GENERAL

Johnston	Gaelic *dail righe*, 'meadow of the king'.
2SA, July 1838, 234	Town established c,1608 when church removed to present site. In Early C18 6 2 storey houses in village, and population no more than 100. Now has 5 streets, of which 3 meet nearly at the centre to form a square. Large number of well-built houses and several shops. Street are gaslit since 1834. [ibid, 220, gas works opened in 1833]
Census, 1841	Increase attributed 'to the opening of an iron-mine, to the erection of iron and dye-works, and to the establishment of a printfield.'
Imp Gaz, 1854, i, 362	500 employed in weaving. Spinning mill and wool carding mill. Gives 1834 as date for gas works. 3 inns: White Hart, Blair Arms, Kings Arms. Pop in 1836, 2000; in 1851, 2706.
ASH, F 5.1.1912, 2g [1870s]	W McCallum, junior, "Dalry, Past and Present". Dalry was much busier fifty or so years ago, especially because of the ironstone mines. "The Reddings, on the outskirts, was a hive of industry, a town in itself, where the clang of the winding engines could be heard all day, and very often all night. It is now a deserted place, no human habitation is there …" "The Borestone, or 'Boston' as it is called, was another busy place; and a little above the Borestone was a place called the Houlet, where ironstone was very plentiful, and which had its share also in the industry of Dalry. The Hagsthorn, another busy place, had its output of ironstone, and added to that were the pig iron furnaces, five in number, which were then in full swing." "In those days great faction fights took place between Orangemen and Catholics. The Borestone was a Catholic community, and the Reddings a great Orange quarter; in fact there was one street in the Reddings called the Purple Row, where every male member of it was an Orangeman." "At the present time in Dalry, there are only two pits working, Nos 7 and 9, a coal pit and an ironstone respectively." "Messrs Biggart and Kyle's mills provide a good deal of employment, but are confined mainly to the female workers of the district. A small boxwood factory, and an oilskin and waterproofing establishment compete the number of works now remaining."
AA, Th 1.1.1874, 8c	Dalry is now the District Head Telegraph Office, replacing Beith.
Groome, 1884, 340	Was a 'pretty hamlet' with 6 houses in 1700. 800 inhabitants in early C19. By 1835 had 2000 inhabitants. About 9 years later became business centre for ironworks at Blair and Glengarnock. Now has 12 streets, 'well-built modern houses and ... excellent shops'. 3 woollen factories; 1 worsted mill; 1 oil and steatine factory.
3SA, 1946-50 (1955), 406	Quiet rural village until silk and cotton weaving introduced in C18.
409	900 preWW1 houses - 505 unfit. Built of grey sandstone, most are damp. Miners rows or old style weavers cottages. Most have no running water. Post-War developments to S of town, and by SSHA.
410	ironstone became worked out at end of C19. All furnaces closed by beginning of C20. All that remains are the bings, and some of these were used to make bricks, e,g, at Broadlie, Carsehead and Douglas Brick Works.

Central Dalry was given a Cunninghame DC/SDA Facelift in 1985-1986. Buildings involved included the Kings Arms and the Royal Hotel.

Dalry Civic Week Brochure 1994 [Glasgow Vennel Gp39 00746710P], 15

Dalry Cross restoration done c.1991-4, and included resiting Biggart Fountain at its "original home." [Feb 1993 plan of proposals in Box Gp34]

SPECIAL WATER DISTRICT

CO 3/32/1 — 7.11.1871, approved, boundaries to be decided by Sheriff. He declined to act, there being no appeal. 29.2.1872, agreed, boundaries on marked on a plan (Mr Allan). An alternative plan, proposed by Mr Stirrat, was rejected 56-5, and he said he'd appeal.

Sheriff, 21.2.1873 — I've missed this, careless.

CO 3/32/1 — 8.6.1880. Extended to include Coalsheughglen Farmhouse, the villages of Creepies or Little Acre, Highfield, Southfield and Pasturehill and Pasturehill Cottage.

Boundary: From a point in the Beith turnpike 260 yards south-west of its junction with the old road leading to Auchengree near the centre of a field marked no.1864 on the O.S. plan, thence by a line running parallel to said road, taking in the strip of ground 100 ft wide along the north and east side of said field, thence by a strait line along the road leading to Creepies and field marked 1870 on said plan, thence by a line running parallel with the said road leading past Creepies and the Beith Turnpike Road 100 feet to the e and south-east of said road, running through said field marked 1870, the old freestone quarry and field marked 1069 on said plan until said line reaches the road leading to Highfield Farm steading, thence along said road in a strait line to a point in field marked 1072 on said plan 100 feet north of said turnpike road, thence in a strait line on to the corner of the garden wall of Mr Thomas Orr's premises, thence along the walls which divide the gardens lying behind Southfield houses from field no. 1071 on said plan, thence in a strait line across the old Beith road to a point 100 ft in field no 1050 on said plan, thence in a line running parallel to and 100 feet distant from the Beith Old Road and the Beith Turnpike Road through fields marked nos 1050 and 1068 to the hedge which divides field no 1068 from field marked 1827 on said plan. All as on plan, coloured blue.

AA 23.8.1894 — New Curling House. Contractors include James McGaan, builder.

GEORGE HOUSTON

Robson — Born in Dalry 20th January 1869. Died at West Lynn, Dalry, 5th October 1947.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Smith lists, inter alia, the following:

Cleaves Cove — evidence of human habitation

Aitnoch Fort

Court Hill, Dalry — Destroyed. Written up in A&W A C, vol 1.

1SA, 1791-93, VI, 160 — Ruins. One called a chapel. Remains of East church in parish visible 40 years ago. Glebe of west church still so called. This church united with present church c.1600-1608.

CARWINNING HILL FORT, 28725286

COURT HILL

John Linge, Re-discovering a landscape: the barrow and motte in North Ayrshire, PSAS, 1987, 23-32
[Reviews earlier published excavations of the Courthill of Dalry and describes other barrows and mottes in North Ayrshire.]

J G Scott, The Hall and Motte at Courthill, Dalry, Ayrshire, PSAS, 119, 1989, 271-278
[Contradicts Linge's interpretation of the purpose of the buildings excavated].

UNSORTED

EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY WORKERS HOSTEL

ACC, TPC 10.1.1950 — Reference.

AYR COUNTY COUNCIL Housing (inc SSHA)

B, 29.4.1921, 568 — Housing scheme at Townend, Dalry, to be built, 1921, for ACC. Fryers & Penman, Largs, architects.

CO3/12/4/22	4.5.1922	Houses for ACC; Fryers and Penman.
	20.3.1923	12 3A houses, Townend, for ACC; -.

B, 22.10.1926, 672 — 56 houses at Dalry to be built, 1926, for ACC. James Houston, Kilbirnie, architect.

B, 16.3.1934, 484 — 80 houses at Dalry to be built, 1934, for ACC. William Reid, County Architect.

B, 22.9.1939, 481: ABN, 22.9.1939, 315
Plans to be prepared for 190 houses in Dalry (for ACC - BoS notes don't say). Stewart & Paterson, Glasgow, architect.

3SA, 1946-50, 409 — 228 ACC houses erected between the wars to the south of the town.

60-66 TOWNEND STREET

ACC Planning, 2562 — August 1943. 4 houses, Townend Street, Dalry, for ACC.

3SA, 1955, 409 — 150 Swedish style timber houses have been erected since 1945 by SSHA.

© Rob Close 2026