

Researching the Country Houses of Galloway

The completion of their build was only the beginning of their story



Building Biographies:
A 2023 volunteer research project into the country houses
of Galloway

VOLUME 1: ANWOTH TO BORGUE



With contributions from:

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GALLOWAY GLENS
Landscape Partnership



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Introduction

The Building Biographies project recruited volunteers to undertake research into some of the large country houses within Galloway¹. These imposing buildings have borne witness to centuries of history, standing through changing eras and shifting social and economic climates. Their walls have enclosed the lives of many, their grounds the lives of many more and they have fulfilled a variety of needs from homes, hospitals and schools, to war rooms and tourist attractions.

The decision to focus on country houses stemmed from their longevity and assorted histories: their status and sheer size making them notable features in the landscape which inspire the imagination and curiosity of locals and visitors alike. These are buildings which appear frequently in our landscape but their histories often remain unknown to the public. Many have been demolished or stand as ruins: a resource that disappears a little more with each passing decade.

For the project, each volunteer was given their own specific house to research, piecing together timelines from their initial construction through to how they stand today. Initially, the selection of houses to research was driven by location, with the catchment area of the Galloway Glens being the focus. Second to this, the aim was to avoid any that had already been subject to a significant amount of research. The resulting selection included houses that were still in use, ruinous or even demolished, featuring a variety of functions dating back to the 19th century or earlier.

As more volunteers signed up, however, the study area expanded to include all of Galloway (and even a few from Dumfriesshire) and the biggest influence came from the preferences of the volunteers themselves; many had specific areas or even houses that had already piqued their interest and so the list grew to encompass a sporadic mix of country houses from across the region.

Each researcher was given a Guidance Note outlining the main resources available online. People could visit their local library or archive centre but the choice of online resources kept the project open to anyone who might face constraints in attending such places in person.

By the end of the project, 32 volunteers submitted their findings as summary reports, which covered 42 country houses across Galloway. The volunteers included people from Dumfries and Galloway, Ayrshire, Glasgow and America. Their results revealed stories of the people who designed, lived and worked within these houses, stories which reflect both local history and connections to far-flung places during times of peace and war.

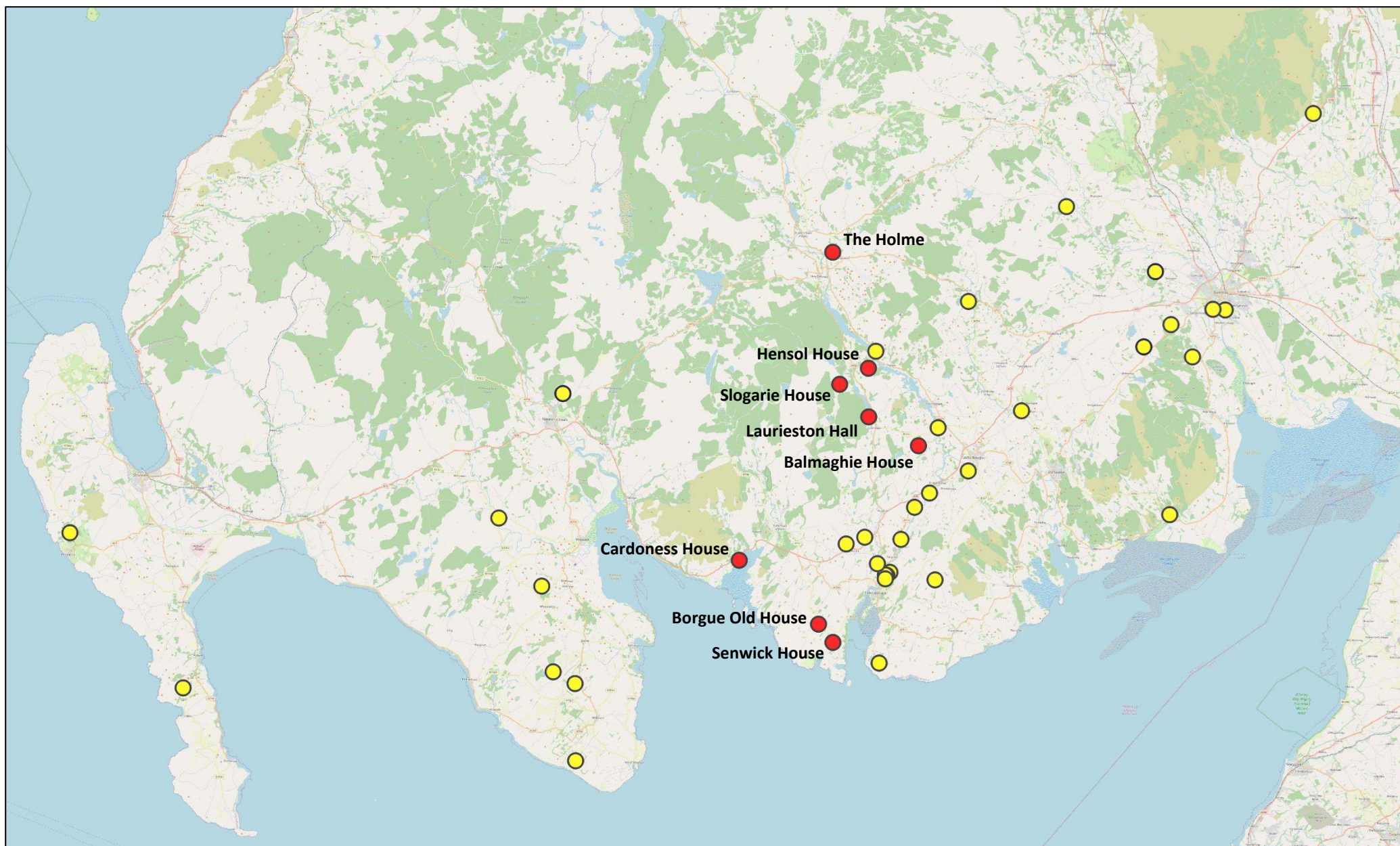
The volunteers' research has revealed the importance of recording these histories, and the origins of many bring to light a legacy that is not always acknowledged. After the abolition of slavery within the British Empire, the Slave Compensation Act of 1837 authorised a commission to manage the distribution of £20 million to compensate slave owners in the British colonies for the freeing of slaves.² Not all, but many of these country houses were initially funded with profits from slavery, with several connections to plantations in Jamaica.

It is important to record all aspects of our history and these houses seem able to reveal both the good and bad from our collective past. The passion and commitment shown by the volunteers in uncovering the stories of these houses has been inspiring, and they have created an impressive record which will be shared for many years to come.

Claire Williamson

¹ The Building Biographies project was undertaken in February to April 2023 as part of 'Can You Dig It', the community archaeology project of the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership. Galloway Glens was a five-year initiative funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and 'Can You Dig It' was match funded by Historic Environment Scotland and delivered by Rathmell Archaeology.

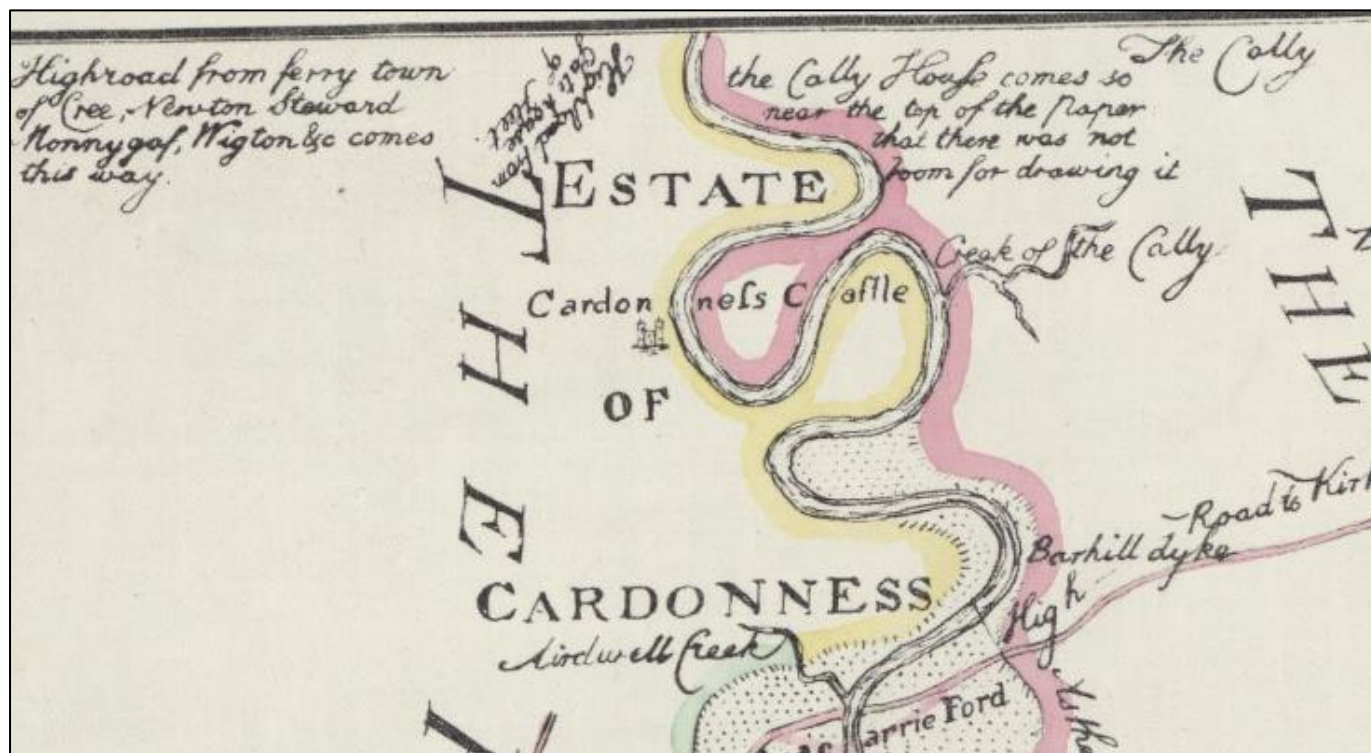
² The Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery contains a database of their records - <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/project/details/>



Locations of houses researched during the Building Biographies Project – red marks the houses reported in this volume

Cardoness House, Anwoth

by Keith Hamblin



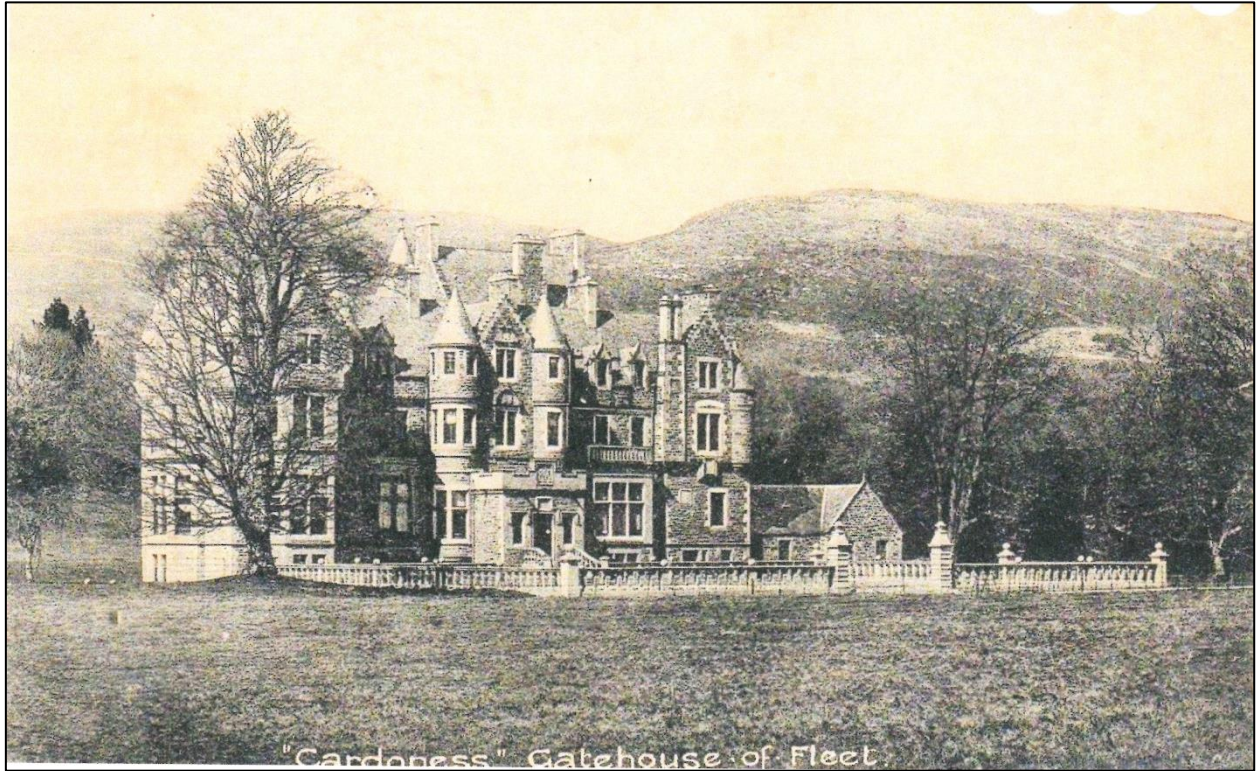
A Plan of the foot of the river Fleet by James Tait 1934

(Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland maps.nls.uk)

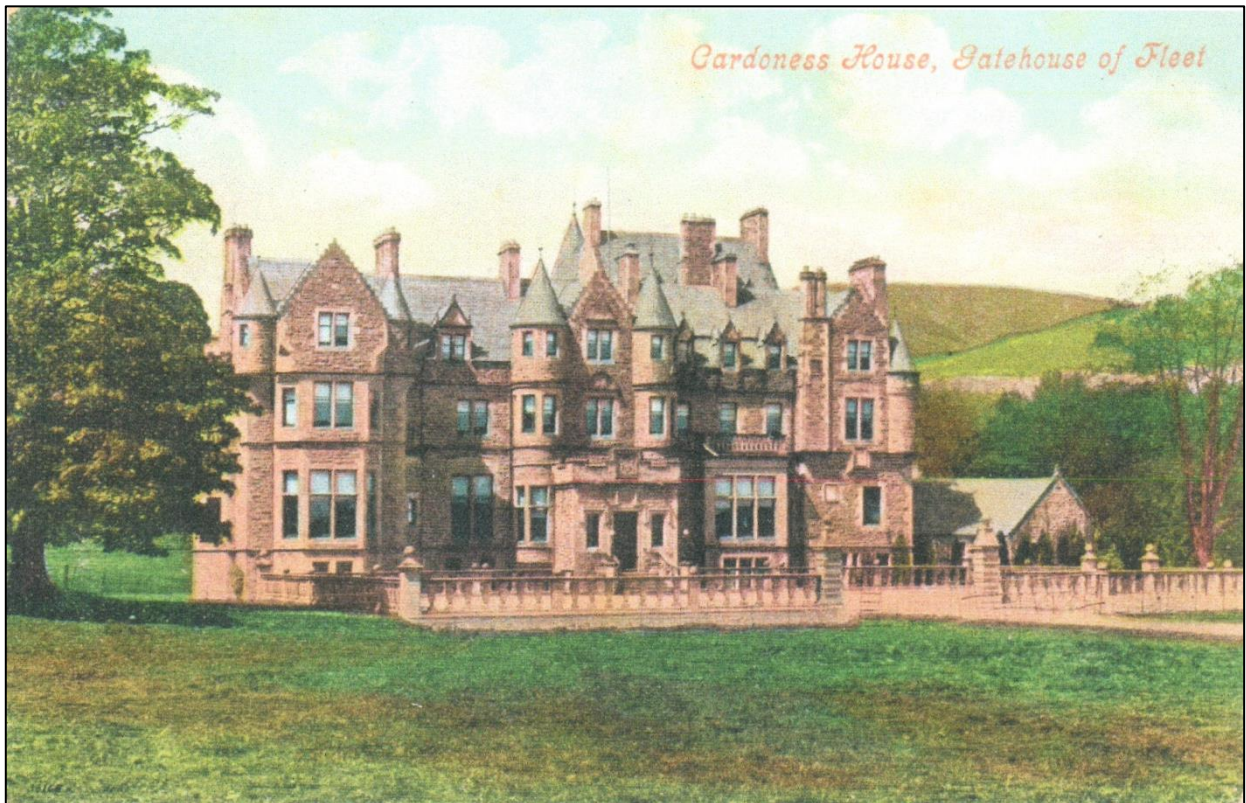


Gallovidia by Joan Blaeu 1654 (derived from Timothy Pont's survey in 1596)

(Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland maps.nls.uk)



Cardoness House in the early 1900s



A brief history of Cardoness Ownership

There is an old story which tells that the laird of Cardoness had 9 daughters before his wife gave birth to a son and heir. In celebration they held a party on a frozen Blackloch. The ice melted enough to drown all but a single daughter, who later married a McCulloch, thereby transferring lairdship of Cardoness to the McCulloch family.

At this time the laird of Cardoness lived at the "Green Tower Motte" which had been situated on a flattened plot of land near the Fleet estuary on the other side of the A75 from Cardoness Castle. The McCullochs were reputedly a violent family that stole property to maintain their wealth. In the 15th Century they abandoned the Green Tower Motte and built Cardoness Castle as their fortified .

A neighbouring family, the Gordons, had a centuries-old feud with the McCullochs, and somehow, in **1628** Cardoness Castle passed to the Gordon family, but violence, looting and killing by the McCullochs continued.

By about **1690**, John Gordon, the last owner and occupier of Cardoness Castle, had died, whilst his widow and son were murdered by the McCullochs. This led to Cardoness Castle being abandoned.

John Gordon's daughter Elizabeth inherited the Cardoness estate. She married William Stewart, son of the Earl of Galloway, and they had an only daughter Nicholas.

In **1696** Nicholas Stewart (1680-1766) married William Maxwell (1663-1752), who was the only son of William Maxwell, minister of Minnigaff.

In **1702** Nicholas inherited the Barony of Cardoness and this passed to her husband, thus starting the "Maxwells of Cardoness". William & Nicholas Maxwell had 4 sons and 9 daughters.

.....

The **1671** map drawn by James Tate shows a called Bardarroch which is probably on the same site as the current Cardoness . What is now a wooded area that forms part of the caravan and holiday was referred to as Bardarroch on this map.

In **1721** William Maxwell built a new 2-storey , probably on the same site as the previous Bardarroch . This may have been the first building to be called Cardoness . At about the same time he built a small chapel by the shore.

In **1752** the estate was inherited by John Maxwell I (c.1700-1754). John's wife Agnes acted as trustee for the estate whilst their 1st son John was away on Army duty and until their 2nd son David came of age to inherit in 1760.

In **1760** inheritance passed to David Maxwell II (c.17??-1825, 2nd son of John Maxwell I.

In **1768** David rebuilt the Chapel on the shore.

In **1770** David married his cousin Henrietta Maxwell.

In **1804** David Maxwell became the **1st Baronet of Cardoness**.

In **1826** David's son David Maxwell III (1773-1860), inherited the estate and became 2nd Baronet of Cardoness.

In **1828** David Maxwell III extended Cardoness . This may well have been financed by proceeds from the Skyreburn Copper Mine.

In **1860** William Maxwell V (1809-1886 - a) inherited Cardoness Estate as 3rd Baronet.

In **1874** William's eldest son David Maxwell (1842-1876) married Margaret Bateman. This William died 2 years later after which his wife set up a trust to open **Anwoth Cottage** .

In **1876 ?** Cardoness passed to William Francis Maxwell (1844-1924), 2nd son of William Maxwell V.

In **1886** Sir William Francis Maxwell further extended Cardoness . He also married his sister-in-law Jessidora McCrae.

In **1915** Sir William's eldest son was killed at Gallipoli during WW1.



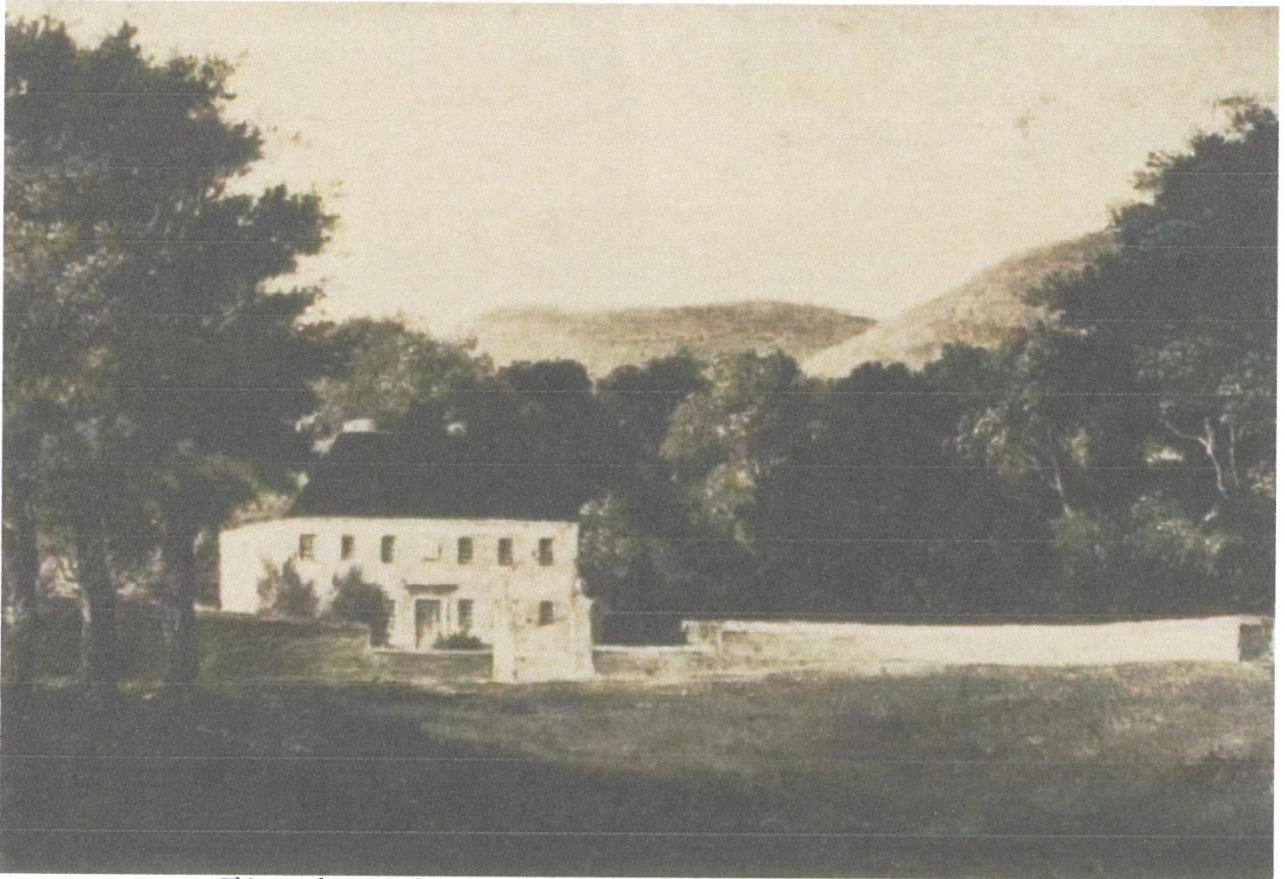
Click icons for enlargement.

In **1924** Sir William's daughter Dorothy Maxwell (1888-19??) inherited Cardoness. She had previously married Frederick Rainsford Hannay of Kirkdale (1878-1959). Following Sir William Maxwell's death Kirkdale & Cardoness Estates were combined.

In **1959** the wings of Cardoness were demolished so that the was reduced back to the size it had been in 1721.

Later in **1959** the Cardoness Estate (including Kirkdale) was inherited by their only son Ramsay Rainsford Hannay (1911-2004). Ramsay then turned parts of both Cardoness and Kirkdale Houses into flats and started the caravan at Cardoness.

In the **early 1990s** the Cardoness Holiday was transferred to Mark Hannay who, assisted by his wife Fiona, manages the estate. They live at Cardoness .



