

Walker's Shears

1560-1. The large shears with which the fullers cropped the surface of cloth, were costly. Hew Nesbit, burgess of Edinburgh, pursued Andro Smyth and Patrik Henderson "for the soun of thirty-four shillings for ilk pair of nine pair of walker's shears, coft and receivit be them frae Hew." This payment they were decerned to make; and besides, Hew "protestit for costs, skaiths, dampnages, and interest susteinit be him in the action." These shears required frequent sharpening, and a house was provided with necessary implements for doing this. In 1560, payment "is made in name of the brethren of the walker craft, of certain mail foe ane house wherein they grand their shears." The records of the Hammermen show that about a century later, that craft took charge of the sharpening, and "furnishit and maintained ane grindstone for the grounding of walker's shears, the price of ilk pair to pat two shillings;" and they protested against any others "setting up a stone attour the town" for that purpose.

Maxwell's Old Dundee Prior to the Reformation