864.

By 1872, consideration was given to providing two houses and a lock-up in the Town. An extra Constable was to be sent to Cowdenbeath in place of one formerly to go to Lassodie. A house was purchased for £115, and a lock-up accommodation supplied. It is thought that this house was at 52 High Street, where David Gold, Police Constable resided in 1881. The North British Railway wished to purchase this property when building the railway track in 1887, and difficulty was experienced on deciding a fair price. Eventually the matter was resolved by arbitration.

Many enquiries were made to obtain a new site, but the only one available was at the south-west end of Cowdenbeath. This was purchased, and plans prepared for property which was to cost £450. By January, 1889, the site was staked off, and the contractors proceeded with the work. This house and cell accommodation was situated at Park Avenue, off Broad Street. Five years later, the building was affected by subsidence, due to mining operations carried on underground, but the property was inspected and declared not to be in a dangerous condition.

In Robert Holman's book on the history of the Town, he tells that on 15th January, 1891, the Cowdenbeath Town Council met for the first time and one of their first tasks was to enquire about the formation of a Police Court and the types of cases which could be dealt with. They obtained the services of the local School Janitor, Campbell Halkett, as a Fiscal along with his many other miscellaneous duties. He was later to act also as the Sanitary Inspector, for which he was to be paid £2 per year.

The Commissioners of the Burgh appeared to be very conscientious in their work as they reported the Cowdenbeath Police Officer to the Chief Constable of Fife for neglect of duty and upon the latter finding the P.C. guilty, the Commissioners relented and asked that nothing further be done and the Officer was allowed to carry on with his duties.

The Burgh Commissioners contemplated erecting new Municipal Buildings in Cowdenbeath in 1902, and offered the Police Committee the chance to provide cells and houses at the new premises, but the Committee declined the invitation.

Great inconvenience was felt by the position of the Park Avenue Station. Hiring fees had to be incurred when prisoners were brought from the eastmost side of the Town. Lumphinnans had a large and growing population, but was without a Police Station, so in 1904, a site at the east side of the Town was looked for. The most suitable, was near the junction of the road from Cowdenbeath to Lumphinnans, with the Great North Road, at Gordon Street. Plans were made for two houses, with three cells, muster room, and a spare room for a single Constable, which could be used as an office when necessary. Estimates were accepted amounting to £1,200, and a telephone connection between the local exchange and the new Police Station was made. The Park Avenue Station continued in use, and was occupied by a Constable. A Sergeant and Constable resided at Gordon Street.

As the population of the district increased, so did the crime rate. In 1907, two Constables were severely injured by a crowd of disorderlies. Two men were sentenced to four months imprisonment, and others were heavily fined. The Chief Constable, Mr. Tennant Gordon said that the officers patrolled in pairs after dark and he requested additional men for the area.

When Dunfermline Division was sub-divided in 1908, there was an Inspector stationed at Dunfermline and Cowdenbeath respectively. Cowdenbeath Beat comprised the Parishes of Auchterderran, Auchtertool, Ballingry and Beath. By 1911, full day and night patrols were in operation and an Inspector, two Sergeants and seven Constables supervised a population of 15,000. The Chief Constable described the Saturday night scenes in Cowdenbeath. Apparently enormous crowds gathered in the High Street, the people from surrounding districts being attracted by the shops and the several large picture shows. On some Saturday nights it was estimated there were about 20,000 people in the street, and the Chief Constable verified that he had seen these crowds for himself.

About this time an incident occurred when a shop caught fire and a large crowd of spectators and looters quickly congregated. A solitary Policeman arrived on the scene but was unable to do much to prevent looting due to the number of persons involved. The Constable was later joined by a Police Sergeant and another P.C. and although all of them were assaulted they managed to contain the situation and note some of the guilty persons. These latter were later traced, apprehended and appeared at Court to receive their just deserts.

The owner of the shop concerned made motions to take action against the local authority for failing to protect his property, but it is not known whether this came to fruition or success.

By 1928, the Sub-Station at Park Avenue was in very bad condition due to subsidence, and the Constable and his family had to be moved to another house in the vicinity. In 1932, the decision was made to demolish the Park Avenue property, and all the office fittings were moved to Gordon Street.

