

Hill

David Octavius
1802 - 1870

His Life

David Octavius Hill was born in Perth on 20th May 1802 as the eighth of twelve children. His parents were :
Thomas Hill (book seller) and Amelia Murray.

Educated at Perth Academy.

His brother Alexander worked with a book publisher in Edinburgh and David moved to Edinburgh to study art at the Trustees Academy.

Between 1829 and 1833 he drew illustrations for books such as Sir Walter Scott's Waverley novels.

In 1840 Wilson & Chambers published 'Land of Burns' which told of the life and poems of Robert Burns.

In 1837 he married Ann MacDonald, but she sadly died in childbirth.

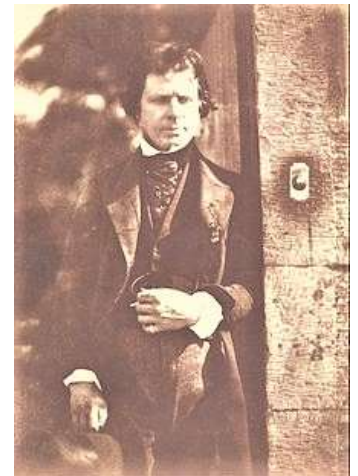
In 1843 he was commissioned to paint a large work showing the Disruption of the Free Kirk. He was assisted by Robert Adamson, a photographic pioneer, who photographed many of the clergymen. David later used the photos to fill in the faces on the large picture, which he did not finish until 1866.

David Hill and Robert Adamson, a chemist from St Andrews, founded Hill & Adamson Studios in Edinburgh and took many early photographs of the Edinburgh area.

He married in 1862 for a second time to Amelia Robertson Paton (1821 - 1904), a sculptress and sister of his good friend Sir Joseph Noel Paton.

He died on 17th May 1870 at Newington, Edinburgh.

He is buried in Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh. The bust on his grave was made by his widow Amelia, as was the Robert Burns statue in Dumfries.



His Work

Some of the works of David Hill can be viewed by following the links below. When you have viewed the contents, remember to use your "back" button to return to this page. The only link to Gatehouse that we know of is the sketch drawing below overlooking Gatehouse which appeared in Wilson & Charles book 'Land of Burns' which was published in 1840. It is understood that a number of his paintings were destroyed in a fire.

[Wikipedia](#) (life & photos)

[In the Artists Footsteps](#)

[National Galleries Scotland](#) 1

[National Galleries Scotland](#) 2

[Museum of Perth & Kinross](#)

detailed life story and list of artwork

[Metropolitan Museum of Art, New](#)

[York](#)

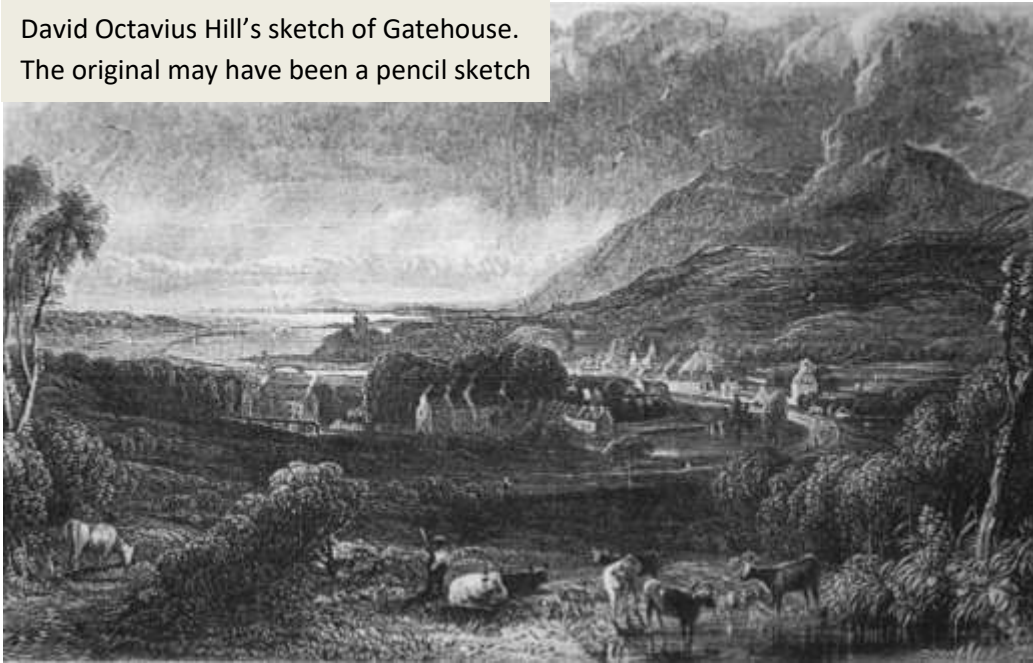
re Hill & Adamson

[National Portrait Gallery, London](#)

[Pinterest](#) 60+ photos



David Octavius Hill's sketch of Gatehouse.
The original may have been a pencil sketch



This colour-wash has the man in the central foreground wearing a blue jacket



This colour-wash has the man in the central foreground wearing a red jacket