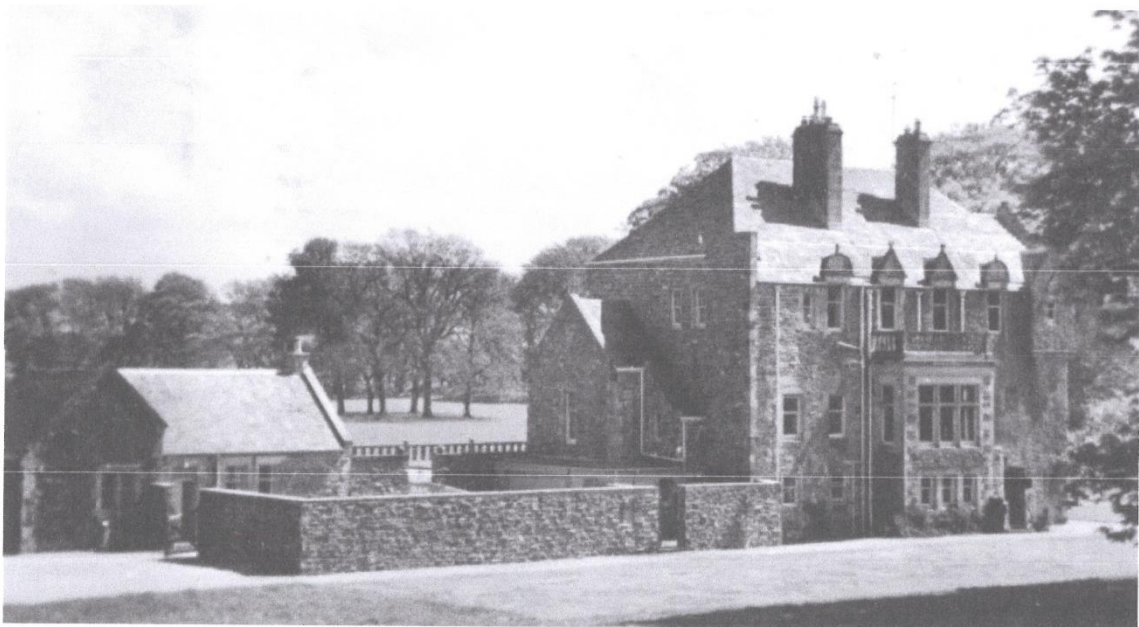
This was the original Cardoness . The view is taken from a painting by a Miss Maxwell.



In this photo the lower floor at the extreme right appears to have vegetation covering a large section of wall.



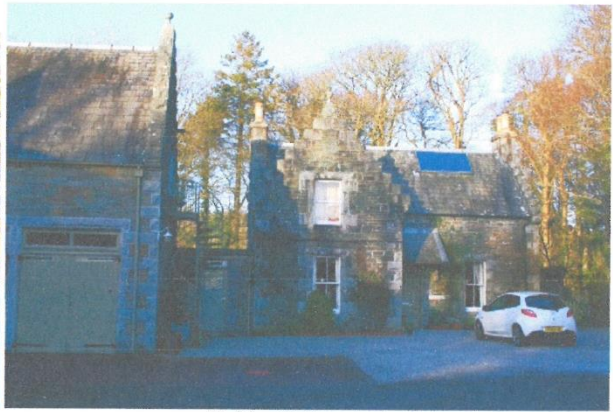
In this photo the foliage has been removed and there is a single-storey building to the right.



This photo is taken from the other side of the building (SW ?) and is taken after the wings were demolished in the 1960s.



The Old Stables today



Stables Cottage today



This photo of Stables Cottage was probably taken by William McMurray during the 1st quarter of the 20th century.

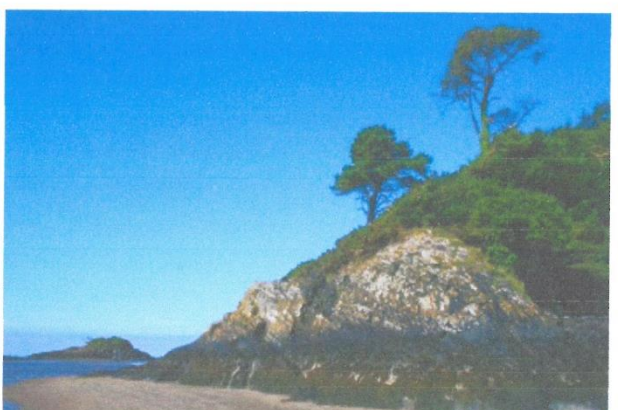
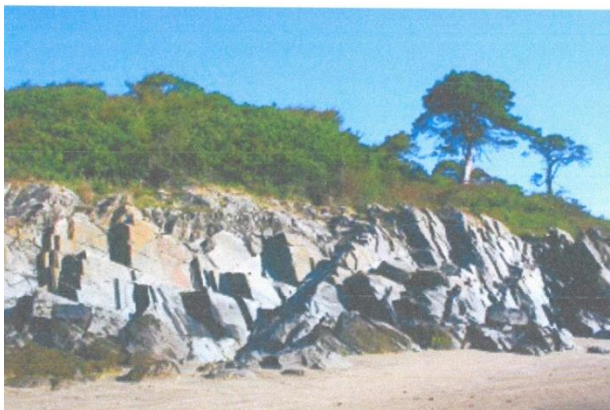
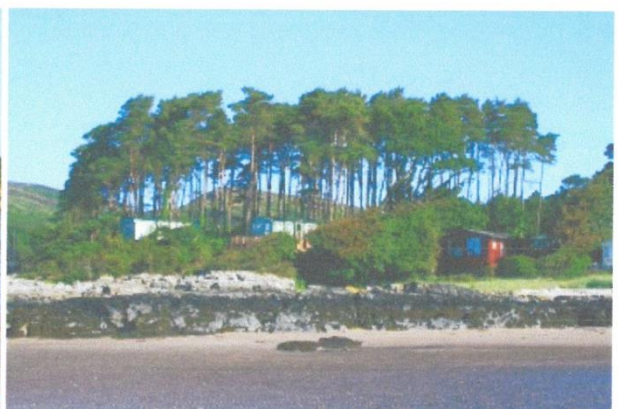
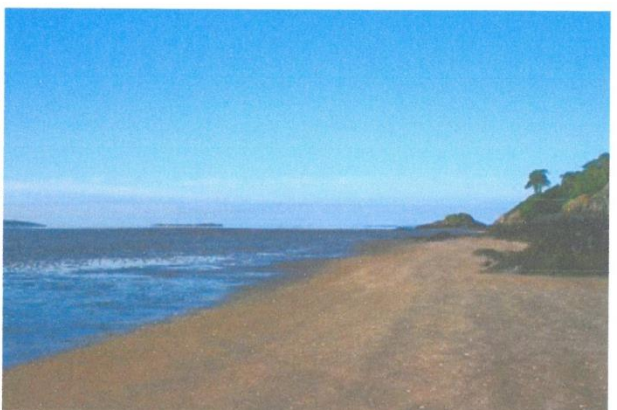
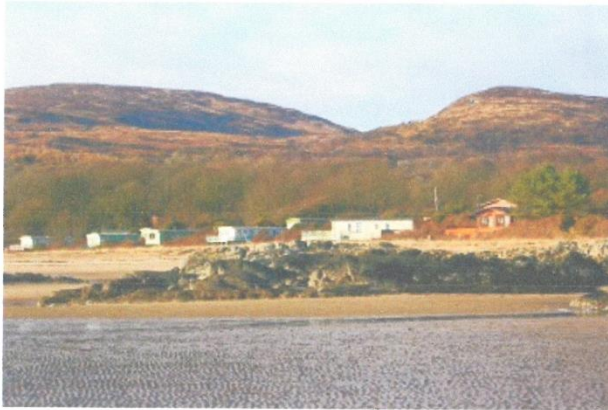


Fisherman's Cottage at Cardoness

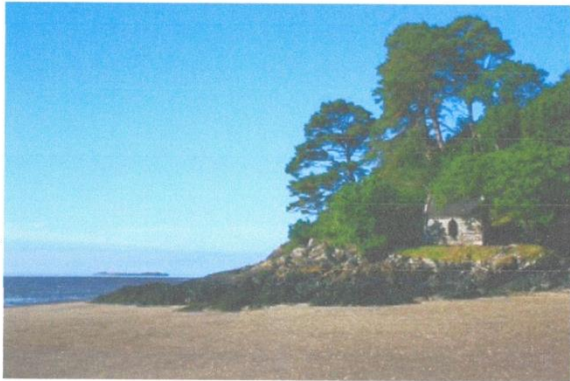


Sandy Knowes

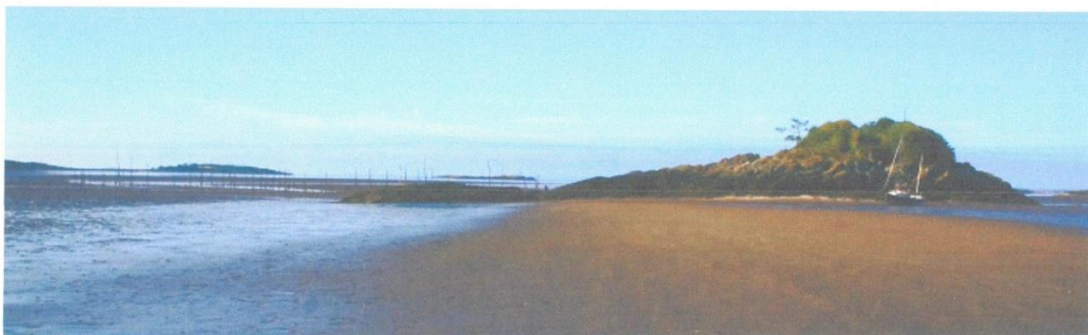
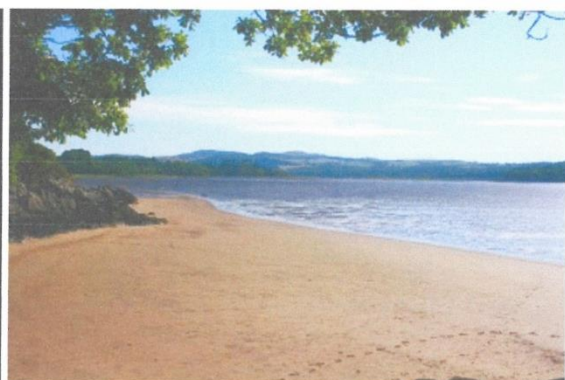
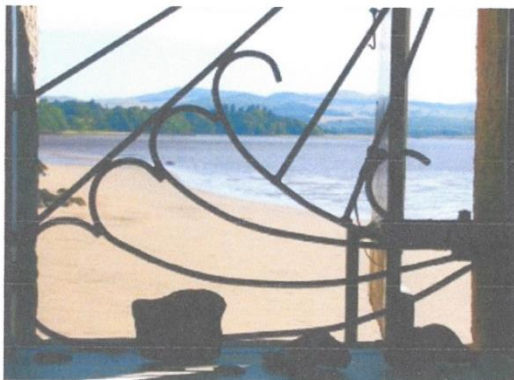
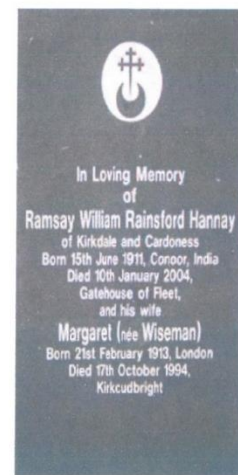
Cardoness Beach



Cardoness Chapel



THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1768
BY SIR DAVID MAXWELL, Bt.
OF CARDONESS
AS A SANCTUARY FOR
PRAYER AND CONTEMPLATION
ALL ARE WELCOME



The Chapel on Cardoness Shore

by R W Rainsford Hannay

The story of the Chapel really goes back to the beginning of the 18th century when Colonel William Maxwell, who had acquired the estate of Cardoness through his wife Nicholas Stewart, built a new residence on a part of the estate known as Bardarroch and called it Cardoness. The Castle had by that time been abandoned. Col. Maxwell was a man of some distinction. He had served with King William of Orange and was present at the Battle of The Boyne; in 1702 he was returned as member for the Stewarty in the last Scottish Parliament and called to be Governor of Glasgow during the 1715 Rebellion. All his life he had been a devout Christian and a member of the Presbyterian of Scotland and in the grounds of his new residence he built a small prayer to which he could retire and be at peace with the Almighty. His grandson, Sir David Maxwell, rebuilt the prayer in 1768 in perhaps a more appropriate place on a rock overlooking a small inlet off Fleet Bay.

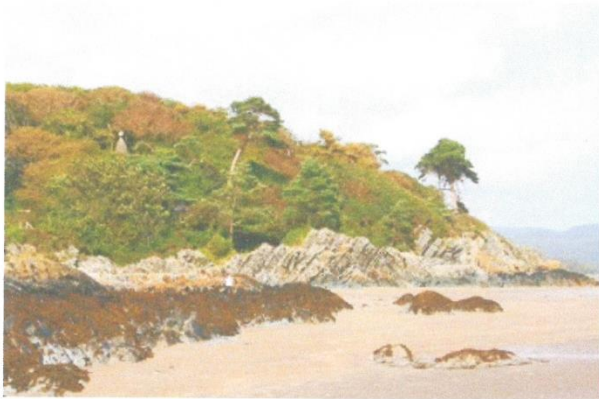
When I was a child, this building had ceased to be used for religious purposes by my grandparents, Sir William and Lady Jessica Maxwell. It was, however, still the custom to separate the sexes when bathing - the ladies in one sandy bay, the gentlemen in another, and there were a number of bays to choose from on the Cardoness shore. There was, though, no convenient place for the ladies to remove their garments, so the Chapel, as we now call it, was brought into use, and was known as the "Bathing ".

As a child I thought nothing of it but, later on in life, I began to query the situation. When I inherited the estate and started a holiday , my wife and I decided that it was about time the building reverted to its intended use. It needed quite a bit of repair, particularly to the roof, and the windows, some of which had had some stained glass in them. These were replaced by metal grills; the wooden shutters remaining. With the population of the holiday increasing, particularly in August, it seemed right that some sort of service be held for their benefit as well as for the local people. The Chapel being obviously too small for a full religious service, we decided to hold it out-of-doors. It provided a good base from which the clergy could conduct proceedings and, provided the tide was out, the congregation could assemble in the bay with picnics, children and dogs. We also felt that with such a diverse population, the service should be available to all Christian denominations. Hence the ecumenical content.

It has now been held on a Sunday afternoon in August every year for 34 years. The Chapel is always open and is used regularly for private devotions.

The above is transcribed from a booklet called "Gatehouse of Fleet Millenium Events" (1999-2000)

Cardoness Pinnacle



DATED ABOUT 1830

On a report that Sir David Maxwell intended to raze the pillar, built by his father, these lines were written J.M.McC.

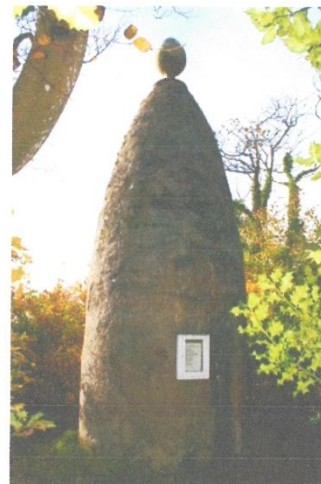
Oh! spare this barren rock to me
For a mark I stand to ships at
Long here I've braved the surging shock
Hence life rent me this -beat rock
Thy parents dear, wi' me have often stood
The storms to view on Solway's troubled flood.

From Cally's palace splendid and picturesque domain
I've viewed through branch formed vistas oft and oft again
From Ardwall's verdant glades and cope-clad rocky shore
Have been seen for four score years and more
Hence beauteous Cardoness you ne'er can be
Put to the blush by occupant like me.

Oh! heed not what the tasteless say
Who urge that I deform Fleet Bay
A striking object I long have stood
To grace they charming neighbourhood
May blessings fall on thee and thine
Let this -beaten rock be mine.

Oh! leave me for a beacon standing
I may save many a bark from stranding
Thy sire me raised, but gave no feu

Still I trust I'm safe with you
May blessings fall on thee and thine
Let this -beaten rock be mine

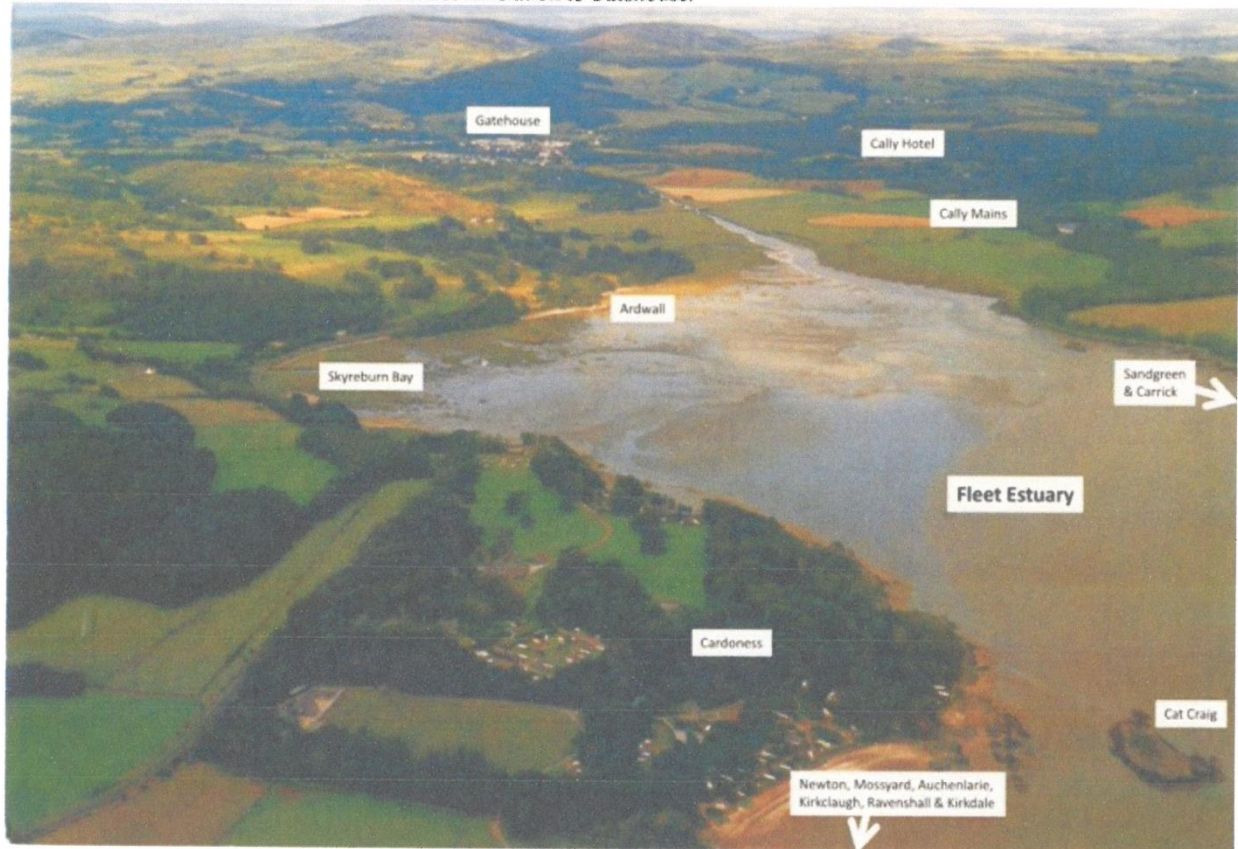


above is the pillar which is called The Pinnacle.

to the left is a transcription of the plaque which is fixed to The Pinnacle

Cardoness Holiday Park

This aerial view shows the location of Cardoness in relation to Gatehouse.



This is an old postcard which shows part of what is called the Garden Site.



A

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GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE

many cases secure. Sir Godfrey, and a person of the name of Gordon, claimed the estate of Cardoness, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. The former had possession; and the latter lived at Bushyfield, in the neighbourhood. They were personal enemies to each other; and Sir Godfrey having come to Bushyfield to assist in removing some cattle that had been pointed, and having thus met Gordon, discharged a loaded gun at him, and inflicted wounds which afterwards proved fatal. Sir Godfrey fled to England, but having afterwards returned to Scotland, he was apprehended in a church on a Sunday in Edinburgh, while attending public worship. At the end of the service, a gentleman from Galloway, who was present, and who, it is said, had a pecuniary interest in the death of M^cCulloch, cried out with an air of authority, "Shut the doors,—there's a murderer in the house!" Sir Godfrey was thus apprehended; and having been tried, he was executed on the 26th of March 1697. His "Last Speech," (printed from the only copy known to exist, and which is in the hands of the writer of this notice,) is given below.* He had never been married, though

* "The Last Speech of Sir Godfrey M^cCulloch of Myreton, Knight and Baronet, who was beheaded at the Cross of Edinburgh, the twenty six day of March 1697.

"I am brought here, good people, to give satisfaction to justice for the slaughter of William Gordon, designed of Cardines, and therefore I am obliged, as a dying man, to give a faithful and true account of the matter.

"I do declare in the sight of God I had no design against his life, nor did I expect to see him when I came where the accident happened: I came there contrair to my inclination, being pressed by these two persons who were the principal witnesses against me (they declaring he was not out of bed), that I might relieve their goods he had pointed: I do freely forgive them, and I pray heartily God may forgive them, for bringing me to that place.

"When I was in England, I was oft-times urged by several persons who declared they had commission from Castle-Stewart and her Lady† (now the pursuers for my blood), that I might give up the papers of these lands of Cardines, whereupon they promised not only a piece of money but also to concur for procuring me a Remission; and I have been several times since in the country, where the misfortune happened, and where they lived, but never troubled by any of them; although now after they had got themselves secured in these lands without me, they have been very active in the pursuit, untill at last they have got me brought to this place.

"I do acknowledge my sentence is just, and does not repine; for albeit it was only a single wound in the leg, by a shot of small hail, which was neither intended nor could be foreseen to be deadly; yet I do believe that God in his justice hath suffered me to fall in that miserable accident, for which I am now to suffer because of my many other great and grievous unrepented for sins; I do therefore heartily forgive my judges, accusers, witnesses, and all others who have now, or at any time injured me, as I wish to be forgiven.

"I recommend my wife and poor children to the protection of the Almighty God, who doth take care of and provide for the widow and fatherless; and prays that God may stir up and enable their friends and mine to be careful of them.

"I have been branded as being a Roman Catholic, which I altogether disown, and declare, as the words of a dying man, who am instantly to make my appearance before the Great Tribunal of the Great God, that I die in the true Catholic reformed Protest-

† The lady was Gordon's daughter, and married to William Stewart of Castle-Stewart.