As the Town grew, so did the need for further Police accommodation, and eventually the two houses attached to the Police Station were pressed into use as offices. In 1951, Cowdenbeath became a Divisional Station, and three years later, two

dwellinghouses, cells and office accommodation were built at Broad Street. This property too became affected by subsidence which was so bad that the cells doors were jamming and the Chief Constable feared that if they continued in use, occupants might be trapped in them and so prisoners were taken to the Divisional Station at Dunfermline. The position became so bad at Broad Street that the station had to be closed down and a new single storey Police Station at Stenhouse Street was opened in 1980. It is a very commodious building, well planned and laid out, with ample accommodation for all Police purposes, besides being aesthetically pleasing.

CROSSGATES

Crossgates is a village lying midway between Dunfermline and Cowdenbeath. It is partly in Dalgety Parish and partly in the Parish of Dunfermline. As the name suggests, it straddles the meeting of the Dunfermline/Kirkcaldy road and the Great North Road running at this point from North Queensferry to Perth. Although historically the village seemed to lack importance, by 1833 it was certainly considered to be in a good enough position to warrant the implacement of a Vagrancy Policeman named George Morgan whose salary was £23.10/-d. per year. In 1847 Mr. Stenhouse of North Fod offered to fit up a house and lock-up at Crossgates, but as the terms of the proposed lease were not suitable to the Chief Constable, his offer was refused. It would appear that a Constable was resident in the village at this time, as by 1852, the Crossgates Officer had to supervise the Cowdenbeath area, and the southern portion of his Beat was allocated to a Constable stationed at Masterton, by Dunfermline.

The Police Station in 1881, was at Springhill, Mossgreen, in the Parish of Dalgety, and the Officer was P.C. John Clark. This property remained in use until 1935, when a modern council house at No. 22 Droverhall Place, Mossgreen was occupied by the Constable and his family. A wooden hut in the garden served as an office.

Eventually, with the increase in population, industrial work and traffic in the area, two Police Constables were allocated there. Two houses and an office were purpose built in 1956, close by the main road junction in the heart of Crossgates.

CULROSS

Culross became part of Fife in 1891. Prior to that date, it was a detached portion of Perthshire, but when what can only be described as a general tidying-up of the Parishes took place, Culross and Tulliallan became incorporated in Fife.

Culross was a Burgh of Regality under the authority of the Abbey, but in 1490, King James IV erected the town into a Burgh of Barony under the jurisdiction of the Abbot of Culross. The Abbot delegated his duties in connection with the Barony, to the Earls of Argyll, who held Castle Campbell at Dollar, about ten miles north from Culross. The Argylls held this baronial position in Culross until 1569, when a transference to the Colvilles of Cleish was made. In 1588, King James VI endowed the town with a Charter, raising it to the status of a Royal Burgh.

David Beveridge's books on Culross and Tulliallan tell of the Town Council business and show that the Town Council Magistrates of 1660, liked order and a little pageantry on the Fair Days in the Town. They ordained that in forming a procession to move through the Market on such days, the Bailies would go first, followed by the Dean of Guild and old Bailies along with the Thesaurer and Merchants. The Deacons and associates of the various Guilds followed, first the Smiths, Weavers, Tailors, Cordiners, and the rest of the Crafts. The two Town Officers carrying halberts, preceded the procession.

In the same year, the Court of Justice held within the Tolbooth of Culross, tried a mother and daughter for stealing Holland cloth sheets from the Earl of Kincardine's house. Two Justices of the Peace heard the evidence from the servants who had apprehended the accused, and they decided the matter was proven. The punishment inflicted was that the prisoners were to be scourged from the Cross to various points in the town where the hangman inflicted three stripes on the naked backs of the women at every point visited. They were then banished from the town never to return. This shows that Culross must have employed a Hangman at this time.

