

The Tweedside Lasses

marching air

Alexander Walker

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three staves of music. Above the notes, various chords are indicated: D, G, D, D, Bmin, Emin, D, D, A, Bmin, D, A, Bmin, G, D, Emin, A, Bmin, D, A, Bmin, G, D, A, Bmin, F#min, Bmin. Trills (tr) are marked above several notes. The piece concludes with a final cadence on a Bmin chord.

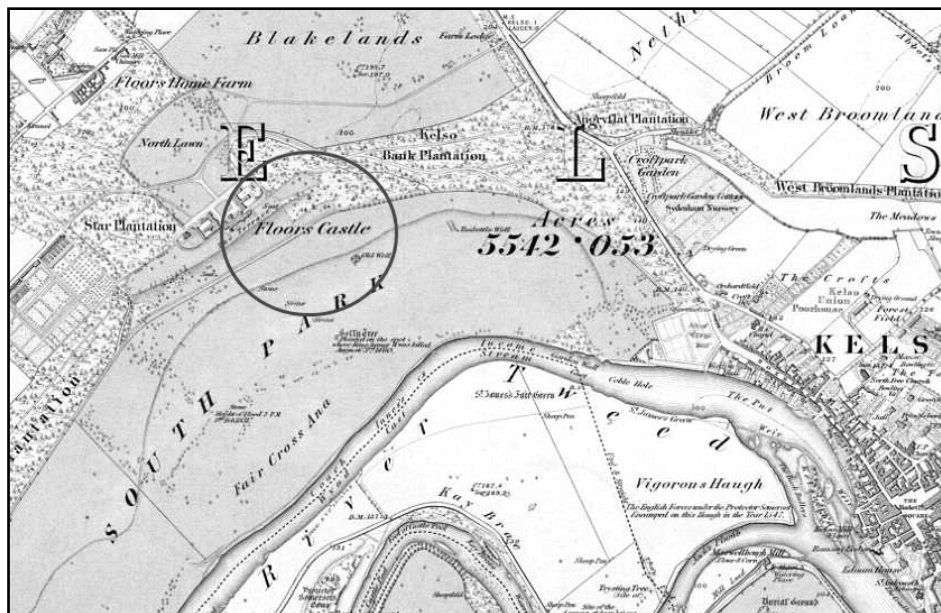
TWEEDSIDE LASSES, THE.

Walker: *A Collection of Strathspeys, Reels, Marches, &c., 1866; No. 61, pg. 22.*
 Scottish, Marching Air (4/4 time). D major & B minor, AABB'.

i. Carl MacKenzie, LP, 1980s. ii. Troy MacGillivray, CD c. 2006.
 played by Wilfred Prosper, Father Francis Cameron, Joe Peter MacLean and Paul Wukitsch.

As noted previously it was custom at Balls to toast the ladies of the region such as 'The Donside Lassies'. It is assumed that this title refers to Ladies in the area of the River Tweed in the Scottish Borders.

The most likely candidates for this honour are the family of the Duke and Duchess of Roxburgh who lived at Floors Castle, near Kelso and overlooking the River Tweed. Queen Victoria visited the castle on a number of occasions. The Duke and Duchess of Roxburgh were Scottish nobility and landowners who were part of Sir Charles



Forbes circle of friends. At the time of Alexander Walker, the Duke was James Henry Robert Innes-Ker, 6th Duke of Roxburghe, KT (12 July 1816 – 23 April 1879). Innes-Ker was the only surviving child of the 5th Duke of Roxburghe and was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford. He inherited his father's titles in 1823 and on 29 December 1836, he married Susanna Stephania Dalbiac, the only child of Sir Charles Dalbiac. They had four children:

- Lady Susan Harriet Innes-Ker (13 Nov 1837-16 Oct 1909)
- James Henry Robert Innes-Ker, 7th Duke of Roxburghe (5 Sep 1839–23 Oct 1892)
- Lady Charlotte Isabella Innes-Ker (8 Aug 1841-24 Apr 1881)
- Lord Charles John Innes-Ker (31 Dec 1842-????)

It is possible that the *Tweedside Lassies* were Lady Susan and Lady Charlotte Innes-Kerr who would have been in their late teens about the time Alexander wrote his tune.

Alexander Walker Connection

There is no evidence that Alexander played at Floors Castle but he may have played for the Duke of Roxburgh at Balmoral and other Highland Gatherings.

Sir Charles Forbes had links with the Duke of Roxburghe both Social and Charitable. Both were members of the Royal Highland Society of London and Directors of the Caledonian Hospital which provided care for invalid soldiers. They also both attended the Caledonian Ball in London which raised money for the Hospital. Alexander played for the Caledonian Ball when he met Sir Charles in 1851.

The ladies patronesses were early in attendance, and by half-past ten the rooms were full. At least 800 members of the *haute society* were present. The children, with the pipers and the juvenile band of the asylum, promenaded the ball-room at twelve o'clock. Sir Charles Forbes, Bart., of Newe the indefatigable treasurer of the ball, and some of the most zealous of the supporters of both charities, preceding the objects of the charities. It was gratifying to observe that all the juvenile members of both charities exhibited all the outward signs of content and comfort. Indeed, a nobler gathering of "the rising generation" of our Scottish brethren could hardly be collected in London. Previous to the children parading the ball-room, dancing commenced, the ball opening with the Duchess of Roxburghe and Lady Anne Mackenzie's Highland Quadrille and Reel:—

Saturday 02 July 1859 Caledonian Ball London