B

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Land-owners.—The land-owners are, Sir David Maxwell of Cardoness, Bart.; Alexander Murray of Broughton, M.P.; Ro-

Mansion-houses.—These are, Cardoness,—not the castle of that name, which has, for nearly a century and a half, been uninhabitable, but a comparatively modern house, built by the Maxwell family,—Ardwall, Kirkclauch, Rusco House, built about the begin-

³ (A) NSA 1845 'General Observations on the County of Wigton', Vol. IV, p.226 [online] available at:

<https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol4->

[Section on the county of Wigton from volume 4 in account 2/](https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol4-); (B) NSA 1845 'Parish of Anwoth', Vol. IV, p.375 and p.382

[online] available at: <https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol4->

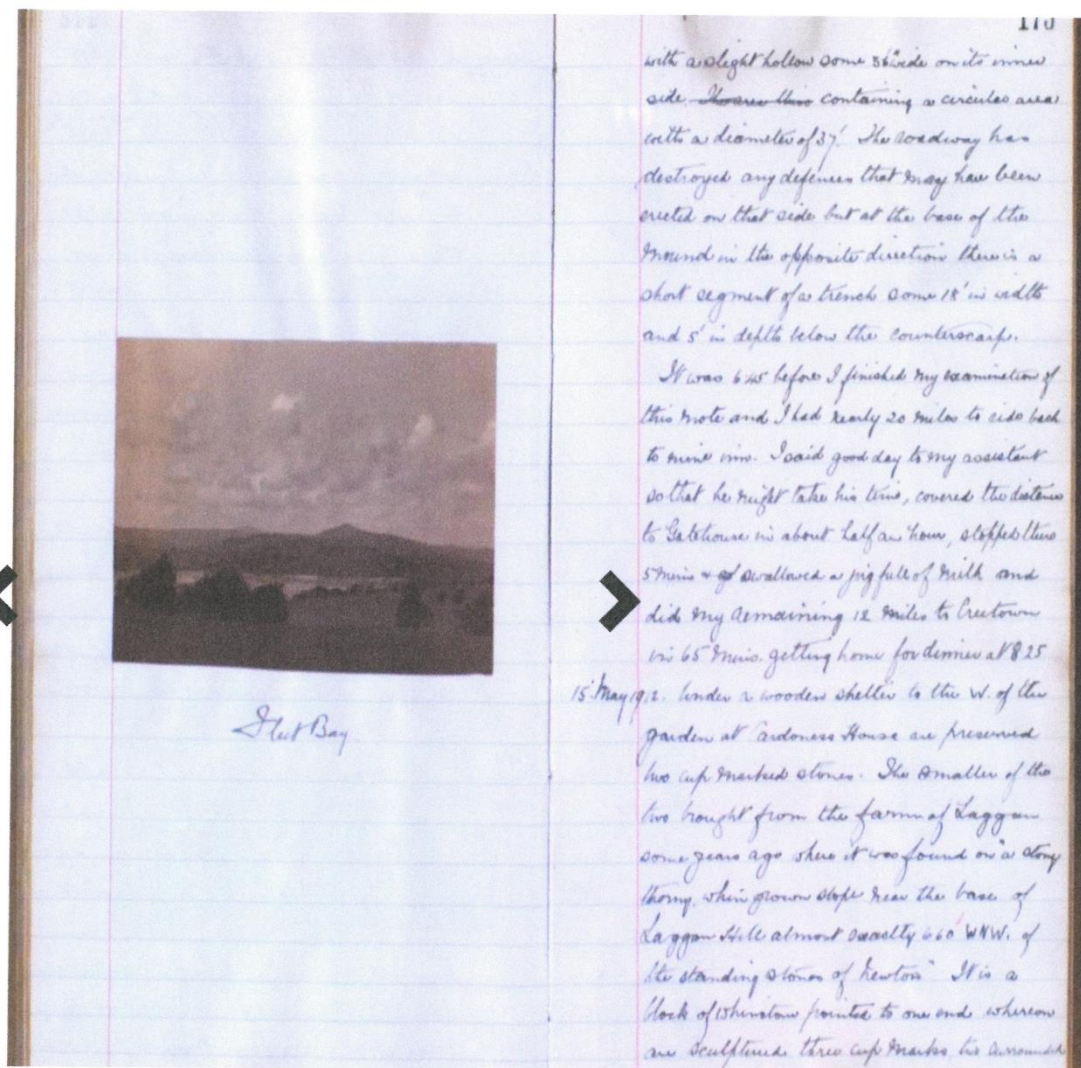
[Parish record for Anwoth in the county of Kirkcudbright in volume 4 of account 2/](https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol4-) [accessed 18 July 2023]

The 1851 Census Returns for Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire⁴:

Forename : Eliza Surname : BECK Address : Cardoness(855) Parish : Anwoth Relationship : household of Sir David Maxwell BT. Marital Status : unmarried Occupation : MAID laundry Age : 22 Born : born Dumfries Dms Ref : 1/6 Area :	Forename : Rosanna Surname : HAMILTON Address : Cardoness(855) Parish : Anwoth Relationship : household of Sir David Maxwell BT. Marital Status : unmarried Occupation : SERVANT house Age : 19 Born : born York England Ref : 1/6 Area :	Forename : Sir David BT Surname : MAXWELL Address : Cardoness(855) Parish : Anwoth Relationship : head of household Marital Status : widower Occupation : LANDED PROPRIETOR of 100 acres/col. of militia L.P.F. Age : 77 Born : born Anwoth Kbt Ref : 1/6 Area :
Forename : Grace Surname : CAIG Address : Cardoness(855) Parish : Anwoth Relationship : household of Sir David Maxwell BT. Marital Status : unmarried Occupation : COOK Age : 17 Born : born Kirkcudbright K Ref : 1/6 Area :	Forename : Janet Surname : MacCULLOCH Address : Cardoness(855) Parish : Anwoth Relationship : household of Sir David Maxwell BT. Marital Status : unmarried Occupation : MAID dairy Age : 31 Born : born Kirkcudbright K Ref : 1/6 Area :	Forename : James Surname : SPROAT Address : Cardoness(855) Parish : Anwoth Relationship : household of Sir David Maxwell BT. Marital Status : unmarried Occupation : GARDENER apprentice Age : 18 Born : born Anwoth Kbt Ref : 1/6 Area :
Forename : Christine Surname : DUNCAN Address : Cardoness(855) Parish : Anwoth Relationship : household of Sir David Maxwell BT. Marital Status : widow Occupation : MAID house Age : 32 Born : born Girthon Kbt Ref : 1/6 Area :	Forename : Isabella Surname : MARTIN Address : Cardoness(855) Parish : Anwoth Relationship : sister in law of Sir David Maxwell BT. Marital Status : unmarried Occupation : Age : 54 Born : born Marylebone Lond Ref : 1/6 Area :	Forename : Francis Surname : STALLING Address : Cardoness(855) Parish : Anwoth Relationship : household of Sir David Maxwell BT. Marital Status : widow Occupation : HOUSEKEEPER Age : 40 Born : born Cambridge Engla Ref : 1/6 Area :
	Forename : Sir David BT Surname : MAXWELL Address : Cardoness(855) Parish : Anwoth Relationship : head of household Marital Status : widower Occupation : COL. OF MILITIA L.P.F./landed proprietor of 100 acres Age : 77 Born : born Anwoth Kbt Ref : 1/6 Area :	

⁴ [online] available at: https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/HistoricalIndexes/Home/DisplayDetailedSearchResults_Census_1851 [accessed 18 July 2023]

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with a slight hollow some 3'.6" wide on its inner side containing a circular area with a diameter of 37'. The roadway has destroyed any defences that may have been erected on that side but at the base of the mound in the opposite direction there is a short segment of a trench some 18' in width and 5' in depth below the counterscarp. It was 6.45 before I finished my examination of this mote and I had nearly 20 miles to ride back to mine inn. I said good day to my assistant so that he might take his time, covered the distance to Gatehouse in about half an hour, stopped there 5 mins [minutes] & swallowed a jug full of milk and did my remaining 12 miles to Creetown in 65 mins. [minutes] getting home for dinner at 8.25

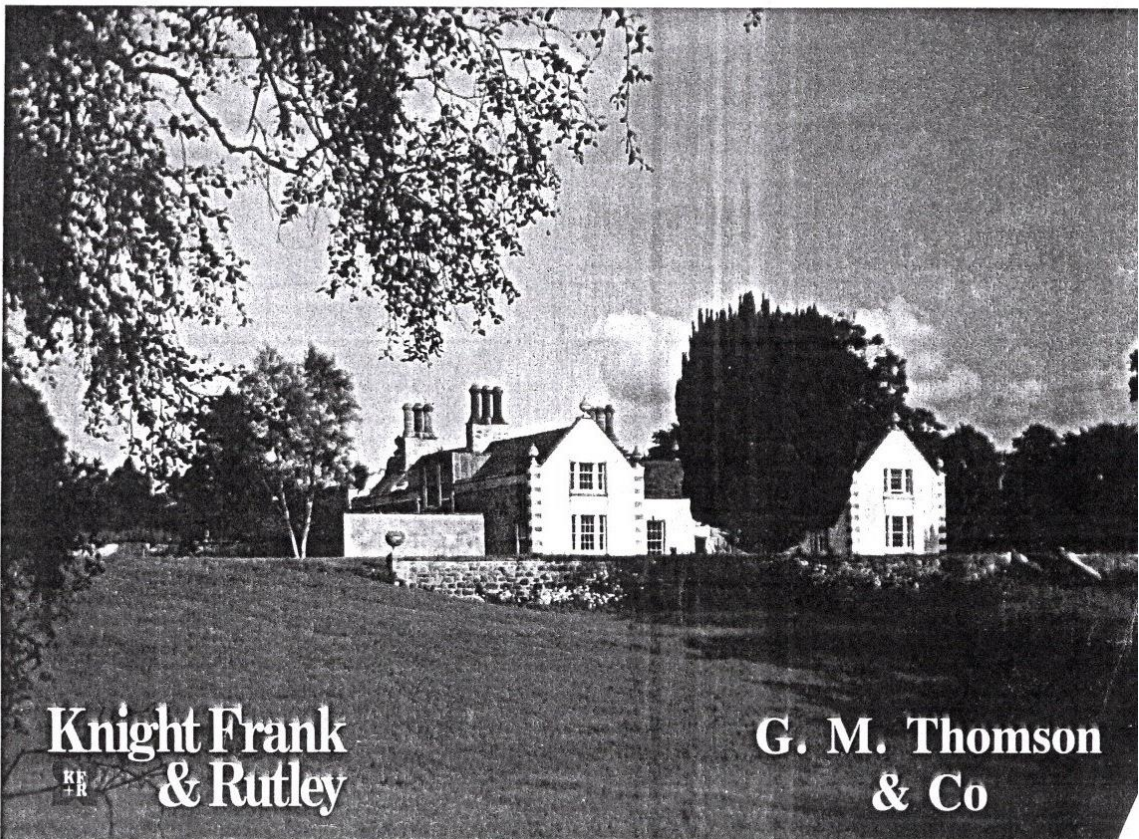
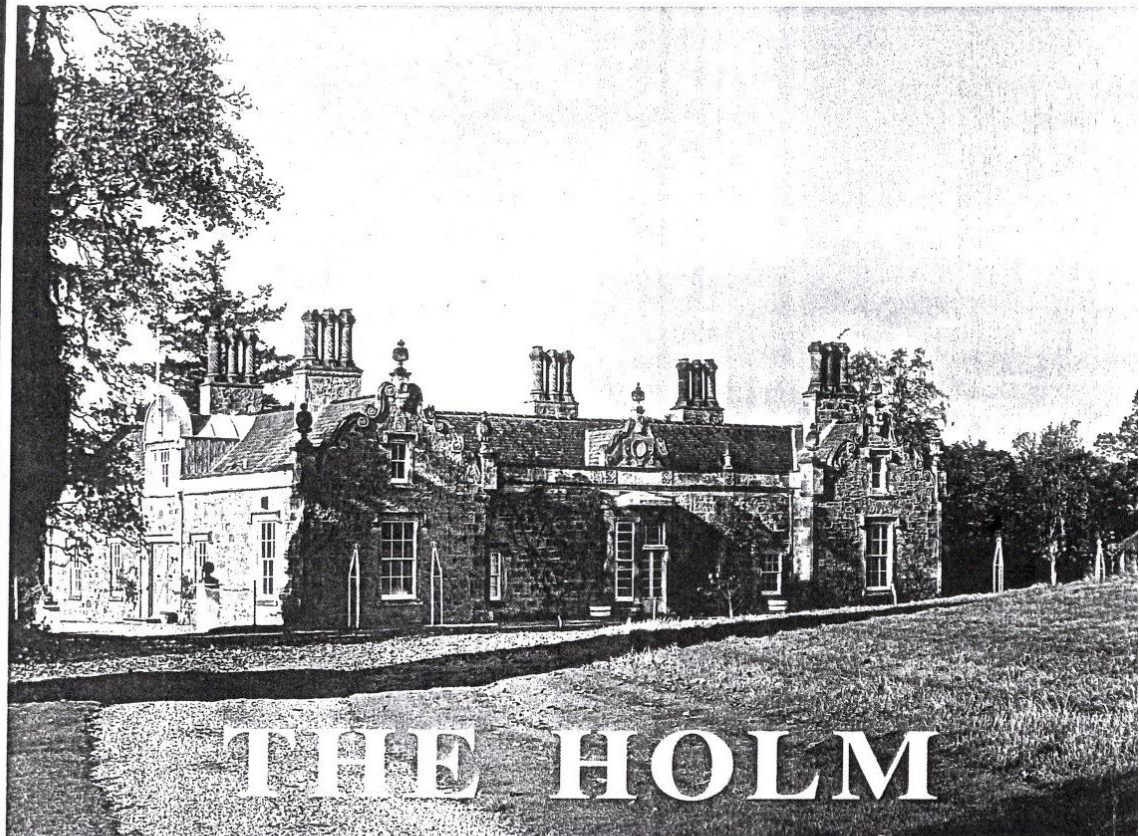
15th May 1912.

Under a wooden shelter to the W. [West] of the garden at Cardoness House are preserved two cup marked stones. The smaller of the two brought from the farm of Laggan some years ago where it was found on "a stony thorny, whin grown slope near the base of Laggan Hill almost exactly 660' WNW. [West North West] of the standing stones of Newton" It is a block of whinstone pointed to one end whereon are sculptured three cup marks, two surrounded

⁵ [online] available at: <https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/rcahms-archives/curle-diaries/curle-diary-09/175> [accessed 18 July 2023]

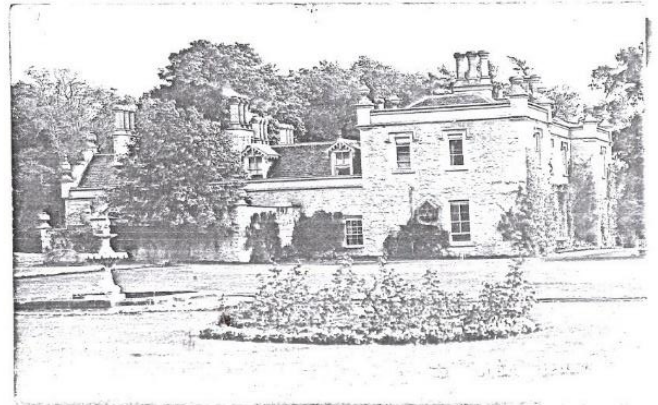
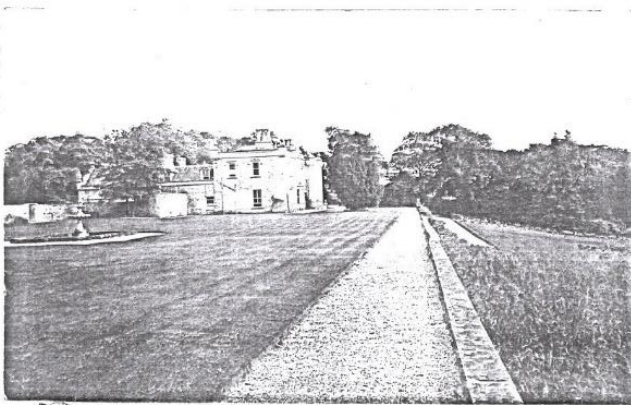
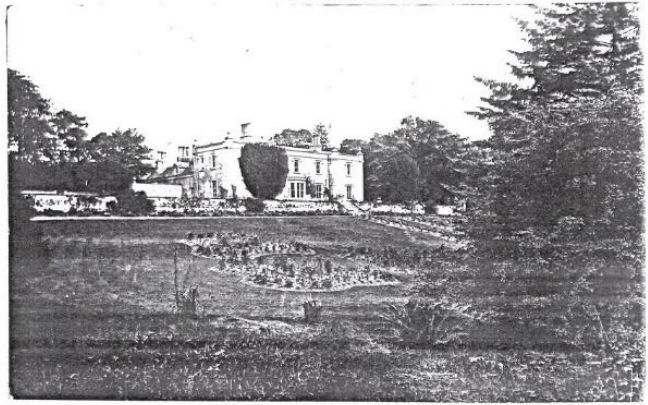
The Holme, Balmaclellan

by Alexander Hall



**Knight Frank
& Rutley**

**G. M. Thomson
& Co**



Much of the land in the Glenkens was occupied by the Gordon family and their cadet branches early in the 15th century, following their arrival from Berwickshire. Their stronghold at Kenmure Castle was their centre of operations. The castles of Lochinvar and Shirmers and the baronies of Troquain and the Holme are in Balmaclellan parish and were occupied by Gordons for many generations.

The Gordons of Holme

There are 22 gravestones in Balmaclellan churchyard recording the deaths of Gordons, but only two are specifically Gordons of Holme or Shirmers. One stone, in the group of six enclosed by iron railings, which constitutes the Gordon family plot, is mostly illegible but has a coat of arms which includes three boars' heads. This confirms their attachment to the Gordons of Lochinvar and Kenmure as one lady is the daughter of Viscount Kenmure.

William Gordon of Holme, died in 1714 aged 76, and his wife Jean Gordon died in 1721 aged 70. Presumably it was their son William Gordon of Holme who died in 1752 aged 68. He was the last Gordon who owned Holme.

The Spalding family

Alexander Spalding was a successful Dumfries merchant who acquired the 32 shilling land of Killochie and the 16 Shillingland of Knocklea in 1753. He was sheriff-depute of Wigtown in 1792. He bought the Holme estate c.1751 having married a Gordon heiress, Jean Gordon, daughter of Robert Gordon of Shirmers. The estates of Holme and Shirmers were thus united.

They had four sons:

Alexander, born 1750 succeeded to the land, but after some difficulties, John, the youngest son, a successful merchant in London was able to buy back the whole estate. Alexander was unmarried and died in 1794, less than a year after his widowed mother.

Robert, a writer in Dumfries, was born in 1752.

William, born April 1755.

John, born March 1758, was sent to London for a commercial education from Thomas Sword of Pancras Lane. In 1781 he went to Madras as a writer with the East India company and returned as a junior merchant in 1789. Under the patronage of the Earl of Galloway, he was returned to Parliament as member for the Wigtown Burghs in 1796 and again in 1802. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in July 1797.

1799 was the year William Dunbar completed farm maps – including Holme House and the estate of Holme, Hardland, two of Killochy, Cubbox and Knocklay. On 19 December 1797 John married Mary Anne Eden, daughter of Thomas Eden and his wife Marianne Jones, niece of Lord Auckland. Their children were John Eden Spalding and Dora Marianne Spalding (Malet). He had business interests in London where he was a director of the British Fire Office and Westminster Life Insurance 1814. He died on 26 August 1815 and was buried at St Mary's Wimbledon.

John was succeeded by his only son John Eden Spalding J.P. who married the Hon. Mary Upton, daughter of Henry Upton, 4th Viscount Templetown in 1831. She died in 1876.

The Upton family

Henry Upton, 2nd son of Arthur Upton of L'Upton in Devon, was a soldier in Ireland who settled in Co. Antrim and was M.P. for Carrickfergus. His grandson Clotworthy Upton, of Castle Upton joined the standard of William III and was taken prisoner at the siege of Limerick. He was succeeded by his brother John Upton created 1st Baron Templetown in 1776. His eldest son John Henry was created 1st Viscount Templetown, of Templetown, Co. Antrim, in 1806. The 4th Viscount was his great nephew.

Holme Estate

'The estate of Holme, the property of Augustus F. M. Spalding Esq. The mansion house . . . is prettily situated near the Garple Burn, and the grounds around it command views of great extent and beauty.'

In 1779 five landowners in the Glenkens combined to send a notice to the press about the 'Preservation of Game', requesting would-be poachers to keep off their land. Alexander Spalding Gordon of Holme was one of them.

In 1794 Mr. Spalding advertised to let by auction four parcels of land: 1. The lower part of Cubbox with house, farm buildings and cottages, totalling over 143 acres; 2. The upper of Hill part of Cubbox with 74 acres; 3. Aikie-bush Park of 37 acres; 4. The lower part of Holme of 60 acres.

At this time, 1798, the Government was having trouble raising funds above assessed taxes to defend the country against a possible French invasion. Out of a total of £122.5.6 contributed by the parish of Balmaclellan, John Spalding Esq. of Holm subscribed £100.

In 1810 Mr. Spalding wished to stand down as M.P. for Wigtownshire and applied to be Steward of the Chiltern Hundreds.

In 1810 and 1812 various farms were advertised to rent. Delarran 64 acres Scots, Holme 70 acres, Hill 200 acres, Trolane 63 acres and Cubbox. John Spalding was succeeded by his only son John Eden Spalding in 1815.

In 1823, 'The oak bark of the wood cut this season on Mr. Spalding's Estate of Holme and Shirmers' was advertised as 'ready for sale'.

In 1824, the Hill was advertised to rent at not less than £60 per year.

Ten years later the tenant of the Holme held a sale of farm stock. Sheep, pigs, hay and farm and dairy utensils were to be sold by public roup. Cattle would be the main attraction with a breeding herd of Galloway cows and a bull, 40 Galloway cattle of various ages and 19 three-year-old Highland cattle. This is an example of the once thriving cattle droving industry when Highland cattle were brought down from the north of Scotland and joined with locally bred Galloway bullocks. Then they grazed for some months before continuing their journey to Carlisle and the south.

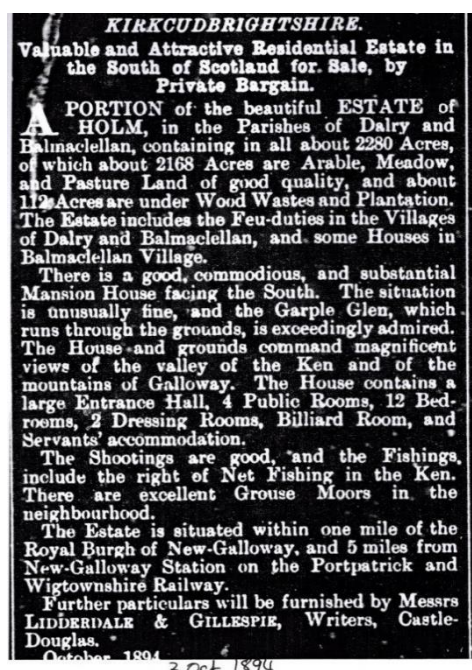
Eden Spalding was married in 1831 to the Hon: Mary Upton, daughter of Henry Upton 4th Viscount Templetown. Their eldest son, Lieutenant John Henry Upton Spalding R.N., born 19th April 1834 was killed by a cannon ball in the trenches before Sebastopol on 21st January 1855. He was in command of the naval batteries and mate in H.M.S. London.

In 1856 at the Glenkens Agricultural Society's show Mr. Spalding won the 1st prize for the best tup of any age in the Leicester breed.

In 1865 J.E. Spalding gave a dinner to the tenantry on the Holme and Shirmers estate. 'Hotel dinner was provided by Mrs. Rowe of the Spalding Arms Hotel . . . everyone present being highly gratified with the evening's entertainment.'

Augustus Spalding D.L., J.P, succeeded his father at the Holme in 1869. He had a house in London, 24 Charles Street, Berkeley Square. Rather than live at the Holme, he lived at Dalarran Lodge, near the Ken bridge. The Holme was let to Major J. M. Kennedy jnr. of Knocknalling. When he left, a sale of furniture was held at the Holme in 1886.

1874 'A marriage has been arranged between the Hon. and Rev. John Grey, brother of Earl Grey, and Miss Spalding, only daughter of the late Mr John Eden Spalding of The Holme, New Galloway'.



In October 1894, Augustus Spalding or his trustees, advertised a portion of the estate of Holme, some 2,280 acres, for sale by private bargain. Clearly this did not take place as the mansion house policies and shooting were let to a number of tenants – William Mather, Hugh Laing and Alexander Grosvenor Linzee. The Hon. H. M. Upton did not obtain possession until after W.W.1.

In October 1908 'a deputation from the tenants on the Holme and Shirmers estate waited on the proprietor, Mr. Spalding . . . at Dalarran Lodge, his Glenkens residence', to celebrate his 70th birthday where he was presented with an illuminated address. A list of those present was published in the local newspaper. In the course of his reply Mr. Spalding said 'he had been in possession of the Holm and Shirmers estate for nearly forty years, and during that time he had encountered many ups and downs, many difficulties, and many troubles. Indeed, at times he had been in despair of making two ends meet – that is making the estate support itself – whilst for more than twenty years he had not one shilling to put into his own pocket . . . On the same day a deputation from tradesmen, bailiff, labourers, and domestic servants . . . presented Mr. Spalding with a silver flower beaker as a token of their esteem.'

Mr. Spalding also had a house in London. In the Supplement to the London Gazette Feb. 27th 1867, his address was 'The Admiralty, Whitehall'. Augustus Spalding died, unmarried, in 1911 and the property devolved to the Hon. Augustus Upton.

Holme House



The Holme today is quite different from the building in the picture. The nineteenth century Tudor-style main block of the house, on the right, was demolished 30 years ago and the single-storey wings, one of which is visible on the left, were converted into a new house. Almost inevitably the estate was owned at one time by a branch of the Gordon family before being bought by the first Spalding owner in 1751. The Spaldings were an adventurous family. Two hundred years ago one of them fought a duel with Viscount Kenmure at Kirkcudbright, while another Spalding was killed in the Crimean War serving with the Naval Brigade at Sebastopol.

THE HOLME 35

'Holme is a handsome residence in the parish' (1846). 'Holme House is pleasantly situated among thriving wood near the river Ken' (1906).

There are few records of what must have been a substantial house on the site of the present house. John Gifford says that the c.1840s house was remodelled by the architect Antony C. Wolffe. The only feature from an even earlier building was set into a gable, 'a stone carved with the coat of arms of the Gordons, the initials RG and EG, and the date 1525'. The c.1970 reconstruction consists of a two-storey hall complete with a

gallery, flanked by two wings. One has a kitchen/dining room, south hall and sitting room while the other has a library, studio and the north hall and utility room. Bedrooms and bathrooms are on the first floor.

An old stable building was converted into guest accommodation in 1986.

More work was carried out on the house between 1991 and 1994.