In 1709, an item regarding the Town Officers is shown in the Burgh Records. John Thomson, Officer, pointed out that ten merks (13/4d.) were paid annually by the Church for ringing the second bell. Officer James Peacock did not perform this duty, nor that of ringing the Tolbooth bell night and morning, all the wages were paid to him, plus half duties when ringing the Dead Bell etc. The Town Council ordered that John Thomson was to have the full ten merks with no deductions from same. (Even in those days they had their problems with industrial strife).

The following year the Magistrates must have thought that Town Officers looked rather shabby because they authorised the Theseaurer to buy liveries for them as their present coats were bare, being three years old.

By 1713 the Council were worried about the number of vagabonds going about, and the number of housebreakings and crimes occurring, so they decided to form a Town Guard of twelve able men to patrol the Town at night. Anyone found abroad after 10 p.m. causing a disturbance, was detained until the following day when they appeared

before the Magistrates. The families of the Town had to take turns at providing the men for this Guard, and if any failed to do so, they could be subject to a fine.

In 1730 an excerpt from the Kirk Session Records shows that they granted a certificate to a Culross man who had his ear bitten off by a horse. Apparently the punishment for certain crimes was to have an ear cropped, and the man wanted proof that his lost ear was accidentally come by.

John Blaw of Castlehill was accused in 1753 of assault against the Constable in Culross. The wording of the complaint and the spelling are perhaps worthy of repeating here. The original papers are in Dunfermline Townhouse having been deciphered and copied -

"Libled Summons or percept William Stevenson Constable & the Pror Fiscal agt John Blaw of Castle Hill 1753 - not insisted in The Justices of his Majesty's Peace for the County of Perth In the District of Culross to Constables for the said County & District Conjunctly & Severaly Whereas It is Complained to Us By William Stivenson Coupar in Culross one of the Constable for the said Shire & District & Georg Fotheringham Pror Fiscal of Court for his Interest Upon John Blaw of Castle hill That when By the Laws & Practices of this Kingdom the Deforsing Beating Cursing or otherways Maltreating or abusing of Constables Especially when In the Exercise of their Business Office Are Crims highly & severaly Punishable Yet notwithstanding whereof the said John Blaw Defender is Guilty of the saids crims In so far As That Upon Towsday East - the twenty first of August Last one Thousand Seven Hundred and fifty three years betwixt nine and ten o'clock fornoon or thereby the said William Stivenson Pursuer went to the house of John Drysdle Baxter In Culross Where the said John Blaw the Defender was At the time In order to Execute a Decreet Against him before the saids Justices of Peace At the Instance of Anne Dundas hs Spouse After Discretly tirling with his knuckle three severall times on the Door of the room wherein he At the time was And upon his not Appearing the same the pursuer Lifted the Snek of the said Door and Room In order to Execute the said Decreet the said John Blaw Defender Befor the pursuer Spock one word to him he fell Acursing and Swearing & Imprecat God Dam for A Vilan & A Racal & Several other such oths Scurralous Expressions & Imediatly Run to the Corner of the Room where he Staf was which he toop Up & Clubd & therewith did Unmercifully Strick & beat the Pursuer on the shoulder & Arms & had he not been Protected & Resqued by the witnesses present he had In all probbily have Murdered Murdered him At Lest would X Disabled him so As he Would not been able to work for his bread All which or any of the said Crims being proven the Devender oughtand.....Jo:HalkerstonAnd should be fin'd & S: Punished with the Pains of Law According to the Merit & Atrocity of the Crims & Decernd for such Damages & Expences to the pursuer As the said Justices shall think Reasonable to the Tener of him & others to be Guilty of the like In time Coming Law & Dayly Practice off this Kingdom Our Will Is And we require & Comand you That (Comend?) you Pass And In his Majesty's Name & Authority & ours & Lawfully warn & charge the sd John Blaw Personaly If he can Be found If not At his Dweling house To Compear Befor Us In A Court to Be holden By Us at Culross & Within the Tolbooth thereof Upon theDay ofIn the hour of Cause to answer At the Instance of the said Pursuers

That Is to Say to hear & see himself find & Punished with the pains of Law & Decerned In Damages for the Crims Set Furth In the forsd Complaint Conform to the Conclusion thereof And that you make Certification & Intimation As Effiers According to Justice &c Given & Subsribed By the Clerk of Court At Culross the third Day of September one Thousand Seven hundred & fifty three years Jo:Halkertson."

