

# A Gravestone Restored

## William Meek Falconer & family

It was noticed in 2019 that one of the side stones of this monument, with its elegant Corinthian pilasters, had been pushed violently out of place by a branch of the self-seeded sycamore tree behind it. It was clear that before long the crowning stone might well have crashed to the ground. The offending branch was therefore removed before the monument was restored.

The Revd William Meek Falconer lived in Gueronne House, West Mayfield, and was Minister of St Paul's United Free Church, St. Leonard's Street. He died as the result of an accident. When cycling with his son Herbert towards Dalkeith, he lifted his hand to adjust his hat, the bicycle swerved and he fell over the handlebars. St Paul's Church (built 1836) was demolished in the 1980s to make way for the St. Leonard's Police Station.

A colleague wrote of Revd Falconer in his obituary: "Genial and brotherly, tender-hearted and kind, he brought with him an atmosphere that sweetened life and enriched fellowship. In the Church Courts or on the golf course, in the concert room or in the homes of his people in the Pleasance, there was that indefinable warmth of nature that radiated forth on all who came within his influence."

His wife Isabella, née Paterson, had a family connection with the silk and tartan shop Romanes and Paterson. Their sons Herbert and Gerald were both ministers, Charles an engineer and Fred a violinist.

1913



2009



2019