Balmaclellan

HOLME		1642	1682	1777	1819
		£ s d			
Laird of Holme	Hardland	84.6.8	84.6.8	84	84
Lands of Holme with Alms Mill		130	130	127	127
	Over Minnibuie	100	100		
	Killoghy			66	66
	Knocklay			29.16	29.16
	Shirmers			70	70
	Cubbox			125	125
	Hill				60

Sources

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Valuation Rolls 1859/60, 1867/68, 1884/85, 1878/79 and 1911/12

Census 1792, 1841 and 1851

Baptisms/Deaths transcribed by Howard E. Sproat

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by Alastair M.T. Maxwell-Irving pp. 231-233

Dumfries and Galloway by John Gifford 1996 p. 346

Archives of A.C. Wolffe, Dumfries and Galloway Archives

Balmaclellan Parish Memorial Inscriptions, DGFHS 2014

Graveyard Stones 191, 208x6

The Dumfries and Galloway Standard

Balmaghie House, Balmaghie

by Eileen Johnson

In the 1846 *Topographical Dictionary of Scotland*⁶, Lewis described the house as “an ancient mansion, in which parts of an older building have been incorporated, is pleasantly seated near the river Dee, in grounds beautifully undulated, and embellished with plantations.”

However, this was demolished to make way for a fine and substantial building, outlined in the Gordon Castles⁷ webpage as follows: “Balmaghie House, on the River Dee near Glenlochar, was built by Sir John Burnet for the Gordon family of Balmaghie in 1880 on the site of the much older property of the same name. In the 1960's the house suffered from a major fire, the first two floors were later filled in, leaving a small bungalow atop a large mound.”

In October 1868, the mansion was advertised for sale in the *Edinburgh Evening Courant*:

“TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC ROUP, Within Dowell’s Rooms, No. 18 George Street, Edinburgh, on Wednesday the 4th November, at One p.m. (unless previously disposed of Private Bargain), The estate of Balmaghie, in the Parish of Balmaghie, and Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. This fine Estate consists of 3113 Acres Imperial measure, principally Arable Land, and is beautifully situated near the centre of the Stewartry, three miles from Castle-Douglas and nine miles from Kirkcudbright, the County Town. The Mansion-House is old but commodious, and is surrounded by timber of three hundred years’ growth. The Coach-House, Stables, and other Offices are suitable to the Estate, and, with the Porters’ Lodges and Gamekeeper’s Cottage, are in good order. There is excellent fishing, both for salmon and trout, in the River Dee, which marches with the lands for three miles. The Estate abounds in game of every description, which has been preserved for many years. The Proprietor is patron of the Church and Parish of Balmaghie. The whole Lands are in admirable condition, and the Home Farm and Boreland (both in the occupation of the Proprietor) particularly are in the highest state of cultivation. Three of the farms fall out of lease at Whitsunday. The present Rental is £2600, but the estimated Rental by an experienced Land Valuator shows £300 a year more, a large sum having been expended on Drainage, Fences, and other improvements during the currency of the existing leases. The Public Burdens amount to about £200 a year. The Feu-duty is merely nominal; and the Composition on Entry is taxed. The Teinds are valued. Upset (sic) Price, £85,000. The Title-deeds, Articles of Roup, and Lithographed Plans of the Estate are in the hands of William Bremner Hay. Esq., Solicitor Supreme Courts, 3 Howe Street. Edinburgh, to whom application may be made for farther particulars. Mr Donald Ross, Boreland, Balmaghie, Castle-Douglas, the local Factor will point out the boundaries.”

By 2017 in a sales brochure, Threave Rural Estate⁸ agents describe it thus:

“The house is now a mixture of traditional and modern with further potential to convert the lower ground floor to reception space. With high ceilings and timber panelling to the traditional parts of the house, the property retains a country house feel whilst being more manageable in size than many of its larger counterparts. The principle drawing room has a bay window overlooking the front gardens. There are seven bedrooms (two en-suite) and three large reception rooms with a selection of the original features of the house remaining including fireplaces, oak panelled walls, oak doors with leaded window lights and ornate timber carvings. There is a sunroom off the dining room overlooking the garden and a modern kitchen with adjacent laundry room and smaller utility room/kitchen. There are two first floor areas providing bedrooms

⁶ <http://www.kirkcudbright.co/balmaghie.asp> on the old house quotes A TOPOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF SCOTLAND, by Samuel Lewis. Published in 2 vols, London, 1846 [accessed 21 July 2023]

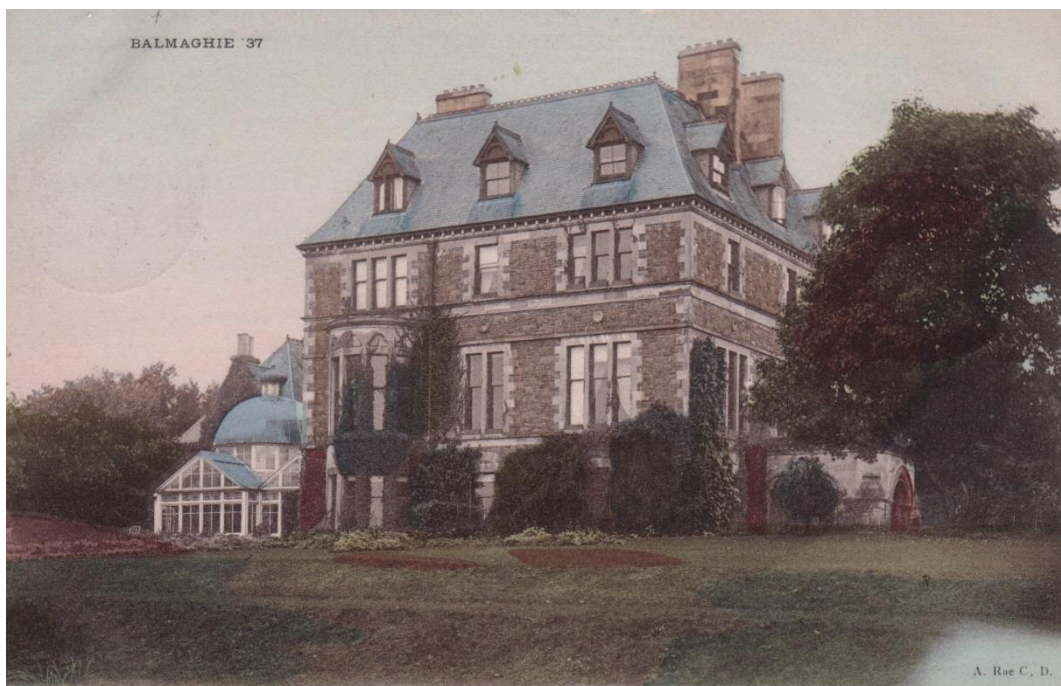
⁷ <https://gordoncastles.fandom.com/wiki/Balmaghie> Includes pre-fire picture [accessed 21 July 2023]

⁸ https://media.onthemarket.com/properties/3620870/doc_0_0.pdf Sales particulars March 2017 [accessed 21 July 2023]

and dressing rooms, one of which could be sub-divided to create a self-contained flat within the house with access through the back door.”

The brochure includes internal and external photos and a floor plan which cannot be copied, see https://media.onthemarket.com/properties/3620870/doc_0_0.pdf

Canmore⁹ has: 3 photographs, 5 digital images and one other, namely “Archive relating to Civic Trust Awards for reconstruction of Balmaghie, Antony Wolffe”.



Sir John Burnet's design photographed in 1937



Antony Wolffe's reconstruction after the fire, photo 1975 (<https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1633619>)

⁹ <https://canmore.org.uk/site/64684/balmaghie-house> 3 photographs, 5 digital images and one other, namely “Archive relating to Civic Trust Awards for reconstruction of Balmaghie, Antony Wolffe” [accessed 21 July 2023]

PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THE HOUSE

The Architect

John James Burnet FRSE FRIBA RSA RA of John Burnet and Son Architects. A successful and prolific Glasgow based architect.

“The death of the distinguished architect Sir John Burnet took place on the 2nd July at Colinton, where he had made his home since retiring three or four years ago. He was eighty-one years of age, having been born in 1857, and is survived by Lady Burnet.

“Educated in Glasgow his professional training was begun with his father, of the firm which became eventually John Burnet, Son & Campbell. Proceeding to Paris he worked in the studio of M. Pascal and subsequently gained entrance to the Ecole des Beaux Arts, where he was premiated for mathematics and construction. He completed his studies at the Royal Institute of British Architects and thereafter returned to Glasgow.

“One of his first undertakings in Glasgow was the Royal Institute of the Fine Arts in Sauchiehall Street, which was won by competition. Other notable buildings there are the offices of the Clyde Trust, the Athenaeum, the Botanical Department and extension of the University, the Pathological Institute, the Barony Church.

“In Edinburgh he designed the Professional and Civil Service Stores, George Street, the business premises of R. W. Forsyth in Princes Street, and in Scotland and England generally many public, ecclesiastical and domestic buildings. He was also architect for the Edinburgh International Exhibition of 1906.

“Important commissions came to him from London and to London he devoted the latter part of his life, the firm, of which he was senior partner, being known as Sir John Burnet, Tait & Lorne. He had the honour in 1905 of being entrusted by the Government with the important additions to the British Museum, now known as the King Edward VII. Galleries.

“Among his numerous London designs are the Institute of Chemistry in Russell Square, the Kodak building in Kingsway, Adelaide House and Vigo House, and the Second Church of Christ Scientist. He was the chief architect in Palestine and Gallipoli for the Imperial War Graves Commission.

“The professional esteem with which Sir John was regarded in Britain may be expressed by the words used in connection with the conferring of the Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1923, “Few architects living can compare with him either in quantity or quality of output, and fewer still may be said to have had as pervasive an influence on the work of their own time.”

“In France he had received both bronze and gold medals at the Salon and was a corresponding member of the Institute of France and of the Société central des Architectes Francais. He had the same relation with the American Institute of Architects.

“Knighted in 1914, Sir John was a member of both the Royal Scottish Academy (1919, Associate 1893) and the Royal Academy (1925). He was an Honorary LL.D., of Glasgow and Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, of the Royal Society, Edinburgh, and of the Royal Society of Antiquaries.”

Transcribed from the 1870 RSA Annual Report

The Gordon Family

27 March 1846 The marriage of **Geraldine** (a widow) and youngest daughter of James Murray **Gordon**, RN, of Balmaghie House, to Rev Edward O'Bryan Pratt in Monaghan. *The Pilot*

Rear Admiral James Murray Gordon

14 January 1850 Donations.— Our reporter is re-requested to acknowledge the receipt of a cheque for 10., upon Messrs. Drummond and Co., from Admiral Jas. M. Gordon, of Balmaghie House, Castle Douglas, N. 8., for the widow of a military officer, who was recently robbed of £91. 10s. in an omnibus. *London Evening Standard*

15 January 1851

We regret to announce the death of Rear-Admiral of the Red James Murray Gordon, which took place on the 28th December, at Balmaghie house, in the 79th year of his age. The gallant deceased was son of the late Thomas Gordon, Esq., and brother of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon of the Fusilier Guards. He married, December 10, 1810, the daughter of Archdeacon Caulfield, and relict of Captain Charton, E.I.C.S. That lady died in 1821, leaving issue two sons and two daughters. The second son, a lieutenant the 92d Highlanders, died in 1841. We learn from O'Bryne's "Biography," that Rear-Admiral Gordon served fourteen years afloat during the war. He was born March 1782; entered the navy 1791, on board the *Britannia*, 100, bearing the flag in the Mediterranean of Admiral William Hotham, in whose ensuing action of July 13, with the French fleet, we believe, he was a participator. After serving for rather more than five years as midshipman, on the same and on the home and East India stations, in the *Tarlton* and *Virginie*, Mr Gordon became acting lieutenant, July 18, 1800, of the *Vulcan* bomb, also stationed in the East Indies, where he removed in a similar capacity to the *Trincomalee*, 18, and *Dedaigneuse* frigate, to which latter vessel he was confirmed by commission, dated February 25, 1803. He assumed the acting command, on May 26, 1805, of the *Albatross* sloop, and being officially appointed to that vessel, Feb. 1, 1806, continued to serve in her in the East until Feb. 28, 1806. He then returned to England, but was soon again ordered to India in the *Procris*, 18, of which vessel he assumed command on the 19th of the following October. As a post captain—a rank he attained Feb. 15, 1808—Captain Gordon was further employed on that station in the *Terpsichore* frigate from April 28, in the same year, until July 28, 1809. We do not find that he has since held any appointment. His promotion to flag rank took place Nov. 9, 1846". *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balmaghie> In the people section: Rear Admiral James Murray Gordon (1782-1850) of Balmaghie House, buried in his private chapel-mausoleum on the estate.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balmaghie#/media/File:Admiral Gordon's Chapel - Glenlochar - geograph.org.uk - 963863.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balmaghie#/media/File:Admiral_Gordon's_Chapel_-_Glenlochar_-_geograph.org.uk_-_963863.jpg)

Graham Hutchison

9 May 1873 HUTCHISON—GRAHAM—On the 6th inst., at St. Peter's, Baton -square, by the Rev. R. M. Graham, rector of Arthuret, Graham Hutchison. Esq., of Balmaghie, N. 8., to Florence, youngest daughter of George Graham, Esq. *The Hour*

10 Jan 1879 Castle Douglas Soup Kitchen Committee acknowledge with thanks receipt of £5 subscription and vegetables from the garden.

31 December 1880 BALMAGHIE—Each of the children on Balmaghie estate was invited to the annual treat at Balmaghie House on Christmas day. The treat this year consisted of a Christmas tree, and, as an after amusement, a magic lantern. After tea the children adjourned to one of the large rooms, which was tastefully decorated, and contained the feature of the evening, adorned with articles useful and amusing, which ere long found their way into eager little hands. So soon as the tree was cleared of its Christmas blossoms the lantern was produced—the whole bearing an impression of a merry Christmas which cannot soon be effaced. The magic lantern was again exhibited on Monday to those who had not the opportunity of seeing it on Saturday. It may not be out of place to state that great interest is taken in the children of Balmaghie not only

by Mr and Mrs Hutchison, but also by Mrs Hay Thompson, who made parcels of books to be distributed to the most promising pupils in Glenlocher School. *Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser*

9 April 1886 GLENLOCHAR—During the late winter months the children attending the school here were supplied with a hot dinner every day. Nearly all the children took advantage of these dinners, and they were in every respect a great success. The charge was 1/2d for each child, but when there were more than two children of the same family, only 1d was charged for the family. Well-to-do parents, however, had, and did take, the opportunity of making a return for the small charge by gifts of potatoes, &c. The dinner was taken in school and occupied about twenty minutes. Mrs Murphy, Post Office, acted as cook, and gave satisfaction to all concerned. As most of the children attending this school come some distance, it is needless to say that they benefited considerably by their hot mid-day meal. It had, no doubt, an effect upon their attendance, and it made them better fitted to resist the effects of bad weather, and to profit by the instruction in school. For the success of these dinners great credit is due to Graham Hutchison, Esq. of Balmaghie, chairman of the School Board. Among others who contributed towards their success were Major Graham, Balmaghie House, who sent a contribution of a sovereign, Messrs Craig, Camp-douglas; Ken, Drumlane; M'Conchie, Glenlochar; Crawford, Boreland; and Tait, Culvennan. *Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser*

Aug-Dec 1904 To let – house and shootings. *Field Magazine*

23 June 1905 Marriage of Miss Marjorie Wood, only daughter of Mr. John Wood, J.P., D.L., of Whitfield House, Glossop, and Hengrave Hall, Suffolk, who on Monday, at St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square, London, was married to Captain George Graham Hutchison, of the 21st Lancers, Only son of Mr. Graham Hutchison, DL., and J.P., of Balmaghie, Kirkcudbrightshire. As fully reported elsewhere in this issue, the wedding was a picturesque military one, and the non-commissioned officers of the loyal Suffolk Hussars, of which the bridegroom is adjutant, lined the aisles, while among the dresses a military turn was given to the ceremony by the little train-bearer, the bride's brother, being dressed in Hussar uniform of blue and gold. On their way to Balmaghie, Castle Douglas, the happy pair are staying at Twycross, Atherton, lent by Mr. and Mrs. Harrington Holton. *Glossop-dale Chronicle*

7 May 1910 Mr and Mrs Graham Hutchison from Balmaghie House, Castle Douglas, and Baron and Baronne Fallon are among the latest arrivals at the Grand Hotel. *The Queen magazine*

25 April 1923 Recent Deaths. The death occurred last week of Lady Inger Henniker-Hughan, wife of Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur J. Henniker-Hughan. She was the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Graham Hutchison, of Balmaghie, and was married in 1904. Both in her husband's Service and among her neighbours she will be remembered for her activity in "good works." During the war she made herself extremely useful at the various naval bases where her husband was stationed, particularly in the South of England when he was Admiral-Superintendent of Devonport Dockyard. She also took a leading part in the Girl Guides movement in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. There was a very large attendance last week at her funeral in Balmaghie Churchyard. *Truth*

9 October 1925 LATE SIR A. HENNIKER-HUGHAN, M.P. FUNERAL AT BALMAGIE The funeral of Admiral Sir Arthur John Henniker-Hughan, Bart., C.B., member of Parliament for Galloway, took place yesterday afternoon at the family burial-ground at Balmaghie Churchyard, Castle-Douglas. The remains arrived from London in the morning, and the coffin was placed on a catafalque in front of the pulpit. Lying on the coffin were his Admiral's hat and sword and his decorations. The service was conducted by Rev H. R. Anderson, St Margaret's Episcopal Church, New Galloway, and Rev. W. A. Mowat, Balmaghie. The pall-bearers were Mr Graham Hutchison of Balmaghie (father-in-law); Col. Hutchison, Rockend, Helensburgh (brother-in-law); ... Mr Rutherford Gillespie of Walbut, and Mr Thos Carter, gardener at Airds. Besides the immediate relatives, there was a very large attendance ... *The Scotsman*

17 Sept 1938 CELEBRATIONS AT BALMAGHIE HOUSE : On the invitation of Lieut.-Colonel Graham Hutchison of Balmaghie, and Mrs Hutchison, over a hundred guests were entertained at Balmaghie House in celebration of the recent wedding of Miss Catherine Graham Hutchison, elder daughter of Colonel and Mrs Hutchison, to Mr John Hopwood, only son of Captain William Schroder, late 9th Lancers, and Mrs Schroder, of Attadale, Ross-shire, and The Rookery, Nantwich, who is a grandson of Colonel Hopwood of Hopwood. The bride is a granddaughter of Sir John Wood, Bt., of Hengrave Hall, Bury St Edmunds, and- Forrest, Kells; while her father Colonel Hutchison, is a member of the King's Bodyguard in Scotland. Among the guests were the Earl and Countess of Galloway, Cumloden, Newton-Stewart; Lord and Lady Sinclair, Milton Park, Dalry; the Hon. Patricia St Clair, Colonel and Mrs Herries of Spottes, Mrs Maitland of Dundrennan, Major Colin Gordon, C.V.O., and Major Alan Gordon, Threave; Colonel and Mrs Hope-Vere of Blackwood, Mr and Mrs Milner Gibson, of Slogarie; Mrs Laurie Johnstone, Drumpark; the Misses Duncan, Danevale; Mrs Bristowe, Craig, Balmaclellan; Mr A. Donald, Chief-Constable of Galloway and Mrs Donald; Mr C. A. Phillips of Olldawn. Mr Robert Walker, The Nook, on behalf the tenantry on the estate, presented Mrs Hopwood with a wedding gift consisting of a silver tray and sauce-boats. *The Scotsman*

7 September 1938 ... Young Women who work. Miss Graham Hutchison, Dress Designer – Barbara Graham Hutchison, daughter of the Laird of Balmaghie, is one of the trio, the other two are Russians, who run a new dress house. They designed the wedding cortege for her sister Catherine, now Mrs. John Hopwood. Photographs by Radial Press Service. *The Bystander*

Employees of Col Hutchison – **Donald, and daughter, Florence Mackenzie**

23 November 1938 MISSING GALLOWAY GIRL RETURNS HOME Brought in Car After All-Night Search for Her. After an unavailing all-night search for a missing 16-year-old Galloway schoolgirl, the girl returned to her home in a car early yesterday afternoon. She is Florence Mackenzie, daughter of Mr Donald Mackenzie, chauffeur-gardener at Balmaghie House, near Castle-Douglas. She said she had been walking all night on the Galloway hills and had rowed herself across Loch Grannoch, which is about 11 miles, as the crow flies, from her home. Florence had not returned home from Kirkcudbright Academy on Monday night, although she was seen at the drive leading to Balmaghie House about five o ' clock. Some time after she was due home, her parents became anxious, and on making a search found her school books and a glove lying behind some bushes near the drive along with her cycle. The police were informed, and as no trace of the girl could be found, an all-night search of the woods was carried out. A large number of villagers, farmers, and gamekeepers took part. At daybreak attention was turned to the River Dee, which runs close by, but this was also without result . Early yesterday afternoon, however, Florence was brought home by Mr William Milligan, New Galloway, in his car. She said she had been walking all night over the hills, and in the early hours of the morning found a boat at Loch Grannoch. There were no oars, so she broke one of the spars and rowed herself across. She attracted the attention of a young shepherd, Thomas Logan, who conveyed her to Clatteringshaws, a small upland village, and from there Mr Milligan took her home. A search has also been carried on for Ken Robson , under gamekeeper on the estate , who also disappeared on Monday night. *The Scotsman*

Employee of Col Hutchinson – **Ken Robson**

24 November 1938 MISSING 'KEEPER RETURNS Ken Robson, under-gamekeeper on Balmaghie estate, Galloway, who was reported missing on Monday night, returned to his home on Tuesday evening. Robson lived with his wife in a little cottage at Glenlochar, about a mile and half from the mansion-house at Balmaghie. He disappeared on Monday night after leaving his home to take rabbits and nothing was heard of him. *Dundee Courier*

[NB The next summer the Estate was advertising for a Under Keeper and wife however no other reference to Ken Robson was found.]

EVENTS

31 January 1884 at BH residence of Graham Hutchison, storm damage – a chimney stalk fell with a crash through the conservatory. *Ayrshire Advertiser*

Aug-Dec 1904 To let – house and shootings. House has every convenience; gas, water etc. Shootings 4800 acres of which 2000 are moor and 200 woods and coverts. Proprietor Graham Hutchison. *Field Magazine* 12 March and 21 May 1904

1 June 1912 Advert: KITCHENMAID (good single-handed) required; wages £18. Apply Housekeeper, Balmaghie House, Castle-Douglas. *The Scotsman* [NB only kitchen maid employed and wage below average]

15 May 1915 Advert: ODD-MAN wanted for Balmaghie, Kirkcudbrightshire; wage, 20s. a week, with house and eight tons coal per annum; one whose wife could undertake laundry and management of two cows preferred, wage 12s. a week. Apply Hewat & Dunn, Solicitors, Castle-Douglas. *The Scotsman*

23 Dec 1896 FATAL ACCIDENT AT BALMAGHIE—On Saturday Mr William Walker, employed as a carter at Balmaghie House, and residing at North Lodge, met his death under very sad circumstances. He went out with a cart in the morning to fodder some cattle in a field near the mansion. He was not expected home at dinner time, as it was understood he was to take lunch to a shooting party at Dornel. About noon the cart was observed standing in the field, but that there had been an accident was never suspected. As Walker did not go to Dornal, an alarm was raised late in the afternoon. A search was begun, and Mr John Russell, coachman, found Mr Walker lying dead at the place where he had been foddering the cattle. The horse and cart at this time were a good distance from the body, and the cart was upturned. It was presumed from the position of the body that the deceased had fallen from the cart while in the act of throwing out fodder. The pitchfork was lying close to the body. Dr Lorraine, Castle-Douglas, said death was caused by a broken neck, and the accident must have happened in the forenoon. Deceased was 63 years of age, and leaves a widow and grown-up family, for whom much sympathy is expressed. *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*

[Early 1960s The house suffered a serious fire. I have not been able to find a date of the fire or photo of the damaged building. Canmore refers to a Civil Trust Award article in 1968 about the reconstruction.]

REFERENCES

<https://pastmap.org.uk/map> Nothing for the house. NB Pheasantry, North Lodge, Gardeners Cottage

<https://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/search/keyword/balmaghie> Nothing found

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balmaghie> Built 1874-80 by John Burnet and John James Burnet

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Hensol House, Balmaghie

by Bianca Leder

Easting/Northing: 267560, 569835

Parish: Balmaghie

County: Kirkcubrightshire

Council: Dumfries & Galloway

Hensol House – A labour of love

Built in 1822 by famous architect Edgar Ludgar and commissioned by John Cuninghame, previously of Lainshaw, Ayrshire. A famous family line as well as a famous owner and resident of Hensol House – John Cuninghame grew up in Lainshaw, his father William Lainshaw was the Laird over several lands in Scotland including the Duchrae estate, now Hensol. John Cuninghame was a keen hunter and became friends with fellow hunter Theodore Roosevelt, whom he once saved from being killed whilst hunting.