The Tolbooth or Townhouse of Culross is in a central position facing south. There was a Tolbooth in existence before the present one but little is known of this. The present building was erected in 1626, and the bell tower was added in 1783. A twin flight of steps lead up to what was the Council Chamber, situated on the first floor, as was also the Debtors Room or Prison. This room eventually became the home of the Town Officer. On the ground floor was situated the Iron House or Laigh (low) Tolbooth. The High Tolbooth was in the garret of the Town House and in here the witches were incarcerated. At the height of the witch-hunting period in the late seventeenth century, the Tower of the Abbey Church was also pressed into use for this purpose. Culross Town House is now a Visitor Centre under the auspices of the National Trust for Scotland.

In June 1845 a letter was sent from A.C. Steven, Kincardine to Hugh Barclay, Sheriff Substitute and Convenor of the Constabulary Committee for the County of Perth regarding the preservation of the District because of the great influx of labouring people into the northern part of the Parish of Culross and the Parishes of Torryburn and Carnock. It was suggested that there should be two Constables at Kincardine and two at Culross who would be paid 1/-d. each per week and who would be required to patrol the respective Parishes every Saturday night and upon Sundays and to be called upon at any time to assist in preserving the peace and that they would be paid for such extra occasions for the time employed. Doubts were expressed as to whether trustworthy men could be got for 1/-d. a week and it was thought that it would add to the efficiency if each of the four Constables were to be dressed in a Policeman's Coat and which they should be required to put on at a fixed hour on Saturday afternoon or evening and that they should be required to appear on Sunday and to go to Church dressed with them. It was thought that appointment of a resident Police Officer on full pay at Culross in addition to the one resident in Kincardine together with the four Constables would place the criminal establishment of the District in a very effective state provided also that the indispensable requisite of prisons or lock-up houses be also made available. John McHardy was described as Police Constable/Chelsea Pensioner in 1851. He resided at Sandhaven, Culross, which is an area lying in front of the Town House. In 1871, John McFarlane, Police Constable, occupied one room in the Council Building. The Burgh Officer at this time was seventy years old William Ford.

A report in February, 1878, stated that from time immemorial the Debtors' room had been the prison for civil debtors and the under or ground flat of the building was the prison for criminals. The last prisoner in the debtors' room was Hugh Dick who was imprisoned on the 11th April and liberated on the 24th of June, 1840. The prison was taken over by the Prison Board in 1839. The Debtors' room was not used from 1840 to 1847, when the Magistrates of Culross leased it from the Prison Board as a residence for the Town Officer at a lease of £1 per annum. In October, 1881, a letter

was sent to A.C, Steven, Town Clerk, Culross stating that the prison at Dunblane had been handed over to the County Police Committee for £500. Part of the Prison was to be used as Police Cells for the detention of prisoners for 14 days and the remaining portion converted into houses for the Police. The £500 was to be apportioned thus-

County	£444.
Burgh-Perth	55.5/-d.
Culross Burgh	<u>15/-d.</u>
	£500.-. -.

Having outlined the history of law and order in Culross, it will be recalled that Fife Constabulary only took over the Town when the re-distribution of Parishes took place in May, 1891. Advanced preparations must have been made as in August, 1890, Police Committee Minutes show that the Constable stationed at Culross by Perthshire Constabulary was transferred to Fife Constabulary and was supplied with the Fife County uniform. The officer was John McLaggan and he resided in the three-roomed house in Main Street.

The H.M. Inspector's Report of 1893, strongly urged the necessity for a new Police Station at Culross, but apparently nothing was done to remedy this as in 1897, the Chief Constable of Fife, Mr. Bremner, reported that the station had been unoccupied for eight months as it was unfit for habitation. As the lease of the property had another year to run, the Chief Constable was to have restoration work carried out, then sub-let the house for the remainder of the lease. A tenant could not be found and so the Culross Constable moved back into the house until the lease expired in 1898.

