



0. SUMMERS in SCOTLAND - Story Preface

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When she was a young girl, Beatrix spent many summers at this home in Scotland—known as Dalguise House—which her father rented. It was while living in this home that the young artist fell in love with nature, became a budding naturalist and began to draw what she observed.

Although Beatrix's father was a Lincoln's Inn barrister, qualified to argue cases in court, he did not need professional income to provide for his family. Indeed, Rupert Potter rarely worked as a lawyer even though he maintained chambers, for thirty years, in New Square.

He did enjoy photography, then a new art form. Thanks to his many pictures, we have some record of Beatrix's early life.

When she was five, Beatrix and her parents spent the summer in Scotland. Wealthy Victorian families were able to lease beautiful homes in the Scottish countryside. The Potters traveled to Perthshire, where Rupert had leased Dalguise House. Near the town of Dunkeld, it overlooks the Tay.

It was in these surroundings, which Beatrix was to enjoy every summer until she was fifteen, that the young - and lonely - girl fell in love with nature. Able to explore the area's beauty, she studied - and drew - what she observed.

Now a budding naturalist, Beatrix had a keen eye for detail. Rupert encouraged his daughter, although he never expected her to work for a living. Her drawings of caterpillars - made when she was eight - still survive.

In 1892, the Potters were no longer able to rent Dalguise House. Instead, Mr. Potter arranged for his family to spend the summer at Heath Park, in Birnam. The following year, they rented Eastwood, in Dunkeld, where Beatrix composed her picture-letter for Noel Moore.

Before she created stories for her young friends, were there any artists (or other individuals) who had particularly influenced Beatrix? What did she learn from them?

Beyond illustrating what she saw, how did this young woman invent characters?

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/SUMMERS-in-SCOTLAND-Miss-Potter)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/SUMMERS-in-SCOTLAND-Miss-Potter)

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Dalguise House - Leased by Rupert Potter

Image online, courtesy ChessScotland.com.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Dalguise-House-Leased-by-Rupert-Potter>



Dalguise House - Near the Town of Dunkeld

Image online, courtesy [St. Olaf College](http://St.OlafCollege).

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Dalguise-House-Near-the-Town-of-Dunkeld>



Beatrix Potter - The Tay River at Dunkeld

Image online, courtesy [The Trouser Rollers](http://TheTrousersRollers).

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Beatrix-Potter-The-Tay-River-at-Dunkeld>



Beatrix Potter - Dunkeld in the Fall

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Beatrix-Potter-Dunkeld-in-the-Fall>



Beatrix Potter - Summers at Beautiful Dunkeld

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Beatrix-Potter-Summers-at-Beautiful-Dunkeld>



Beatrix Potter - A Child at Dalguise

Image of Beatrix Potter and Charles McIntosh online, courtesy Visit Dunkeld.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Beatrix-Potter-A-Child-at-Dalguise>



Beatrix Potter - Youthful Drawing of Caterpillars

Original maintained at the Victoria and Albert Museum, in London. Image online, courtesy [Peter Rabbit](#).

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Beatrix-Potter-Youthful-Drawing-of-Caterpillars>



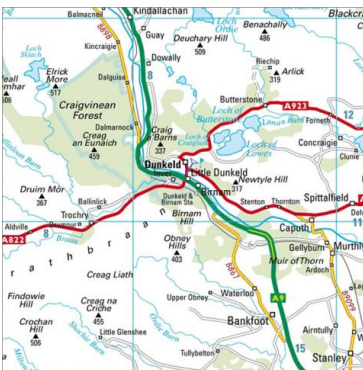
Beatrix Potter - Location of Summer Home, 1892

Map online, courtesy Dunkeld and Birnam Tourist Association.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Beatrix-Potter-Location-of-Summer-Home-1892>



Potter Family - Summers at Dunkeld and Birnam

Image online, courtesy [Dunkeld and Birnam](#)

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