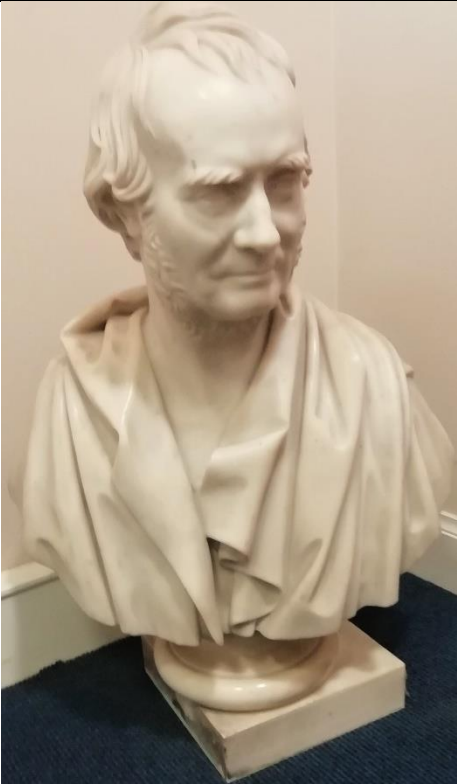
Cunninghame's wife, Helen Ethel McDougal, came from a family of great gardeners who designed their own home, Logan, near Stranraer – now part of the Botanical Gardens.

The house, gardens and whole estate are magnificent and are mostly still intact thanks to being grade A listed as well as being loved by its owners who in turn take great care in preserving it.

Hensol houses a famous sundial which used to be at the Lainshaw estate but was moved to their garden at Hensol when the Lainshaw estate got sold.

The house has seen many families from the Cuninghames, to Milne Home, Lord and Lady Aisla, Henderson, Bell and has recently been up for sale for a whopping £4.25 Million!!

Timeline	Activities	People who lived here	Interesting Facts	Source
Around 1600	Former name of estate: DUCHRAE – Gaelic Hensol estate known as Duchrae before 19th century			<i>The Ken Valley</i> by Jack Hunter, published in 2001 by Stenlake Publishing Hensol House, Dee and Glenkens, Dumfries and Galloway (britishlistedbuildings.co.uk)
1724	Scene of last episode of Levellers rising when their forces were scattered near the Duchrae wood by regular cavalry		Rising was almost only instance in Scotland of dispossessed small tenant farmers taking direct action against agricultural changes that had cost them their farms and livelihoods	<i>The Ken Valley</i> by Jack Hunter, published in 2001 by Stenlake Publishing
1786	Duchrae estate was purchased	Owner William Cuninghame	He does not give the exact price at which he purchased the Duchrae estate (“by private bargain immediately after the roup”), but as the reduced upset price was £10,500, we may take it that Mr. Cuninghame’s bargain was something well on the under-side of that sum	Raiderland, All about Grey Galloway (electricscotland.com) William Cuninghame of Lainshaw - Wikipedia

					
1788			Photocopy of plan of estate of Duchrae belonging to William Cuninghame of Lainshaw; with table of contents	NAS Catalogue - catalogue record (nrscotland.gov.uk)	
			Surveyor William Crawford		
1822	Main house was built, 2 storey and attic house. Architect Robert Lugar	Built for John Cuninghame, of Lainshaw, Ayr	JC commissioned Gothic revivalist architect Robert Lugar, renowned for designing dramatic country houses "This newly erected mansion stands on a bold rise of ground	PressReader.com - Digital Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions Hensol House, Dee and Glenkens, Dumfries and	

			in the midst of romantic scenery ... beyond which the mountain in the distance, melting with soft air shows a highly finished picture of the greatest character” RL	Galloway (britishlistedbuildings.co.uk)
	Although born in Colchester, England , Lugar carried out much of his most important work in Scotland and Wales , where he was employed by several leading industrialists to design grand houses such as Balloch Castle (1808), Cyfarthfa Castle (1824).			Robert Lugar - Wikipedia



Richard John Cuninghame at the age of 19, in plain cloth kilt at Lainshaw

Owner &
Resident

John
Cuninghame
(Richard John
Cuninghame)

A big game hunter whose
diaries recount him saving
President Roosevelt's life from
wild elephants

Famous tobacco merchant
owner's grandson

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Scottish country estate
with river views and a
farm for sale
\(countryliving.com\)](#)

[The hunter who saved a
president
\(telegraph.co.uk\)](#)

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Richard John Cuninghame taken in Cairo, Egypt in 1882



Richard John Cuninghame taken in his hunting garb in East Africa c1908



American President Theodore Roosevelt taken on 17th December 1909



ADVENTURER: Richard John Cunningham

By Jane Simpson

IN an age before political correctness, when the only 'endangered' animals were those in his sights, he pursued big game with princes on the African plains - and once saved the life of a US President.

Now trophies, photographs and other memorabilia from Scottish hunter RJ Cunningham's adventures are to be auctioned nearly 90 years after his death.

The 600 lots going under the hammer come from Hensol, his ancestral home on the outskirts of Mossdale, near Castle Douglas in Kirkcudbrightshire.

On safari for lions, rhinos, antelope and elephants, Richard John 'Dick' Cunningham acted as guide to former US President Theodore Roosevelt, the future King George V and Prince Wilhelm of Sweden.

While hunting elephant, Roosevelt got into difficulty after shooting one bull and then being charged by another, before he had time to reload.

As Roosevelt dodged behind a tree, Cunningham took cool aim at the charging beast and brought it down before it could trample 'Teddy' underfoot.

One photograph being auctioned shows some of the



ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENT: Theodore Roosevelt

which sold for more than £4 million two years ago after the death of the most recent owner - British Es magazine for period betu

Grant MacDougall, senior valuations specialist at Bonhams auctioneers, said: 'It is very unusual to get a sale of this type from a classic country house

flavour of game exper



Wife
Helen Ethel
MacDougall

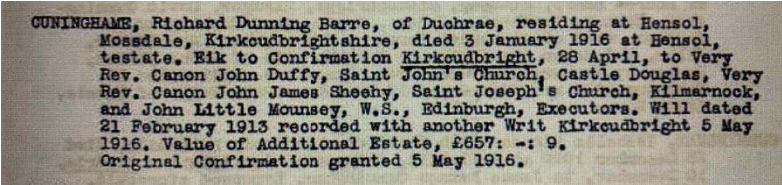
His wife came from a family of great gardeners who designed their home, Logan near Stranraer, now part of the Royal Botanic Garden.

MacDougall's influence is also clear in the grounds that surround the property. She came from a family of prominent gardeners who were

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			tasked with creating the beautiful gardens, including the walled garden. In fact, an exquisite 17th century sundial with another family engraving stands in the garden following McDougall's request to have it transferred from their other Scottish estate, Lansdale, once it was sold in the 1800s.	
1824	Current house is of 19th century origin, Built in tudor style but of local granite 			<i>The Ken Valley</i> by Jack Hunter, published in 2001 by Stenlake Publishing
	The house is at the end of a mile long drive within a 632-acre estate which meanders through tall trees, rhododendrons and azaleas with sweeping views of the River Dee.			Magnificent secluded Scottish country estate with river views and a farm for sale (countryliving.com)

1825	Postal address	Resident John Cuninghame		Scotland, Postal Directories, 1825-1910 - Ancestry.co.uk
1864	John Cuninghame died		Inventory and Appraisalment of household furniture and other effects at Hensol and Lainshaw, 1864	NRAS Register - catalogue record (nrscotland.gov.uk) Lands of Lainshaw - Wikipedia
1868		Resident R. D. of Barré Duchrae Cuninghame		Scotland, Postal Directories, 1825-1910 - Ancestry.co.uk
1875		Resident R D of Barre Cuninghame		Scotland, Postal Directories, 1825-1910 - Ancestry.co.uk
1916 03.01.1916		Resident and owner Richard Dunning Barre Cuninghame	Died at Hensol Will of estate	Scotland, National Probate Index (Calendar of Confirmations and Inventories), 1876-1936 - Ancestry.co.uk

1931-32		John Hepburn Milne Home B 1876	Includes letters of advice from 'Uncle Johnnie' [John Hepburn Milne Home, b 1876], Hensol, Mossdale, Kirkcudbrightshire and Irvine House, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire	NAS Catalogue - catalogue record (nrscotland.gov.uk)
Before and 1945	House passed on by marriage to the Aisla family	Lord & Lady Aisla	On ascending to their title, Lord & Lady Aisla chose to continue life at Hensol rather than at Culzean Castle, which was instead gifted to the National Trust of Scotland in 1945	PressReader.com - Digital Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions
1960	The house survives largely intact - the only major external alteration is the removal of S front porch replaced circa 1960 by granite, timber and glass conservatory. Porch re-erected to N front to form new main entrance into old service quarters.			Hensol House, Dee and Glenkens, Dumfries and Galloway (britishlistedbuildings.co.uk)
1971	Inherited by God daughter	Lady Henderson Husband Admiral Sir Nigel Henderson	Former chairman of the military committee of Nato	PressReader.com - Digital Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions
1972 04/11/1972	Category A Listed building Description of building: -2-storey and attic house with principal rooms in square plan block to E with angle turrets. Much lower L-shaped		Grade B Listed interesting places on the Hensol Estate: Lainshaw sundial;	Hensol House, Dee and Glenkens, Dumfries and Galloway (britishlistedbuildings.co.uk)

	service wing to W. -Rock-faced granite with polished inner faces to window margins, hoodmoulds. MAIN BLOCK: square plan with 3-storey ogee roofed square turrets to angles. S ELEVATION: 3-bay with boldly advanced gabled centre bay. Modern projecting conservatory; granite base, timber and glass with slate roof. Above, canted corbelled oriel with gable over. Conservatory flanked by tripartites at ground, single light above. E ELEVATION: 2 asymmetrical gabled bays. That to left shallow advanced with tripartite to ground, single light above. To right, 2 single lights to ground, corbelled oriel above (Lugar's drawing shows ornamental parapet to oriel never executed). N ELEVATION: 3-bay with centre bay recessed, outer bays gabled, that to right with tripartite to ground, otherwise all single tight windows, those to right 1st with replaced 4-pane glazing. Angle turrets with lead ogee roofs, slit windows with diamond pane glazing. T-plan service wing lower 2-storey with pedimented dormers, W wing taller and gabled. To S 5-bay elevation with circa 1919 single-storey extension to inner 3 bays; bipartites flanking tripartite, deep plain parapet, flat roof. Variety of glazing patterns throughout house. Original design mullioned and transomed with 2, 4 or 6-pane glazing, some 12-pane or 4-pane sash and case. Servants wing with mullioned and transomed windows with diamond-pane glazing, some with lower portions of plate glass. Slate roofs, tall individual granite stacks often in groups of 3 or 4 give distinctive roofline.		Hensol lodge and bridge.	
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	INTERIOR: largely unaltered. Gothic hallway with 4-centre rib-vaulted ceiling. Doors, shutters, cornices etc mostly original to Lugar.			
	Lainshaw Sundial Category A listed (23.04.1990)		A lectern style sundial was located at Lainshaw, similar to the lectern at Ladyland but with two steps and hemi-cylinders towards the South rather than one; it is now at Hensol House near Castle Douglas. The sundial plinth has the Cuninghame coat of arms and the initials SAC DMS, for Sir Alexander Cuninghame (d. 1685) and his wife, Dame Margaret Stewart (m. 1665) who lived at Corsehill Castle; the dial may have been taken to Lainshaw when the family moved in 1779. The date of construction may have been 1672, when Sir Alexander was created Baronet or in 1673, when he became a freemason. ^[22] Later 17th century. Large and complex dial of lectern type, bearing the initials and shield of Sir Alexander Cuninghame of Lainshaw and Dame Margaret Stewart and probably dating from their marriage in	Lands of Lainshaw - Wikipedia HENSOL HOUSE, THE LAINSHAW SUNDIAL (LB3416) (historicenvironment.scot) https://cardhawkuk.com/product/frys-ancient-sundials-1924-33-lainshaw-ayrshire-scotland

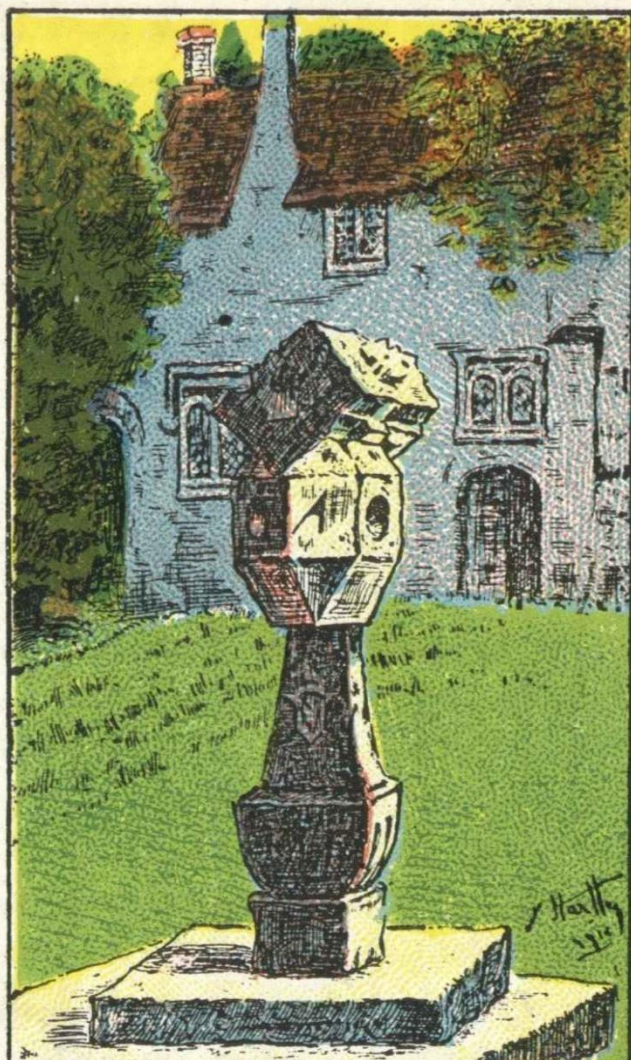


1673. Multi-face sandstone head with many dials, some hollowed, some heart-shaped; lead gnomons replaced in 1980's.

The pedestal is much damaged, the dial having fallen into disrepair at Cunninghame's Lainshaw estate in Ayrshire, in the 19th century it was brought to Hensol and re-erected. The pedestal was a square plan baluster shape with bulbous fluted base and a now truncated obelisk-shaped shaft bearing the shields and initials. The plinth and foot of the pedestal are missing. When complete the pedestal must have closely resembled that at Ladyland House, Ayrshire, which has an almost identical sundial dated 1674.

Statement of Special Interest

This is a very fine and notable sundial of comparatively early date. Though no direct connection between it and the Ladylands dial has yet been established, the two are so similar and of such distinctive style, they are almost certainly the work of the same master mason.



FRY'S CHOCOLATE
Makers to H.M. THE KING.

A group with Hensol House.

2012	House/Estate was sold to the Bell family	Maurice Bell Shirley Bell Son Andrew & family	Farmers, originally from Cumbria. They were attracted by the land but fell in love with the house. They used the house as a home. Shirley Bell made improvements by moving through it from room to room, redecorating and replacing curtains and furniture. It has a boat house, and they went kayaking with their grandson. They let 3 cottages long term and two for holidays.	PressReader.com - Digital Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions
2017	House is set in such a secluded spot it is quite possible to live in the area for years and never see it.		Has its own wetland and nature reserve known as Ken Dee Marches. There is a driven pheasant shoot, duck flighting, roe deer stalking and 2 miles river Dee frontage with trout fishing. Over 1000 acres of farmland, forestry and river/loch frontage. It has a telephone mast which generates a yearly income of £4,500	PressReader.com - Digital Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions





Today it consists of magnificent granite mansion house overlooking river Dee with glorious gardens, 5 cottages, a farmhouse and home farm with commercial land

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High vaulted ceilings and large slit windows with diamond-pane glazing add to the period grandeur, allowing plenty of natural light into the house.

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The house has 10 bedrooms

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The house has 4 reception rooms and bathrooms, a wine cellar and billiard rooms

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The house is packed with period details, but highlights include a Cupola and a striking Jacobean wooden mantelpiece which incorporates a Cuninghame wedding stone.

The drawing room is of ballroom proportions.

The drawing room is particularly special. There's a Jacobean carved wooden mantelpiece complete with a marble fireplace, incorporating the wedding stone of the original famous tobacco merchant owner's grandson, Richard John Cunninghame and his wife Helen Ethel McDougall,

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		which forms a striking centrepiece.	
		It is believed that some trees in the grounds of Hensol are gifted from the White House. The gardens have been recently restored. The house is still encircled by glorious gardens which include a distinctive 17th century sundial, a summer house and a tennis court. Gardens were looked after by Shirley Bell alone.	PressReader.com - Digital Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions

				
			A conservatory has been added	

				
2017	Up for Sale		Fixed price £ 4.25 Million	PressReader.com - Digital Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions

Laurieston Hall, Balmaghie

by Michelle MacIver

Laurieston Hall, formerly known as Grenoch (see Figure 1) and Woodhall, is a Category B listed building (LB3418) which comprises a rambling country house that was built up between the 17th and 20th centuries. To the north lies a 5 storey square tower of early 17th century origin with a later baronial style roof that was added during construction work commissioned in 1893. Prior to the 1893 works, a mid-19th century gothic style single storey and attic wing was added to the southwest. Early 20th century wings were then added to the south and east. A panel inscribed with “LMH” and “1906” was added for the owner Hutchison. The stables are also a category B listed building (LB3424) thought to have been built in the mid-18th century.

The loss of the initial name of Grenoch is much lamented by Samuel Rutherford Crockett, the author of *Raiderland, All about Grey Galloway* (1904, Chapter 18) when he details the name change under the heading ‘Barbarisms’;

It is vain, I fear, to call it Grenoch—as it should be called. A certain name-changing fiend brought into our Erse and Keltic Galloway a number of mongrel names, probably some Laird Laurie with a bad education and a plentiful lack of taste, who, among other iniquities, called the ancient Clachan-of-Pluck after himself—Laurieston. His mansion house he changed from the ancient and honourable "Grenoch," by which name it stands in Pont's map of (about) 1611 to the commonplace Woodhall. Later the loch had a like fortune. Loch Grenoch became Woodhall Loch (or in the folk speech of the parish, Wudha' Loch)

The name change had occurred prior to 1752 as the estate was depicted as ‘Woodhall’ on Roy’s map of 1752-55 (Figure 2) and was still known as Woodhall in 1811. The owner at that time, William Kennedy Laurie, left a will, signed three days before he died in 1811, leaving the estates named Woodhall both in Scotland and in the West Indies (Smith, p85). The will included the ownership of slaves (UCL, Legacies of British Slavery).

The author of the *Old Statistical Account of Scotland* for the parish of Balmaghie, where Laurieston Hall is situated, was published in 1794 and discusses a mineral spring located within the Woodhall estate. At the time of writing, the author advised that the estate was owned by Walter Sloan Laurie Esq. of Redcastle (Johnstone, Rev. OSA, 642). Walter Sloan Laurie owned three estates in Galloway but had principally resided at Woodhall.

The Kennedy Lauries were related to the cinematic pioneer William Kennedy Laurie Dickson, a British inventor who invented an early version of a motion picture camera whilst employed by Thomas Edison. His mother was Elizabeth Kennedy Laurie, born 1821 (Smith, 2019).

Within the *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, published in 1845, for the parish of Balmaghie, the estate is confirmed as in the possession of William Kennedy Laurie Esq. (Gibson, 179). Similarly, the roughly contemporary Ordnance Survey Name Book, compiled between 1848 and 1851 describes Woodhall as a ‘mansion house of modern construction. It is two stories high and is in complete and thorough repair. Attached are suitable offices also an ornamental garden. In front is a loch containing fish. It is the family seat and present residence of W.M.Lawrie Esq.’



Figure 1: Extract from Joan Bleau's 1654 depiction of Timothy Pont 1590s survey



Figure 2: Roy's map 1752-55 (Lowlands)



Figure 3: Photo: *Academy Architecture and Annual Architectural Review 1892-1894* edited by Alex. Koch, p71 - 1893 Architectural drawing

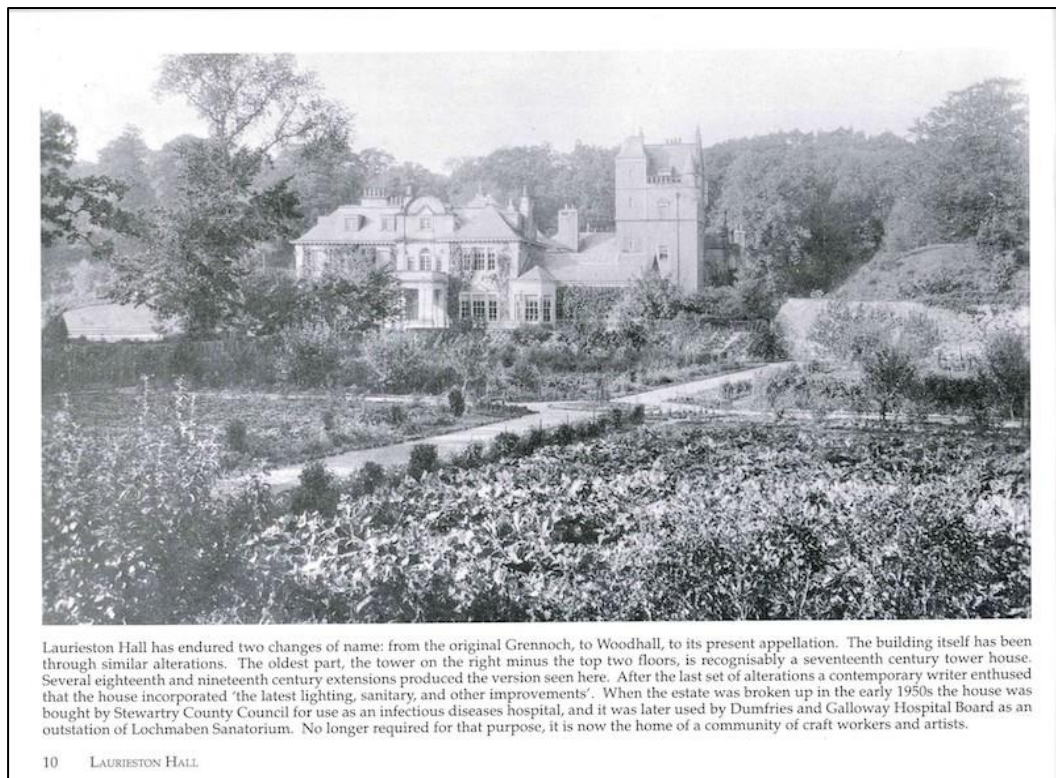


Figure 4: From *The Ken Valley* by Jack Hunter, published in 2001 by Stenlake Publishing

At some point between 1852 and 1893, the estate was sold on from the Lawrie family. The alterations and additions to the buildings were erected during the 1893 construction works, which were commissioned by a J W Hutchison who instructed the architects Sydney Mitchell & Wilson (Arthur George Sydney Mitchell and George Wilson). Significant projects carried out by Sydney Mitchell include housing developments at Well Court and Ramsay Garden, both in Edinburgh. The firm was also appointed by the Board of Lunacy and commissioned for the Crichton Royal Institution in Dumfries as well as the Melrose Asylum and the Royal Victoria Hospital in Edinburgh (Wikiwand).

The J.W. Hutchison who commissioned the 1893 works was John William Hutchison. The earliest evidence of the name Hutchison linked to Woodhall was in 1893, the year the works were commissioned. A newspaper article in the Dumfries and Galloway Herald and Courier in August 1893 lists Mr J.W. Hutchison of Woodhall, and his wife, as attendees to the Dumfries County Ball.

The earliest evidence, within the newspaper archives, suggests the name was changed from Woodhall to Laurieston Hall by 1896. Mr Hutchison, Laurieston Hall is listed as the judge for the tug o' war competition Dalbeattie Show (Dumfries and Galloway Herald and Courier, Wednesday 7th October 1896). As an aside John William Hutchison's daughter, Nina Annette Mary Crawford Hutchison married Richard Morden, the 10th Baron Suffield on 11th September 1913 (Crofts Peerage).

In 1940 the house was turned into an infectious diseases hospital and the mansion was acquired and adapted by Health and Public Assistance Committee and the County Council. The adaptations were supervised by Mr Caldwell, County architect (Dumfries and Galloway Standard, 30th October 1940). Prior to 1948, the hospital was under the jurisdiction of the local authority and was used as an isolation hospital for infectious diseases. Post 1948, the hospital came under the control of the NHS and was used for geriatric patients from 1948 to 1956 and then for tuberculosis patients from 1957 to 1971. The building was sold in 1972 and was founded as a workers' co-operative.