The Constable lived in a house at Sandhaven until 1932, when a council house at 1 Erskine Brae, was leased. In 1964, a new house and office were built at Low Causeway.

ROYAL BURGH OF INVERKEITHING & ST. DAVIDS

Inverkeithing is thought to be one of the oldest Royal Burghs in Scotland. There is no certain date as to when the Town received this honour, but King William the Lion granted a charter to Inverkeithing between 1165 and 1178, confirming the common use of certain lands to the Provost and Burgesses of Inverkeithing. This would appear to show that the Town must have been a Royal Burgh prior to this, as only a Royal Burgh would have a Provost. King William also granted another charter permitting the Burgesses of Inverkeithing to exact tolls and customs from the towns between the River Leven in Fife to the River Devon in Clackmannanshire and northwards to Kinross, approximately twenty miles to the east and the same to the west of Inverkeithing, a vast distance in those days, thus giving extensive rights to the Town. This charter was the cause of various disputes over the years with Culross, Kinghorn, Burntisland, Dysart, and Kinross over the uplifting of the various tolls and custom dues. All the charters pertaining to Inverkeithing were ratified by King James VI in 1598.

The actual bounds of the Royal Burgh were confined within the ports or gates of the Town. Outwith these confines was the Barony of Inverkeithing under the jurisdiction of Fraser, followed by Gospatrick during the 12th century, but the lands latterly passed into the hands of the Moubray family, of Cockairnie. These are the more famous names, as the Barony was sub-divided over the years, and several well-known families held certain areas at different times. The Reverend Wm. Stephen's book of Inverkeithing gives a wealth of information about the Town.

Being a river port, Inverkeithing had difficulties over the years with quarantine regulations; in 1625 the Magistrates were in trouble because they would not permit a Leith ship to anchor in Inverkeithing Bay for purposes of cleansing the ship which had returned plague infested from the East. The Captain had been ordered to Inchcolme so that the cargo could be unloaded and the ship cleansed. Because of bad weather the Captain made for Inverkeithing Harbour, intending to bore the vessel and allow the ebb and flow of the tide to cleanse the ship. He also considered that as the Town lay some distance from the harbour, the townspeople would not run the risk of contagion. The Magistrates of Inverkeithing thought otherwise however, and ordered the Captain to remove his ship to St. Margaret's Hope. After obtaining a decree from the Privy Council, the ship's captain again tried to beach his ship at Inverkeithing, but again the Provost and Bailies prevented this. The Lords of Council ordered the Inverkeithing Officials to appear before them on a certain date, and the thought of this seems to have had the desired effect, for the vessel was in February, 1626, allowed to enter Inverkeithing Harbour. The Captain however, had to pay two men to guard the ship day and night.

A quarantine ship was moored near Inverkeithing in 1792, but by 1810, a Lazaretto (quarantine hospital) was open for use at Inverkeithing Bay. However, due to the infrequent use of this building it was closed in 1835.

The earliest known reference to the Townhouse or Tolbooth in Inverkeithing was about 1550 when a note was made as to the rents of the booths situated on the ground

floor. By 1687, the building was in a great state of disrepair, so much so, several prisoners were able to escape, thus necessary repairs had to be made. This original Tolbooth appears to have had rooms for prisoners on the ground floor and for security reasons a staircase was erected on 1695 giving direct access to the Council Chambers. There seems to have been no form of heating as in 1753, fireplaces were built in the Council Room and laigh (low) Tolbooth, both using the same chimney. Eventually the day dawned when the old building (with the exception of the tower) had to be demolished, and in 1770, the new Town House opened for council business. This building consisted of a ground floor and two upper storeys. The topmost one was converted in 1777 so that part of it formed a prison for civil debtors. In later years the Court Room was moved to the top floor, and on visiting the Townhouse in November, 1977, the Magistrates bench, jury box, and witness box were still insitu, but these have now been removed. The Court Room and Council Chambers were situated on the middle floor originally and the prison for criminals lay to the back of the tower. (The lower part of the tower dates back to the 17th century, the upper storeys the middle of the 18th). A small iron grating provided the light and air, and the privvy arrangements were simply a stone basin with outlet to the graveyard at the rear of the tower.

Order and discipline in the Burgh was carried out by the Town Officer or Constable, with certain townspeople being sworn in as Special Constables, when required. A list of items in records of 1634 includes - 3 Magistrates' batons, and 6 Special Constables' batons. In 1725 the Council agreed to pay a gratuity of 4 pence to the Constables for every vagabond or sturdy beggar locked up. These men were accountable to the Town Council and their duties had to be carefully carried out. For example, in 1780 the Town Officers were forbidden to ring the Council bell or carry halberts at funerals unless they had orders from the Magistrates. If a debtor managed to escape from the Tolbooth, the Town Council were held responsible for the debt involved. An attempt to ensure the Town Officer did his job properly was made in 1819 when the Town Council ordered that the Jailer would in future find caution of a stated amount for the safe incarceration of debtors. The same Jailer offended a Magistrate several times by speaking insolently to him, and so his services were dispensed with.

In 1692, a woman of 'scandalous life' was punished by ordering the Officers to put her outwith the ports of the Town by 'Touk of Drum', the inhabitants being cautioned not to harbour her on pain of a fine or as such punishment appertained to the offence.

During the 18th century, the Town having difficulty in enlisting the services of an executioner, accepted an offer from Dunfermline that the two towns should unite in appointing a Hangman. The cost to Inverkeithing was to be £3 per year. A few months after his appointment, John Cummin, the executioner, begged leave to go to a London Charity Hospital in the hope of effecting a cure for 'ane sore leg'. Two years later Inverkeithing ignored the Town's cost of the executioner £6, in respect of two years service, when it was demanded by Dunfermline. Inverkeithing terminated the agreement as they had no further use for a Hangman.

Executions took place at this time at the Gallow Tower, a building no longer in existence. It was situated on the north side of the High Street, to the west of the Parish Church.

A murder took place in the Schoolhouse of Inverkeithing in 1707. Two years previously young Robert Balfour of Burleigh Castle near Milnathort in the Parish of Orwell (Kinross-shire) fell in love with Janet Thomson, the Parish Minister's niece. The girl refused to marry him and he was sent abroad to try and lose his infatuation for her. Before leaving the country however he swore that if she married during his absence, he would surely kill her husband on his return to the country. Out of sight, out of mind, goes the saying, and Janet married Henry Stenhouse, Schoolmaster of Inverkeithing. Returning home from abroad and learning of the marriage, Robert Balfour rode to Inverkeithing, and on entering the Schoolroom, challenged Henry Stenhouse in front of the assembled pupils. Henry refused to accept this challenge and suddenly Balfour drew a pistol and shot the young Schoolmaster. Nearly a fortnight later, Henry Stenhouse died. The Master of Burleigh was eventually apprehended and tried in the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh.

The jury found it proven that Balfour was at Inverkeithing and challenged Henry, they also found it proven that he discharged a pistol at the Schoolmaster. The two wounds in Henry's arm and the fact he died within twelve days of receiving the wounds was also found proven, but that the wounds were caused by the firing of Balfour's pistol was found not proven. The court adjourned sentence on several occasions, but eventually they sentenced Balfour to be beheaded at the Cross of Edinburgh on January, 6, 1710. While awaiting execution he was incarcerated in the Edinburgh Tolbooth, and there made a successful plan to escape by dressing in his sister's clothes during a visit paid to him by his mother and sisters. He fled abroad, and although he came back to Scotland as a Jacobite, returned again to the Continent.

During the time of the Vagrancy Police, 1833 to 1840, no member of this Force was stationed in this Burgh, the nearest towns having this service being North Queensferry, Crossgates and Aberdour. In 1846, the Magistrates agreed to have a County Constable stationed in the Town an initial period of two years at an Annual cost of £20.

Questions were asked in 1850, when Inverkeithing claimed expenses from the County Police Board for the upkeep of prisoners. The prison there had been made obsolete, but had been brought into use again, some prisoners being detained there for several days. Mr. Adamson, Superintendent of Police, pointed out that he had no jurisdiction within the Burgh, and therefore had no knowledge of the circumstances.