In 1972, Laurieston Hall was given a new purpose as a workers' co-operative. The 'Intentional community' website describes the Hall as 'a huge Edwardian main house, with its walled garden, stables and cottages, surrounded by 200 acres of beautiful woods, pastures and marshland which stretch to a loch in the north.' The community have worked in partnership with the Edward Carpenter community since 1985.

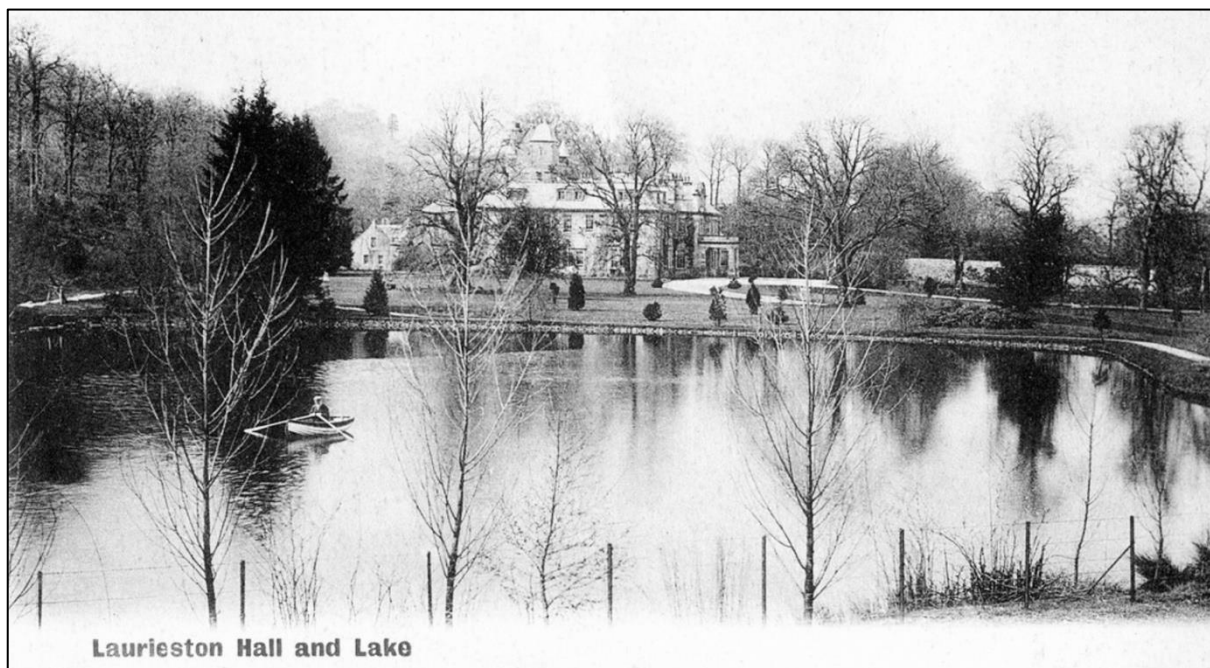


Figure 5: Source unknown; Laurieston Hall

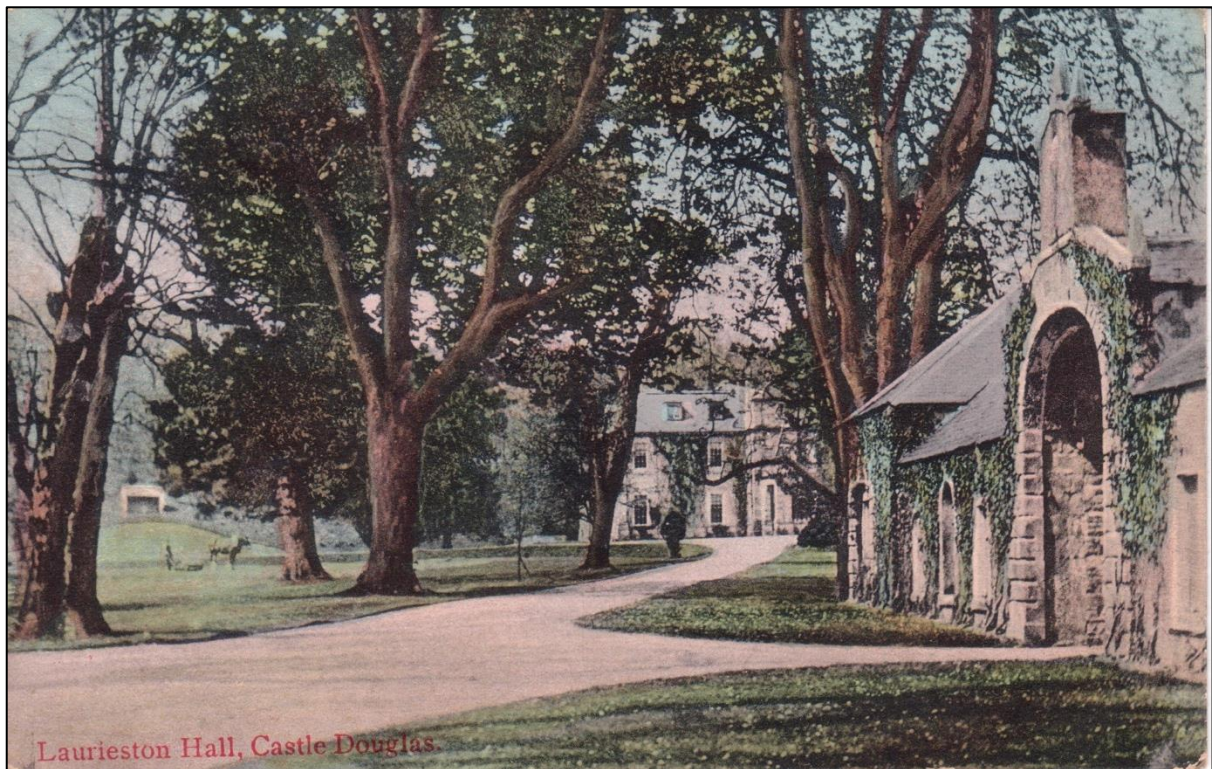


Figure 6: Source unknown; Laurieston Hall



Laurieston Hall, Castle Douglas.

Figure 7: Source unknown; Laurieston Hall

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Ordnance Survey Name Book, Kirkcudbrightshire, Vol 106

Slogarie House, Balmaghie

by Pamela Edwards and Samantha Oakley



And similar, from a book called *The Ken Valley* by Jack Hunter, published in 2001 by Stenlake Publishing:



Well off the west side of the road at the head of Woodhall Loch, Slogarie (left) is first mentioned in 1606, although the present house dates from the end of the nineteenth century. In earlier times it was notorious as the residence of the Laird o' Slogarie, 'one of the wildest wretches ever known in the world'. The Laird and his two bosom cronies perished after a night of excess at the home of one of them, Auchenhoull. Their carousing ended with the burning of a Bible, shortly after which a terrible storm arose, a nearby haystack was struck by lightning, and the wind-driven flames engulfed Auchenhoull. With the well inexplicably dry, the two cronies set out separately to summon assistance, only to die horribly in accidents. Meantime the Laird re-entered the burning building to retrieve his wallet and was trapped by a falling beam, perishing in the flames. Today Slogarie is the headquarters of the Angela Gore company, which designs and manufactures women's clothes for a mail-order niche market.

Key Points

- The original house seems to have been **built by George Bruce and inherited by Thomas Rae Bruce** (as Rae Mains): "well known South Scotland Scientist" (he does not seem to be that well known!)
- The house was remodelled (rebuilt?) around 1886 by **Peddie and Kinnear** for **Harry Alexander Timms** who lived there until around 1925. Mentioned as one of the estates of Balmaghie on [Wikipedia](#)
- **William Archer Milner-Gibson** (1879-1961) and Mary Ann Milner Gibson owned the house pre-war and it was rumoured Edward VIII proposed to Wallis Simpson in the garden
- The house was used to house evacuated children from Glasgow during the war
- The house was [remodelled after a fire in the 1960s](#) by Antony Curtiss Wolffe
- **Angela Boys** (Angela Gore Ltd) ran a business there from the 1980s
- The house is now [a luxury let](#) (Slogarie Estate Cottages)
- [Canmore](#) and [Scottish Architects website](#)

Origins: George Bruce

[A copy of "History of the Lands and their owners in Galloway" \(1877\)](#) has a history of the land at Slogarie, including info on Thomas Rae Bruce and his father. "In 1845 the farm of Slogary was purchased from David Clark by George Bruce. When he died we have not learned. He was succeeded by his son, Thomas Rae Bruce...the farm steading and cottages which the late Mr Rae built he called Raemains" = this suggests George Bruce was a builder of the original house but...

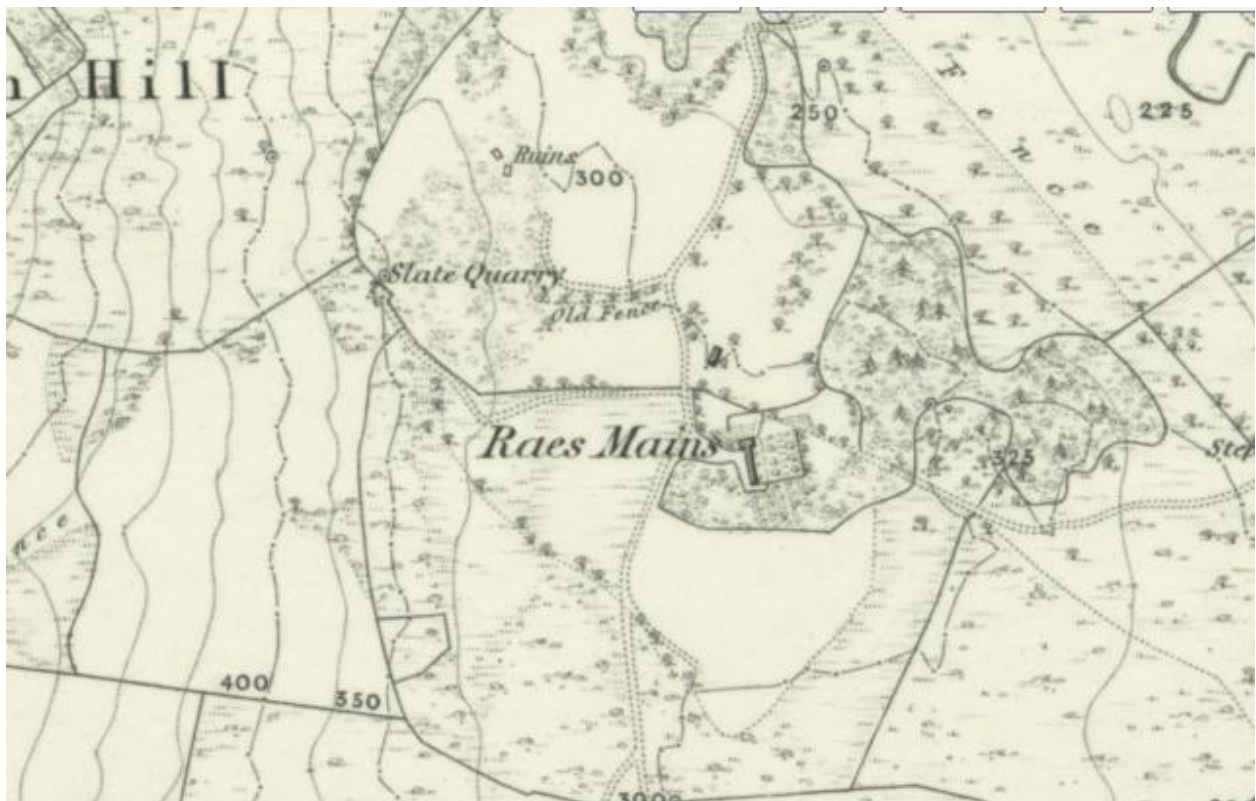
The [OS Namebook Kirkcudbrightshire 1848-1851](#) (OS1/20/83/8) has the following:

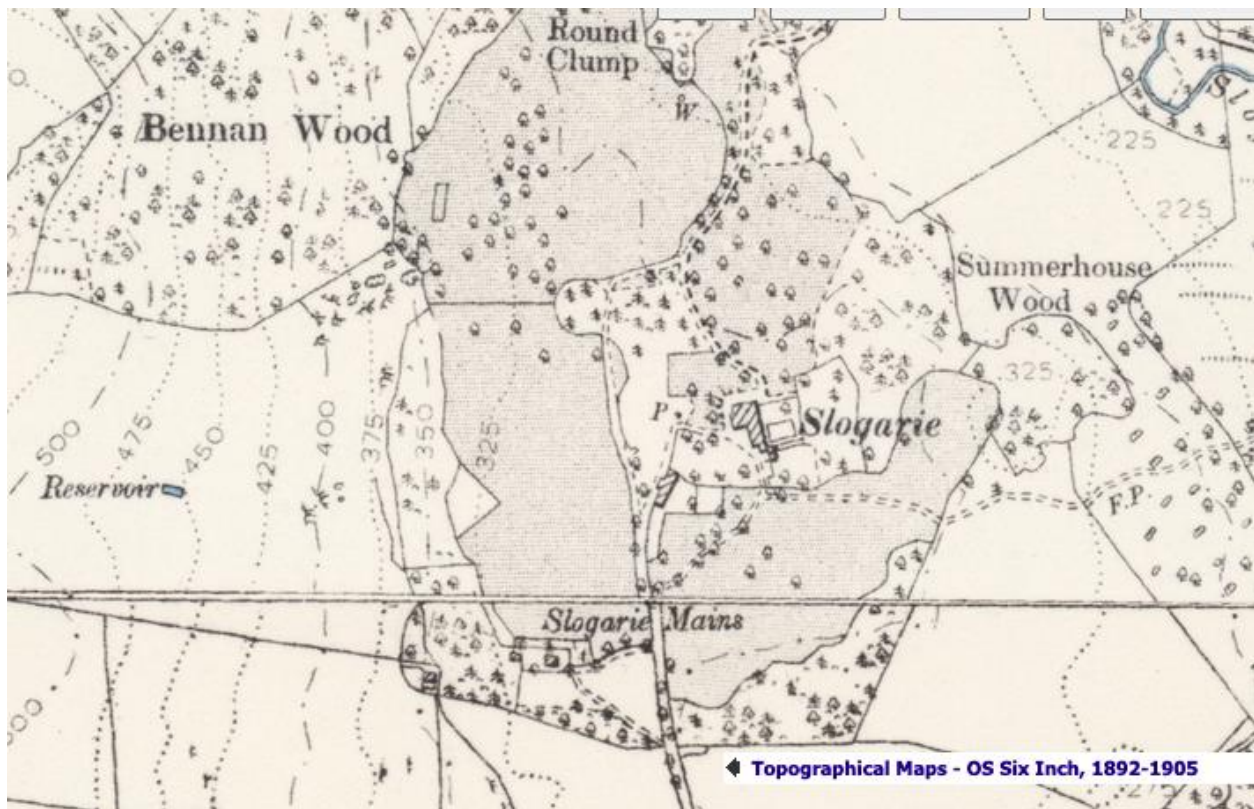
"[Situation] 1/4 mile W. by S. [West by South] from Upper Crae

A large Commodious Farm House with extensive Offices in good repair, attached is a Saw, Corn & Bone crushing Mill for the use of the farm. The farm was formerly called Slogarie but in passing into the hands of the present proprietor its name was changed to that it now bears. A stone in front of the Office bears the following inscription: '1844 Rae's Mains erected by George Bruce tenant of Greenknowe named in memory of his Grandfather'. It is the property of the above named George Bruce of Greenknowe Berwickshire".

1870s: Thomas Rae Bruce (1837-1912)

On the OS maps you can see that "Raes Mains" overlays Slogarie House ([I used this site to compare](#)) = Thomas Bruce is at "Slogarie" in the Census.





(1871) The county families of the United Kingdom; or, Royal manual of the titled and untitled aristocracy of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland has an entry for Thomas Rae Bruce of Auchengool and Slogarie, second son of the late George Bruce of Auchengool and Slogarie (d.1861)

Slogarie: 1871 Census: Thomas Rae Bruce, age 34, born 1837, "Farmer of 3600 acres 600 arable employing 5 shepherds & 7 pl", unmarried, living with his 2 sisters, at Slogarie, Balmaghie, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland

(1879) Transactions and journal of the proceedings of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society mentions Thomas Rae Bruce is now at Dalshangan, Dalry but also says "late of Slogarie". There is also mention of a "Miss Bruce" "formerly of Slogarie" who has some lovely pearls which were believed to be locally sourced.

1881 Census:

Slogarie, Balmaghie, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland

<u>First name(s)</u>	<u>Last name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Marital status</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Birth year</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birth place</u>
Thomas K	Bruce	Head	Unmarried	Male	44	1837	Landed proprietor	Gordon, Berwickshire, Scotland
Margaret	Bruce	Sister	Unmarried	Female	46	1835	-	Gordon, Berwickshire, Scotland
Isabella	Bruce	Sister	Unmarried	Female	42	1839	-	Gordon, Berwickshire, Scotland

Margaret	Clark	Visitor	Unmarried	Female	32	1849	-	Kelton, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland
Margaret	Gordon	Servant	Unmarried	Female	26	1855	Housemaid (domestic)	Parton, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland
Mary	Flint	Servant	Unmarried	Female	21	1860	Cook (domestic)	Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland

Obituary: Hawick News and Border Chronicle - Friday 19 January 1912 *"The death is reported at his residence. Old Garroch, Dalry, Galloway, of Mr Thomas Bruce, a well-known South Scotland scientist. Mr Bruce was proprietor of the estate of Slogarie, New Galloway, which was sold some time ago to Mr Timms. He was a well-known naturalist, and took great interest in meteorology, and was an astronomer of no mean attainments. He was also keen botanist, and had a considerable reputation as an antiquarian. Indeed, there were few sciences in which he was not well versed. He was one the pioneers of the Volunteer movement in Galloway in the early sixties, and was one of the best shots in the county. For over twenty years he was a regular attender at Wimbledon, and carried off a large number of trophies. Mr Bruce was a considerate landlord, and very popular with all classes. In his early days he travelled extensively, and made tour round the world. The remains are to be cremated in the Glasgow crematorium. "*

The Bruce family have a memorial in Slogarie: <https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1965180>.

Sale - 1885

Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser - Friday 11 September 1885

TO BE SOLD 18th September 1885: "ESTATE FOR SALE. There will be exposed to Sale, by Public Roup, within the TOWN HALL, CASTLE-DOUGLAS, on TUESDAY, the 13th day of October, 1885, at Two o'clock Afternoon, THE desirable ESTATE of SLOGARY and TORMOLLAN, in the Parish of Balmaghie and Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, containing about 1800 Acres, of which about 300 Acres have been broken up and improved, about 40 Acres are under wood, and the remainder consists of moorland. There is a comfortable Dwelling-house of Two Stories on the Property, affording suitable accommodation for a respectable family, and the Offices are suitable.

The Property is pleasantly situated on the Banks of the River Dee, and commands extensive views of the surrounding picturesque country. It is about a Mile from the New Galloway Station of the Portpatrick Railway, and about 9 Miles by Train or Road from the Market Town of Castle-Douglas.

The Property abounds with Game, consisting of grouse, black game, partridges, &c., and being surrounded by lands which are strictly preserved, good shooting is certain at all times. There is Angling on the River Dee, and a considerable part of Lochinbreck Loch, well stocked with trout, is within the Estate. The Public Burdens are very moderate, and the Titles are unexceptionable. For further particulars application may be made to Messrs LIDDERDALE and GILLESPIE, Writers, Castle- Douglas, who are in possession of the Title Deeds and Articles of Roup"

Harry Alexander Timms (1844-1935)

The next owner of Slogarie: one assumes he bought the house in 1885 and commissioned the extensive work around 1886 ([from the Scottish Architect's site](#)) and [plans are on Canmore](#).

[Harry Timms - Historical records and family trees - MyHeritage](#)
https://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:Harry_Timms_%281%29

It says he was born in Geelong, Victoria, the son of Scottish parents. William Fowler Timms is cited as one of the "pioneering" men - he was in Australia by 1841 (as he was married there). Geelong only really became a town in 1838 and there is mention of his involvement in the wool trade which started about that time. Harry returned to the UK with his cousin, Henrietta, whom he married in March 1872 in Anderston, Lanarkshire. They seem to have been very wealthy.

Cambridge alumni: "Cambridge Alumni: TIMMS, HARRY ALEXANDER. Adm. pens. at TRINITY, Oct. 1, 1866. [3rd] s. of William Fowler [deceased], of Drumquhassle, Stirlingshire (and Cecilia, dau. of Alexander Anderson, Esq., of Chapel, Fifeshire). B. [Oct. 29], 1845, at Geelong, Victoria Australia, Australia. School, Leicestershire (private). Matric. Michs. 1866; B.A. 1870; M.A. 1875. Came of one of the pioneering families of Australia. B.A., Melbourne Univ. Adm. at the Inner Temple, May 6, 1869. He and his 2nd brother played for Australia v. 1st All England XI. Member of the King's Bodyguard for Scotland. One of the best shots in the country, and a breeder of sporting-dogs. Of Slogarie, Kirkcudbrightshire. J.P. and D.L. Married Henrietta Anderson, only dau. of Philip Barton Black. Died May 1, 1935, at Netherwood Bank, Dumfries, where he had resided during his last year. Brother of John (1863), Charles A. (1873) and Robert O. (1868); father of Herbert P. and Ernest W. (above). (N. Timms; Inns of Court; The Times, May 3, 1935.)."

The children born in Drymen were at Drumquhassle which was Harry's family estate:

<https://www.booking.com/hotel/gb/park-of-drumquhassle-glasgow.en-gb.html>

1891 Census

Harry A Timms, age 46, living on private means, born in Australia

Henrietta A Timms, age 45, also born Australia

Edith C Timms, age 15, daughter, born Drymen, Scotland

Then there is a Governess (Agnes T Orr), a visitor (Catherine Gray) and 6 female servants

1901 Census

Harry A Timms, age 56, living on own means, born Australia

Henrietta A Timms, age 54, also born Australia

Herbert P Timms, age 27, son, born Drymen, living on own means

Edith CM Timms, age 25, living on own means

And 6 female servants (all different to 1891)

1907 [Slater's Royal National Commercial Directory of Scotland](#) has Harry A. Timms at Slogarie House

1911-12 Harry Timms is still at Slogarie according to a Post Office Directory

Wed 25 Aug 1915 Mrs Timms advertises in the paper for "Kitchen maid wanted (single handed)" at Slogarie

There is a memorial to Harry A Timms in Balmaghie churchyard:

"In Memory of Harry Alexander TIMMS of Slogarie, born 29th October 1844, died 1st May 1935. Henrietta Anderson {ms BLACK} wife of Harry Alexander Timms of Slogarie, died 10th March 1920 {age 73}. Also their elder son Herbert Philip died at Granada, Spain, 31st August 1920 {born 1873}. Also their younger son Ernest William died at Etawah, India, 3rd June 1903 {born 1878}. Also Nelly Malcolm {ms RUSSELL} wife of Harry Alexander Timms died 17th March 1954 {age 81}. Their daughter Edith Cecilia Margaret died at Dumfries 12th Jan'y 1966 {age 90}."

Harry's son, Herbert Philip Timms:

1891 The history of the 3rd batt. King's Own Scottish Borderers, 1798-1907 mentions: Philip Herbert Timms. 2nd Lieutenant, 1891. Retired 1898, and "Mr and Mrs Timms, Slogarie" are also mentioned. The 3rd battalion seems to have been for the Boer War: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King%27s_Own_Scottish_Borderers

Some family history information has a note that he was a composer and died (young) at Granada, Aug. 31, 1920 https://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:Herbert_Timms_%283%29

1920s: Sales

Dundee Courier 19th May 1925 "residential and sporting estate of Slogarie, Kirkcudbrightshire, situated 2½ miles from New Galloway station and 10 miles from Castle Douglas, is for sale by John Henderson & Sons, solicitors, Dumfries. The mansion-house was built in 1887, and is beautifully situated. The shootings extend to 2000 acres, and consist chiefly of moorland. There are also good coverts. Fishing is available in loch and river."

1930s: William Archer Milner-Gibson (1879-1961) and Mary Ann Milner Gibson

A much later newspaper story says that the Milner-Gibsons owned the property for about 25 years. William Archer Milner-Gibson was British ([Ancestry](#)) but Mary Ann was American. There is an extensive biography of William [on this site](#) which mentions Slogarie amidst their transatlantic gallivanting.