On the 3rd November, 1857, an application was received from G.W.M. Henderson Esquire of Fordell, to have a Constable stationed at St. Davids. A report was prepared by the Sergeant at Dunfermline stating that instructions had been given to the Queensferry and Aberdour Police Constables to visit St. Davids on alternate days and this the Committee approved. This request from Mr. Henderson was probably brought about by the large amount of railway and shipping traffic in this vicinity connected with the transportation of coal abroad. The arrangements must have sufficed as no further applications for the Constable came to notice.

By 1870 objections from Inverkeithing were again raised as to the state of the accommodation of prisoners and it appears that the debtors' cell was still in use for

general prisoners. It is described as a single cell for both County and Burgh prisoners. It was upstairs in the Tolbooth, off the Courtroom and was dark and ill-kept. The floor was of wood, and there was no means of heating the room. The only ventilation was by a small grating overlooking the Churchyard. Mr. Bremner, the then Chief Constable of Fife County Police, recommended that the grating be removed and an iron perforated plate placed on the outside, with a strong hinged glass window on the inside which could be closed by a padlock at night. This would have the effect of preventing prisoners conversing with friends outside and also stop articles being passed into the cells.

The inconvenience of having the cell in the care of the Town Officer was becoming apparent and a search for alternative accommodation was made by the County Police. A site for a Constable's house and strongrooms was eventually found in High Street. The estimated cost for the building was £250 and this house, modernised of course, is still standing next to the present-day Police 'Call-Point' in Inverkeithing High Street.

The Town Clerk of Inverkeithing wrote to the Police Committee in 1887, requesting the services of an additional Constable as there was an increase in crime within the Burgh due to the influx of workmen employed on the erection of the Forth Railway Bridge. The Committee in turn wrote to Tancred, Arrol & Company, the contractors for the bridge, to see if they would pay the cost as they felt no liability for the same.

At this time the Inverkeithing to Burntisland Railway was also being built, and Messrs. John Waddell & Sons, Contractors, agreed to bear the expense of two Constables to be stationed between the two towns while the railway was being built.

In May 1902 a letter was received from the Town Clerk requesting that because of increased population, numerous visitors and increasing railway traffic in Inverkeithing the Constable should devote his whole time to service in the Burgh and that an extra P.C. be provided to take outside work and assist on Saturdays and other evenings. A report on the Burgh this year stated that in 1901 the population numbered 1,909. There was one Constable in the Burgh and another at North Queensferry two miles to the south of Inverkeithing. The population there in 1901 (Queensferry) was 594 but was now greater. The Queensferry Constable devoted a great deal of his time in helping the Inverkeithing man. Large numbers of workmen were to be employed immediately, at work on the Naval Base at St. Margaret's Hope or Rosyth in the immediate neighbourhood, and further Police service was imperative. It was agreed that another man be stationed here.

In 1908, several sites were considered for the building of a new Police Station. A suitable site was at the Roods, the particular part in question belonging to Lord Elgin. It was definitely decided to acquire this ground and plans were put forward for two houses with six cells and arrangements for an extension if necessary. The estimated cost was £1,533.2/10d. and work commenced in July 1909. A year later the new station was almost ready and the Chief Constable suggested retaining the old house for a married Constable. In 1935, a report was submitted on the old property in the High Street, which was still County owned but was needing brought up to standard. The ground floor contained a passage, small office and two cells and had not been used since the new station was built. It was suggested that it could be altered to form

a hall, kitchen, bathroom, W.C. and scullery. The stone spiral staircase would be altered to suit the re-modelling of the ground floor. The room and kitchen which were on the first floor could be used as a bedroom and sittingroom. One room on the second floor required repairing. A wash-house was situated in the backyard. A year later some repairs and paintwork had been done but it was still not suitable for occupation.

The property at the Roods was closed and sold in 1970, when a 'Call-Point' was opened in the High Street, when the Unit Beat Police system came into vogue. Inverkeithing was then controlled from the Divisional Police Headquarters at Dunfermline.