5th July 1933 "RESIDENTIAL AND SPORTING ESTATE FOR SALE. There will be EXPOSED TO SALE by Public Roup, within the Writing Chambers of JOHN HENDERSON & SONS, Solicitors, Dumfries, on WEDNESDAY, 2nd August 1933, at 2 o'clock Afternoon, SLOGARIE, in the Parish of Balmaghie and Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, extending to 1800 Acres or thereby, situated 2 miles from New Galloway Station and 10 miles from Castle-Douglas. The Mansion-House, built in 1887, is beautifully situated, and contains Hall, 5 Public Rooms, 7 Bedrooms, 4 Dressingrooms, 5 Servants' Bedrooms, &c., &c. Central Heating. There are excellent Stables, Garage, Chauffeur's House. Three Cottages. Large Garden. The Farm of Slogarie Mains, let on Lease expiring in 1937, is included in the Sale. Good Mixed Shooting and Trout Fishing. Rental, £ 309. Public Burdens, £ 37, 11s. 2d. UPSET PRICE, £ 5250. Further particulars from E. Holmes & Co., Estate Office, Castle-Douglas; or JOHN HENDERSON & SONS, Solicitors, Dumfries"

11th August 1934 SOLD reported in the paper (The Scotsman) "The Estate of Slogarie, extending to 1800-Acres or thereby and including Slogarie House and Slogarie Mains Farm"

1936 The story that Edward proposed to Mrs Simpson here? Wallis was friends with the owner Mary Ann Milner Gibson?

Image © Illustrated London News Group. Image created courtesy of THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD.



1940s: Wartime

The house may have been left empty but still owned by the Milner-Gibsons, who one assumes would be unable to flit about as they had before?

A thesis mentions that the house was taken over in wartime: <http://hdl.handle.net/1893/12293> It suggests the enterprise was not really a success.

"The immediate success of Cally House encouraged Kirkcudbright to propose to the D.H.S., when evacuation was being re-planned in early 1940, to requisition empty houses for use as hostels. Six more houses were taken over, refurbished and made ready to receive evacuees after the Clydeside raids in 1941". Only Milton Park which housed a unit from Hutcheson's Girls' School in Glasgow, and, perhaps, Netherlaw, achieved a degree of success commensurate with that of Cally House. It would seem that in the remainder the necessary ingredients of homogeneity of population, the sense of identity and purpose, and continuity of staff were overlooked and the results were disappointing. At one stage, pupils at the Cargen and Slogarie hostels returned to the Glasgow area at a greater rate than those in private billets."

1942, 7th Jan News Story Dumfries and Galloway Standard

"MOSSDALE. The Christmas party of Mossdale W.R.I. was held last week. Mrs Simpson, who presided, welcomed a very large company, including the evacuated children from Slogarie House. Mr Davidson from Castle-Douglas delighted young and old alike with his conjuring feats. The children with much enthusiasm then entertained the company with games, singing and dancing, Mrs Simpson, Mr Reid and Mr Gilchrist providing music on piano and violin. Tea was served by the committee, and the children were given crackers and chocolate. The remainder of the evening was spent in dancing, and at intervals songs and recitations were rendered by Miss Barr, Mrs Trotter, Miss Cowan, and Messrs W. Thomson, J. Stewart, and D. Stewart."

There is a memory of the evacuated children attending Mossdale School here:

<https://www.carsphairn.org/CarsphairnArchive/exhibits/show/glenkens-schools-over-the-cent/mossdale-school-1872---1963> "We came to Aids of Kells in 1938 and I went to Mossdale School just before the war. There were about thirty children at the school then. At one time the numbers of children had been as high as seventy nine. Children came from the village, Hensol, Slogarie, Bennan, Ringour and from around Loch Skerrow. Most of them walked to school sometimes over the hill. Those from Slogaries walked over a swing bridge and those from Loch Skerrow came by train. So, evacuees who were living mostly at Slogarie came at the beginning of the war. They brought their own teacher with them, a Mrs Smith."

A [nursing newsletter](#) also has a mention of the house in an obituary:

"Mary Agnes McArthur 10th December 1930 – 5th February 2012 Aged 80

Miss McArthur, known as Cissy by her family grew up in Oatlands, Glasgow. When the Second World War broke out, Mary and her sister Patricia were evacuated to Slogarie House in Dumfries where they stayed for 2 years. Mary had a happy time there, although she recalled that there was only one swing for 200 children, so she was always waiting in a queue. Mary completed her nursing and midwifery training in Stirling and after qualifying, moved to Toronto Canada where she spent 2 years delivering Inuit babies..."

4th June 1943 TO LET SLOGARIE HOUSE to let, furnished, with shooting over 2000 acres and trout fishing; IMMEDIATE ENTRY. Particulars from PATRICK GIFFORD & CO., Solicitors, Castle-Douglas.

1944 Dumfries & Galloway Standard runs an article on the school hostels for evacuated children, of which Slogarie was one.

1950s: Milner-Gibsons still the owners

Information from 1991 Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser - Thursday 07 February 1991 suggests that the Milner-Gibsons still owned the house in 1950s:

THE 'mystery' house pictured in last week's 'News' and repeated below was immediately identified by Mr Harry Smith of 48 Main Street, Crossmichael, as [Slogarie](#), Mossdale. And there is absolutely no doubt about it for the couple featured in the snapshot are his late father and mother, William



and Bessie Smith, who were gardener and cook at [Slogarie](#) for over 25 years.

Mr Smith immediately telephoned Mrs Gladys Little, of the Castle Douglas tourist information centre who had asked the 'News' for help in tracing the house. A delighted Mrs Little was passing on the information to Miss Kathleen Ravey of Dundee who had tried unsuccessfully to trace the house she had visited briefly in 1945 during a visit to the Stewartry last summer. Miss Ravey had sent Mrs Little the snapshot in a letter at Christmas.

During the last war, [Slogarie](#) was used as a residential school for evacuees and it seems likely that it was during this time that Miss Ravey had stayed there.

For around 25 years [Slogarie](#) was owned by an American couple, Major William and Mary Milner-Gibson, who stayed there a few months each year. In 1959 they moved to Barcaple at Ringford where they employed Mr Harry Smith as a gardener although his parents stayed on at [Slogarie](#) and were there when the house was very badly damaged by fire in June 1960.

By that time it belonged to London stockbroker Major B.N. Gibbs and his wife. The house, which is now the home of Mrs Angela Boyes and houses her clothing firm, Angela Gore Ltd., was largely rebuilt after the fire although it is not thought that the front view has altered much.

This is confirmed by a blog's biography of William Milner Gibson: "*William and his wife made their first post war visit to Slogarie shortly before March 1949 when they left it to return to the USA, and may have visited it as early as December 1948 after arriving at Southampton from New York. Thereafter the family spent at*

least the summers of 1951, 1952, 1954, and 1955 at Slogarie, and this seems to have brought to an end the couple's frequent visits to Wilkes-Barré. In October 1957 they moved permanently to Slogarie and remained there until William died at Barcaple House, a property about 10 miles from Slogarie on 13 May 1961. The first record of the family's presence at Barcaple House is a telephone directory entry for Molly in 1960. The last record of the family's presence at Slogarie is a telephone entry for the Milner-Gibson trustees in 1959."

"Mark" comments on the blog (from 2014) "My grandmother is now 94 and was a house maid at Slogarie in the 1930's. Remembers the family well and Percy the butler. Small world...."

1960s Major B.N. Gibbs

He was a London Stockbroker? The house was badly damaged by fire in June 1960

Was this Major Bryan Northam Gibbs? <http://www.thepeerage.com/p20678.htm>, if so he died in 1965.

Gibbs is the name of the client for the work done in 1960

(https://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/building_full.php?id=214911) by [Antony Curtis Wolfe](#), MBE: "During 65 years of practice, he was responsible for an immense body of work, most of it in Dumfries and Galloway. His particular interest and expertise in restoration and conservation was reflected in sensitive work on country houses, churches and farm and mill buildings throughout the region."

1980s & 1990s: Angela Boys

"THE GALLOWAY NEWS THURSDAY 4th February 1988 Clothing firm settles in at Slogarie A new industry is gearing up to full production in the rural hinterland of the Stewartry this month as the firm of Angela Gore Limited completes the transfer of their operation from Henbury Manor near Canterbury. Already 12 employees are working full time in the purpose-built workshop at the back of Slogarie, near Mossdale, and the owner, Miss Angela Boys, is at present looking for another 10 workers with a variety of skills. Miss Boys has been in the clothing manufacturing business for 30 years, and since 1975 has run a mail order operation, making a range of classic dresses, blouses, skirts and trousers. They have been in operation at Slogarie since Christmas and plan to complete the transfer by mid February. The garments are cut and prepared in the workroom and then [sic] made up by outworkers before being returned to the factory for finishing, packing and despatch. The firm is also looking for another 14 or 15 outworkers. Earnings for good outworkers could be between £80 to £90 a week said Miss Boys, but the firm did demand a high standard of workmanship. She was prepared to consider splitting the full time jobs for women who could only work part-time, because of home commitments, and was tentatively considering child minding facilities. Mrs Boys is a hard-headed businesswoman with definite ideas, but the move to Slogarie has been made so she can combine business with pleasure. She takes a keen interest in rare breeds and the 400 acres of ground that went with Slogarie..."

1988-9 Employment adverts

1989 Advert for a working housekeeper to help run with the existing housekeeper

1997, 18th Dec Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser: A front page news story about "Mossdale businesswoman Angela Boyes"

"Ten years ago Miss Boys moved her mail order business, Angela Gore Limited, from London and Kent to settle in the Galloway countryside at Slogarie. There are seven properties on the estate where council tax is applicable – Slogarie House, Slogarie Workrooms, Myrtle Cottage, Rose Cottage, Keepers House – all taxed separately. But since she moved, Miss Boys claims, the council has been unable to rate her business or properties correctly or reconcile her payments. Telephone calls, letters and faxes sent to the Dumfries headquarters are ignored she claims. And after years of invalid invoices, writs scattered into derelict buildings and visits from Sheriff Officers, she is no further forward. She is now asking Donald Dewar,

Secretary of State for Scotland, to bring in an independent firm of accountants for a proper audit of the council's finance department..."

2001 [See image at start] Still referenced at Slogarie

Present Day: Sale and Luxury Lets

<https://www.slogarie-estate.co.uk/>

2019 For Sale, the whole estate, offers considered over £1.4m:

"Slogarie is beautifully tucked away between the Galloway Forest Park and Laurieston Forest just a short distance from the small settlement of Mossdale. Slogarie House is a striking Victorian country house refitted in the 1970s, maintaining some original features throughout. Modern bespoke conservatory extension by Mozolowski & Murray* added in 2012. Providing nine bedrooms, nine bathrooms, five reception rooms including extensive games room. There is oil fired central heating with Aga in kitchen and four wood burning stoves in the principal reception rooms."

There is also the [Daily Mail \(gah\)](#) and [Deadline news which mentions](#): "The stunning Scottish country house where Edward VIII reputedly proposed to Wallis Simpson is on sale for £1.4m. The King's proposal to the American socialite sparked the abdication crisis of 1936 during which the elected government faced down the monarch. Slogarie House in Mossdale, Dumfries and Galloway, features a secret garden and it was here, during a party, Edward is said to have asked the divorcee to marry him. The King and Simpson are said to have travelled to Slogarie in early 1936 to attend a party thrown by the then owner Mary Ann Milner Gibson who was friends with Simpson. Guests would have been enchanted then, as now, by the setting of the house amid the Galloway Forest Park, Laurieston Forest and the rolling countryside. The house has no fewer than nine bedrooms, nine bathrooms and five reception rooms including an extensive games room. But it is said to be the "secret garden" – just part of 78 acres of land in the sale – where the abdication crisis was sparked."

Slogarie Estate now has a website and is on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/slogarieestate/>

*<https://www.mozmurray.co.uk/about-mozolowski-murray/> = a Scottish bespoke conservatory company founded by a Polish serviceman who settled in Scotland.

Borgue Old House, Borgue

by Louise Turner

Introduction

Borgue Old House is a well known structure which has been subject to fairly detailed examination and study over the last century. It is located some 300m to the ESE of the village of Borgue, where it has been incorporated into the boundary which separates the grounds of the 19th century Borgue House from fields attached to Low Borgue farm beyond. The Old House sits on an area of level ground which slopes gently down towards Borgue, in a landscape which is slightly undulating in character and dominated by pasture.

The remains of the Old House are roofless but largely complete, and the structure has been characterised as a 'Y'-plan house, comprising a rectangular main block aligned WSW-ENE, with short wings extending SSE from the main block at either end of the to the fore at either end of the SSE-facing elevation. A slightly off-centred outshot projects from the NNW-facing elevation.

There is no reason to doubt that the proposed date of the building - 1680 - is incorrect, and its association with the Blairs of Borgue also appears secure. There is however one small aspect of the structure which has called the long-established interpretation into question: this is the presence of a mismatched lintel which differs from those employed elsewhere and appears to derive from a slightly smaller window opening. This has led to the suggestion that the Old House itself may have replaced an earlier structure, which could potentially have occupied the same site and which could either survive as relict traces within the later structure or which could have been used as a source for building material for the late-17th century country house which now occupies the site.

Because Borgue Old House and the later history of the Blairs of Borgue has been widely studied (with Hugh Blair of Borgue b.1708,d.1745 being of particular interest), I will be concentrating instead on the origins and earlier history of the lands of Borgue, with a view to establishing the potential for a precursor of the Old House. What is the likelihood that a high status domestic residence either occupied the site of the Old House or stood in its proximity? And could the identification of such a structure establish a potential source for the mismatched lintel which has been incorporated into the later 17th century structure?

The Barony of Borgue (AD1200-AD1675): Placing Borgue Old House in Context

The parish of Borgue had been established by c. AD1235, when documentary sources first mention the Church of St Nicholas in Borgue (Dryb. Lib. No. 66: 2/12/20, cited in People of Medieval Scotland Website <https://www.poms.ac.uk/record/source/1122/#>: Accessed 20th May 2023). This confirmation indicates that the grant of land took place at a much earlier date, having originally made by Hugh de Moreville, who was Constable of Scotland AD1138, during the reign of King David I of Scots (reigned AD1124-AD1153).

Despite the supposed independence of the Lordship of Galloway from the Scots Crown, a slightly earlier mark of Norman influence is demonstrated within the parish of Borgue by the surviving presence of a motte, located almost 4km to the NE of Borgue at Borland. This surviving remnant of a 12th century earth-and-timber fortification (Canmore ID: 64161; D & G HER ID: MDG3753) provides the only evidence for a high status secular site of medieval date occurring in the parish. No traces of any stone-built structure survive upon the top of this artificially-scarped mound, however, which suggests that any timber structure built upon the summit was never replaced by a stone successor. Potential association with the barony - as opposed to the parish - of Borgue is

however supported by the site's close proximity to a farm named 'High Borgue,' a landholding which became established at a later date and which will be discussed more fully below.

In 1369 the Douglas family – who had achieved success during the Scots Wars of independence as close allies of Robert the Bruce – were granted the Lordship of Galloway. While documentary evidence is more prolific for this later part of the medieval period, references to Borg are rare, with the first evidence for the barony of Borgue occurring only in the middle part of the 15th century, in a document dated 15th July 1443. This refers to 'James de Douglas, Lord of Dalkeith, in the barony of Mortoun, Prestoun.... and the superiority of Borg....' (NAS: GD150/103). James de Douglas was the second son of Sir James Douglas, 1st Lord Dalkeith and 1st Earl of Morton, by his second wife Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of King Robert III. The principle seats of the family at this time were at Dalkeith Castle, Midlothian and Aberdour, Fife, inferring a marked focus on the E and SE of the country. Another Douglas possession – Morton Castle in Niddesdale – was deliberately excluded from the earldom of Morton at this time, as it belonged to the 1st earl's step-grandmother, from whom descended another cadet branch of the Douglas family, the Douglasses of Whittinghame.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl_of_Morton: Accessed 29th May 2023). The inclusion of the lands of Borgue within the lordship of Dalkeith and the earldom of Morton suggests some desire on behalf of the Douglasses of Dalkeith to retain some links with their ancestral lands in Galloway.

The third son of Sir James, 1st Lord Dalkeith, was Hew/Hugh, and he was the first of the Douglasses to be designated 'of Borgue and Moffat.' He died prior to 1509. The lands subsequently passed to his son, another Hugh, whose eldest son Francis who was styled 'of Borgue and Langniddry.' His son then took forward the title 'George Douglas of Longniddry.'

The manner in which the barony of Borgue was subdivided into smaller landholdings is indicated by a document of 19th August 1557 (NAS: GD10/70), with some of these holdings surviving to the present in some form. Reference is made to 'Hie Borgue' (corresponding to the modern farm of 'High Borg,' near Boreland), which was held by John Neill) and 'Low Borgue' (the name of the farm located close to the site of Borgue House/Old House itself) which was held at that time by Ninian Maccadzell. A further land holding is listed, the '3 merkland of Blackcraig' held to James Murray, which again corresponds to a modern farm located just to the NE of the village of Borgue. Reference is also made to James McClellane of Mertoun, who appears to have been one of the larger landholders within the parish, though potentially not residing within the barony of Borgue itself.

The name 'McClellane' was to have closer links with Borgue in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. The final mention of Francis Douglas of Borg was dated 1569 (NAS:GD3/1/11/3), at which point he is styled 'Francis Douglas of Borg and Longniddry,' and in 1617, we see a contract drawn up between John McClellane of Borg and Patrick McClellane, notary, with the latter becoming bound in service to John for his lifetime (NAS: RH15/91/68). This is indication that at some point between 1569 and 1617, the barony of Borgue and the lands previously held by the Douglasses were transferred to one of the MacLellans, who is now able to style himself with the designation 'of Borg.' The MacLellans were a prominent family in the area, with a major residence in the town of Kirkcudbright, but their association with the barony of Borgue appears to have been a short one. The last appearance of the MacLellans of Borgue within the documentary record comprises a disposition made by John McClellan of Borgue in 1643 (NAS: RH15/29/171), with the estate later passing into the hands of the Blair family, whose first association with the barony is recorded in a document of 1658, when Sir Adam Blair of Borg is included amongst the witnesses to a disposition issued by Alexander, Earl of Eglinton (NAS: GD3/1/10/20).

The Potential for a Precursor to Borgue Old House

A study of the documentary sources allows us to identify an approximate date when the barony of Borgue first came into independent existence (c.1500), and to track its subsequent changes in ownership throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, to the point where it finally came into the possession of the Blairs (pre-1658) who are recorded as having built the Old House of Borgue in 1680.

There has been some consideration regarding the possibility that the 17th century structure either incorporates remnants of an earlier structure, or replaced such a structure which formerly occupied the site. This possibility has been strengthened by the apparent re-use of a carved stone lintel, which appears to have derived from a smaller window opening and re-used in the late 17th century house.

The earliest high status secular structure within the barony of Borgue was defensive in character, an earth-and-timber castle which survives as an earthen mound at Boreland. This motte is thought to date from the 12th century, and its location places it several kilometres to the NE of the modern village of Borgue at Borland, close to that part of the barony which once formed the holding of High Borgue, still surviving as a modern farm of that name.

While there is no reason why the Douglasses should not have built a high status residence such as a tower-house within the barony of Borgue, it seems likely that they chose not to. The interests of the Earls of Morton and the Lords of Dalkeith always seemed to focus more instead upon their lands in E and SE Scotland, and it is entirely possible that the cadet branches of the family were orientated the same way. The lands of Borgue would have helped provide a living which could maintain an individual or family who may even have been rooted throughout most of their lives within the larger households of their power and influential kinsman. This is not to say that eventually they could not aspire for greater things, as in 1561 mention is made to the 'tower, fortalice and manor of Nether Hartside,' in Lauderdale in a land grant made to Francis Douglas of Borg (NAS: GD3/1/33/21/5). There was also a castle at Longniddry. With no shortage of high status dwellings assigned to the wider family in locations which lay closer to the seat of power in Edinburgh, it is perhaps not surprising that the Douglasses of Borg failed to invest in the building of such a dwelling in what was, for them, a peripheral part of their estates.

Again, there is no clear reason why the MacLellans decided against building a high status structure within the barony of Borgue, but once more they appear not to have done so. It is during their period of occupation that the earliest historic mapping of the area was surveyed: Blacu's map of the Middle Part of Galloway, published in 1654 using the earlier Pont's map (surveyed in the 1570s - see Figure 1 in **Historic Mapping** Section below) denotes structures such as tower-houses or large domestic structures in a distinctive fashion, but fails to represent such a structure in association with any of the named holdings that were included amongst the barony of Borgue. He does, however, feature 'Hyborg,' 'Blokraig' and the 'K[irk] of Borg.' This historic depiction of the barony again suggests that there were no high status dwelling located within the barony at this time. Even when the barony was transferred into the possession of the Blairs, it appears to have been several decades before the Old House was constructed on the site.

It may therefore be the case that these smaller cadet branches of noble families did not possess the resources to build substantial buildings on their lands at an early point in their tenure, if at all. The construction of such buildings may have been dependent on their own fortunes and their ability to win wealth and favour through their relations with their kin and further afield. The evidence from the barony of Borgue suggests that success in this respect was not guaranteed. Further research into the wider fortunes of the kin groups of each of these families – the Douglasses, the MacLellans and the Blairs – might yield insights into why this might have been the case. What is evident, however, that when the Blairs finally made the decision to build such a structure at Borgue, they were demonstrating a commitment to the place, and a willingness to invest a substantial amount of money in the barony.

The question remains, however, as to why a piece of masonry derived from an earlier structure was placed within a new construction located on a site which had not previously been occupied by a comparable structure at an earlier date. Since the piece of masonry in question occurs in isolation within the structure, the possibility should be considered that the fragment was curated by the Blairs and brought from another ancestral building located elsewhere amongst their holdings for placement within their new family seat at Borgue.

Borgue Old House: Later History (c.1797- 1832)

Hugh Blair of Borgue (c.1708-1745) has been the focus of a detailed study (Houston 2000), on account of his inheritance having been challenged by his younger brother John. The estate is later recorded as being in the possession of David Blair, with later mentions of David and his family yielding valuable insights into the family's wealth. These are provided by entries within various tax rolls dating c.1797-8.

The Blairs of Borgue are listed within both the surviving Dog Tax Rolls and the Clock and Watch Tax Rolls. The Dog Tax reveals that on the 11th July 1797, David Blair of Borgue was in possession of three dogs, for which he was taxed a total of 15 shillings (NAS: Dog Tax Volume 1 E326/11/1/144). The Clock and Watch Tax provides us with further information relating to the family at this time: David Blair is taxed 11 shillings and threepence for possessing one clock and one gold watch; his wife, listed here as 'Mrs Blair,' is taxed seven shillings and sixpence for being in possession of one gold watch, while David Blair (Junior) is taxed one shilling, ten pence and a ha'penny for possessing one silver or metal watch (NAS: Clock and Watch Tax Volume 2 E326/12/2/95). These entries suggest a family of fairly modest means, when compared to the aristocracy, but nonetheless possessing a few items of material culture which would be well out of reach for many of those who made up the local agricultural community.

The younger David Blair named here appears to correspond to the 'David Blair, younger of Borge' (NAS: GD1/884/4) who was apprenticed in surgery and pharmacy to Messrs Bell, Wardrop, Russell and Co. A long career in medicine can be inferred from a reference to 'David Blair, Surgeon, Kirkcudbright, Sometime Younger of Borgue,' dated 1876 (NAS: GD1/884/73).

The Blairs of Borgue seem to have suffered financial difficulties during his lifetime. David Blair Senior died prior to August 1824 (NAS: GD1/884/15) and the estates of Laigh Borgue (including, presumably, Borgue Old House) were subsequently sequestered in 1829 (NAS: CS44/170/9) to various creditors, including the British Linen Company (later the British Linen Bank)/ The estate was sold on to new owners in 1832 (NAS: CS230/8/12/45). (NCS230/B/12/45). One can surmise that one of the reasons why the Blairs of Borgue suffered such financial hardship was because of John Blair's earlier legal challenge to his brother Hugh's inheritance, a drain on resources from which the family appear to never have recovered.

Historic Mapping

The earliest available historic mapping is provided by Blaeu's map of 1654 (Figure 1), which is itself a revision of an earlier map surveyed by Timothy Pont in the closing decades of the 16th century.

The map appears odd to the modern eye as it is not oriented N-S along its vertical axis, as a modern map would be. Instead, it runs W-E from the top to the bottom of the image. Once this orientation is established, equating the historic map with modern equivalents is straightforward. The site of the modern village of Borgue is denoted by a small symbol surmounted by a cross marked 'K of Borg.' This is, of course, the 'Kirk of Borgue.' Located slightly to the left (S) of that is 'Borg' which probably equates to 'Laich Borgue,' as referred to in a document of 10th August 1654 which lists a number of holdings within the barony of Borgue. Additional landholdings shown on Blaeu's map which are included in this document include 'Hyborg' ('Hie Borg' or 'High Borgue') and 'Blokraig' (Blackcraig).



Figure 1: Extract from Blaeu's Map of West Kircudbright, published AD1654

It is notable that no substantial domestic structures are shown in or near modern Borgue, which argues strongly that no precursor to the late 17th century Old House of Borgue existed at this time. This is not to say that such structures do not exist further afield. Two high status buildings are depicted by Blaeu, set within orchards or plantations. To the SE of Borgue is Balmangan Castle, while to the NW lies 'Plumpton,' modern Plunton Castle. Both Balmangan Castle and Plunton Castle are tower-houses which still survive as substantial ruins. Of the two, Balmangan Castle is potentially of greater interest as in the late 16th century, it was held by the MacLellan family (NAS: GD/10/631), although it is telling that the document refers to 'William Makclennane in Balmangan' rather than William Makclennane **of** Balmangan. The barony of Borgue bordered this MacLellan-held landholding, so perhaps it is not surprising that the MacLellans acquired the barony from the Douglasses in the early 17th century, with a cadet branch of the MacLellans then styling themselves 'of Borg.' What seems more surprising is that their occupation of the barony of Borg was a short one, with the lands and barony of Borgue passing into the hands of the Blair family just a few decades later.

Moll's map of Galloway, dated 1745, is similar to the Pont/Blaeu map in its style and execution, and it may owe much to these earlier maps in terms of content, too (Figure 2).

Despite being published after the construction of the Old House, Borgue, Moll's map fails to depict the structure. Compared with the earlier Blaeu map, the Moll map lacks detail, but it does appear to show buildings that the mapmaker deemed significant in terms of their size or status. These include Cally, Cardoness and Plunton in the vicinity of Borgue, and of course Kirkcudbright, though it's not clear if the latter is included because it represents a larger settlement, rather than the site of MacLellan's Castle. The omission of the Old House of Borgue from this map would suggest that Moll is working from earlier map editions, rather than carrying out a detailed updated survey of the area.



Figure 2: Extract from Herman Moll's Map of Galloway (1745)

William's Roy's Military Survey of Lowland Scotland (1752-55) is the earliest historic mapping to show Borgue Old House following its c.1680 construction (Figure 3).

Surveyed just over half a century after the Old House's construction, it gives us a clear picture of the landscape context in which the house was situated. The house sits within a square enclosure, which is lined externally with trees. It is likely that the fragments of substantial walling which survive in close proximity to the house represent the surviving remnants of this c.1750s (or earlier) wall.



Figure 3: Extract from Roy's Military Survey of Lowland Scotland (1752-55)

The Old House's 'Y' shaped plan is not discernible on Roy's map, but two small rectangular buildings – one potentially located on the approach to the house from the SSE, and the other abutting the SSE-facing section of square enclosure wall provide useful evidence for the presence of small ancillary structures, perhaps representing workers'

accommodation or even a lodge. The square enclosure itself sits within an enclosed landscape which is subdivided into rectilinear or polygonal fields. To the E of the house, the map is marked with lines indicating that the ground was under cultivation. To the W, the large polygonal field which abuts the W side of the square enclosure is, unusually, uncultivated, which would suggest that it has either been retained as pasture or that it represents an area of parkland.

The first available modern mapping for the Old House is provided by the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1850 and published in 1854. This suggests a complete reorientation of the field systems and indeed the entire landscape around the house, when compared with the William Roy map of 1752-55 (Figure 4). This reorientation may have occurred in response to the creation of the road network, although it is also possible that Roy's map has mis-aligned the orientation of the fields slightly, as if the rectilinear fields sitting to the 'NE' of the Old House on Roy's map are pivoted slightly to the NE, then they form a better match with the first edition Ordnance Survey map.

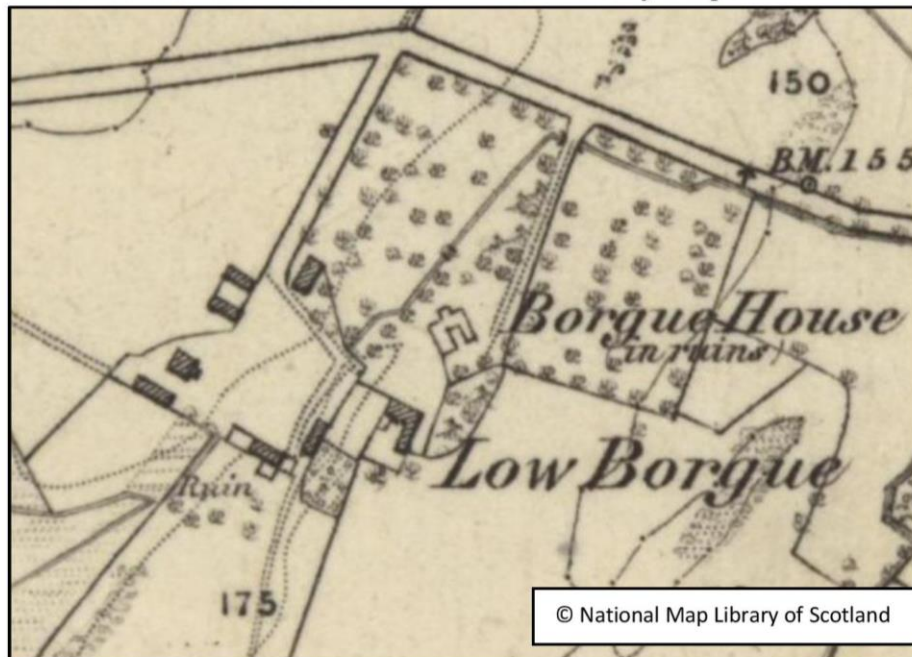


Figure 4: Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 (Surveyed 1850)

It is possible that a short stretch of walling located immediately to the S of the house and running parallel to its front, SSE facing façade, is the surviving remnants of the enclosing wall shown on Roy's map. No other traces of such a feature survive, which would suggest that the modern enclosure wall is of later, 19th century, date.

What is also evident is that Borgue Old House has now been abandoned, as it is now annotated as being 'in ruins,' and is indeed depicted as roofless. It also sits at the heart of a busy agricultural landscape, with seven buildings, or clusters of buildings, set in various arrangements around an enclosure or yard which sits slightly to the W of the Old House, and which are serviced by a separate access road running parallel to the road which serves as the driveway to the Old House. The Old House itself seems to be surviving as a decorative landscape feature in an extensive area of parkland dotted with trees, perhaps functioning as an orchard. The groups of buildings themselves seem to be fluctuating with regards to their state of repair, and perhaps also their prosperity: the southernmost group, which appears to comprise two buildings set at right angles to one another, comprises a roofed rectangular

structure aligned SSW-NNE at the NE side, and a 'T' shaped structure at the SW side which is now roofed only in its central, rectangular section.

The Old House is depicted for the first time as a 'Y'-plan structure, but it should be noted that both wings terminate at the same distance beyond the front, SSE-facing elevation. This suggests that the extension to the WSW wing has not been constructed at this point. It is also possible, however, that both wings had been extended at this time, as they seem unusually long in comparison to the way they are depicted in the later second edition of the map. There is, however, no stepping-outwards of the WSW wing; at the point where the later extension was added, which supports the suggestion that this map shows the building in its original form. It is also worth noting that this first edition of the Ordnance Survey map is the first mapping which shows this particular land holding to be annotated as 'Low Borgue,' a name which was mentioned in 16th century documents but not shown on Blaeu's map of 1654.

The second edition of the Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in the 1890s, shows a number of changes to the site (Figure 5). The group of dispersed farm buildings to the W of the Old House have been transformed and potentially replaced in most cases. The partly ruinous 'T'-plan building and its perpendicularly-set companion have been replaced by an 'L'-shaped range which forms the WNW and WSW sides of an enclosed rectangular courtyard, perhaps a cattle court. The ESE side comprises a long rectilinear building, with a wider 'L'-plan structure (perhaps a farmhouse) occupying much of the ENE side. Only one structure remains unchanged from the first edition map: a small rectangular building lying at the SW end of a linear group of structures which formed a NE-SW running line at the NW edge of the settlement. The central 'T'-shaped building has been removed, and the northeasternmost pair of parallel NW-SE aligned rectangular structures have been replaced by a similarly arranged pair of larger structures which are joined at the NW side to create a single 'U'-plan building. A further rectangular range is located to the ESE of the courtyard group, within a polygonal enclosure which has a further 'L-shaped building at its NE corner. Together, these buildings suggest a successful and prosperous agricultural enterprise, to which has been given the name 'Low Borgue.'

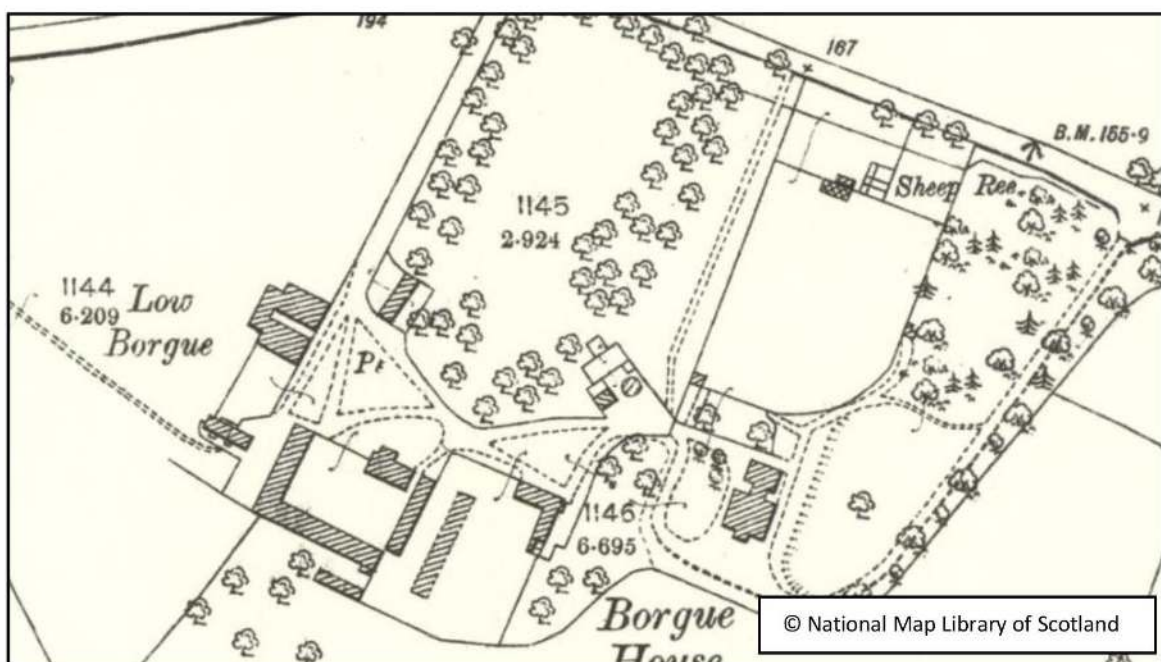


Figure 5: Extract from Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1895

Borgue House, which replaced the Old House as a domestic residence, is shown for the first time, served with its own tree-lined avenue which approaches from the road along a NE-SW line, running past the house and offering tantalising glimpses of the structure before swinging around for the final approach. Much of the ground surrounding the later house appears to be parkland, with numerous trees present, although one central area has been retained as pasture. Further evidence of a livestock-based farming regime is provided by a sheepfold, known locally as a 'sheep ree'.

The Old House appears to have been retained, although much of the structure is now roofless. There is, however, one roofed element present at the SE end of the WSW projecting wing. Comparison with the first edition suggests that this represents a repair rather than a survival, and this portion of the building corresponds with the later addition to the structure that has been equipped with a brick-built oven. Another free-standing circular structure is shown just to the ESE of the Old House. Its purpose is unknown. It has the character and dimensions of a free-standing horse-gin or mill, but it could alternatively be an ancillary structure associated with the recently constructed Borgue House.

The historic mapping described previously gives us a detailed insight into the changing fortunes of both the Old House itself, and of the neighbouring farm of Low Borgue. In addition to these resources, the Old House of Borgue was subject to a detailed survey during the last years of the 19th century, in the period following its abandonment. This survey left us with a series of plans, sections and elevation drawings which provide an invaluable insight into how the house looked when still in a relatively intact condition. The surveyor also provided us with a very basic interpretation of the building and the various rooms within it, suggesting that the smaller rooms located within the wings would have functioned as bedrooms, with the rooms in the larger, main portion of the building left unspecified (Figure 6).

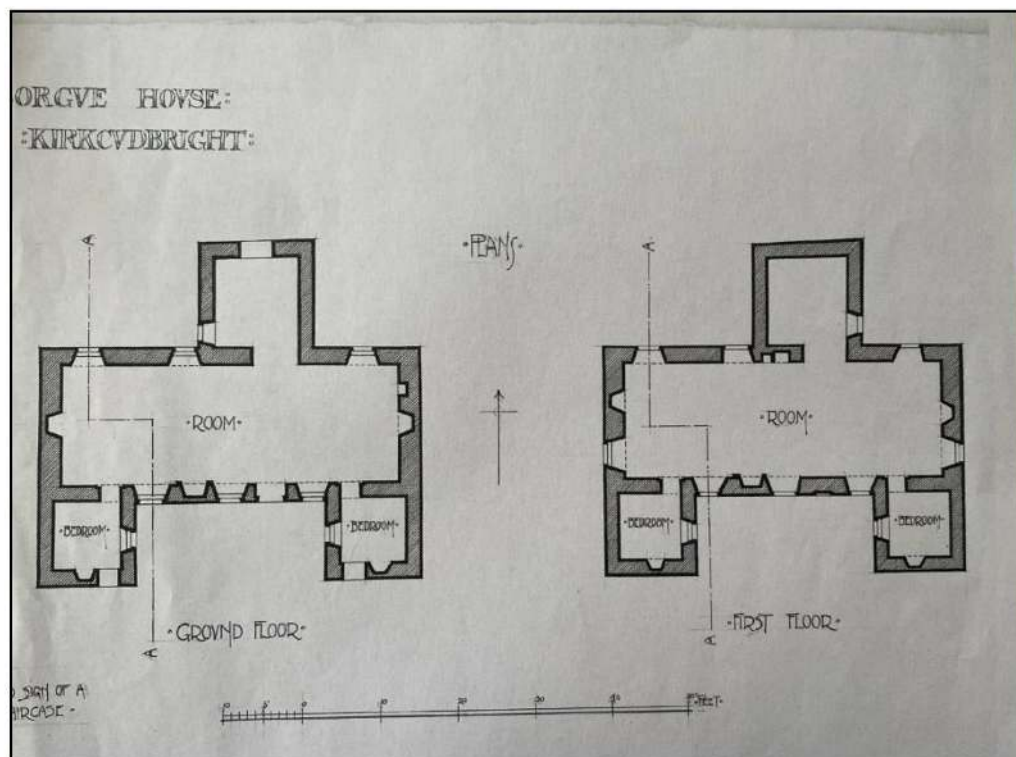


Figure 6: Plans of Old House, Borgue, by Edwin Forbes (1898) (KBD 29/2) (© Historic Environment Scotland)

The elevation drawings carried out by Edwin Forbes are extremely detailed, and for this reason have been included at a large size as they provide a useful resource for comparison with the modern structure. They do not replicate the building stone for stone, but they do indicate the character of the masonry and depict the important features such as window surrounds and quoins.

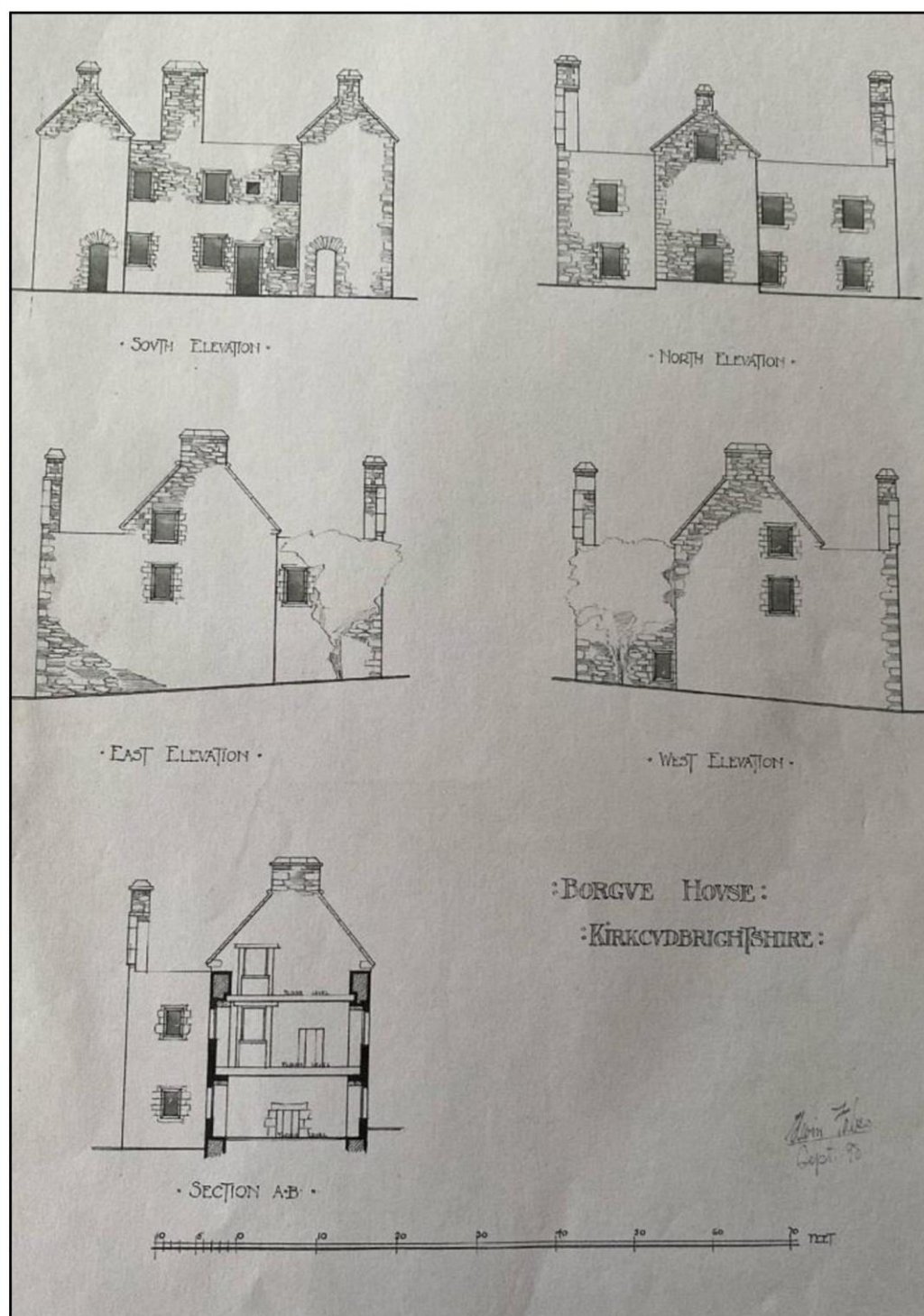


Figure 8: Elevations and Sections of Old House, Borgue, by Edwin Forbes (KBD29/1) (© Historic Environment Scotland)

Later editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping for Borgue and its environs show the gradual transformation of Low Borgue farm into its present form, through the addition and

removal of structures, but these changes do not impact on the fabric of the Old House itself and so no further observations are included within the scope of this brief account.

To summarise, by studying a succession of historic maps we can obtain valuable information relating both to the Old House of Borgue, and to the changing landscape context within which it is situated. Reference to the earliest available historic maps of late 16th and late 17th century date support the argument that there was no preceding high status dwelling in close proximity to Borgue (or 'Low Borgue,' as it was styled in 16th century documentary sources and later, on 19th century mapping) prior to the construction of the Old House. Study of the Old House is further assisted by the survival of detailed plans, sections and elevations undertaken prior to the building's deterioration during the 10th century.

Borgue Old House: Historic Building Recording

A site visit was undertaken on 23rd February 2023, in dry and bright conditions, in the company of the owner, Christine Clement. A photographic survey of the interior elevations and some of the exterior elevations was undertaken (the NNW elevation could not be recorded due to bulls being present in the field) and annotated sketches of the structure were made, again for all of the internal and external elevations apart from the NNW external elevation). A brief summary of the findings is provided below. A copy of an annotated ground plan, which uses as its basis the c.1900 Forbes plan of the site, is provided for convenience (Figure 9).

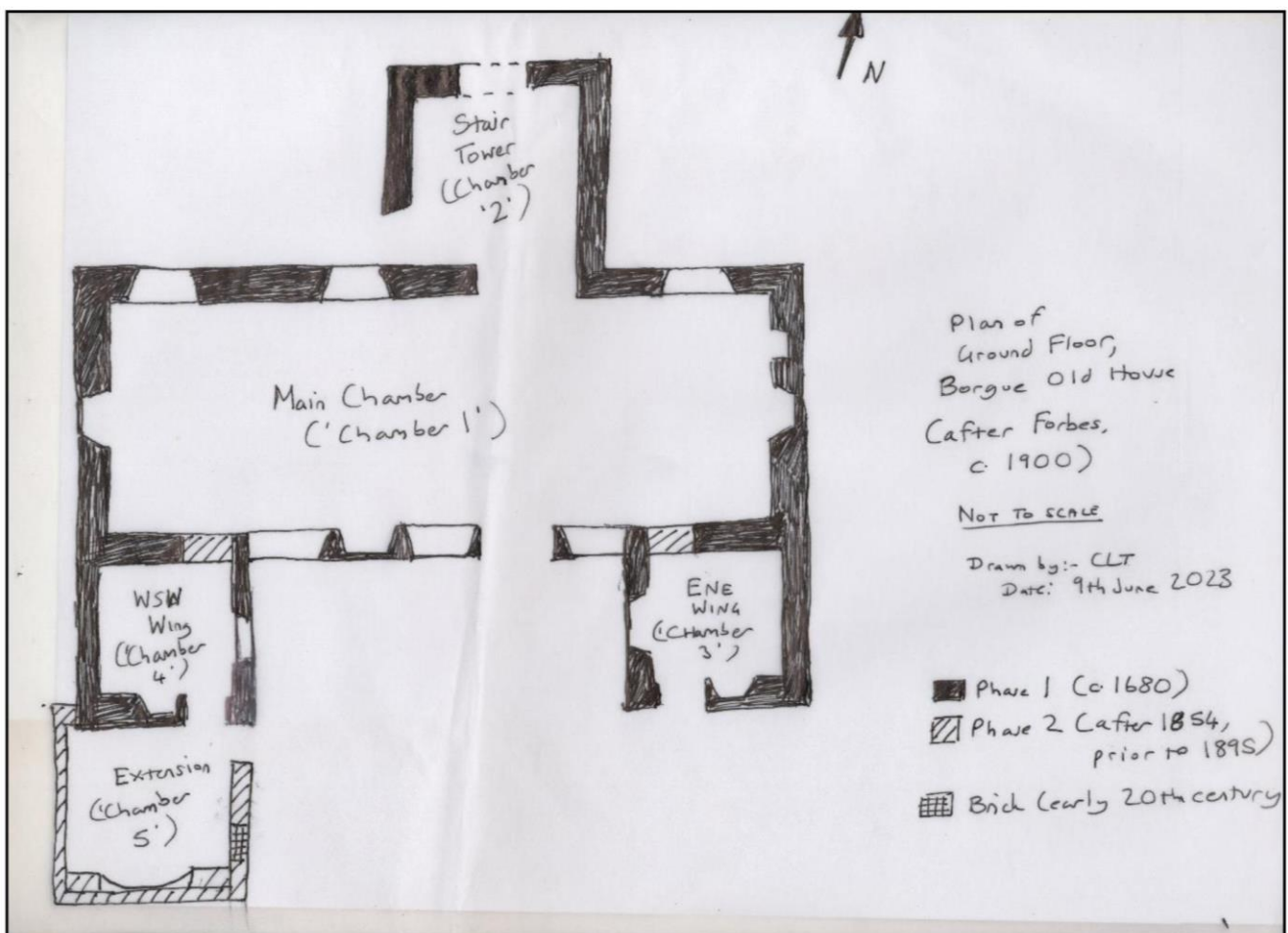


Figure 9: Annotated Site Plan of Borgue Old House (Ground Floor)

The remains of Borgue Old House survive as a roofless shell, intact to wallhead height over much of its extent. It sits within the grounds of the late 19th century Borgue House (Figure 10), with its WSW, NNW and ENE elevations forming the boundary walls of a modern pasture field. The structure has been described as being ‘Y’-shaped on plan, with a slightly off-centre outshot projecting from the rear, NNW elevation, and two wings projecting from either end of the main SSE elevation (Figure 11). The WSW wing has been extended at some point in the building’s history.



Figure 10: Borgue Old House in Wider Setting



Figure 11: View of Front (ESE) Elevation

The main portion of the structure (Chamber 1) is rectangular on plan. The rear outshot is square on plan, and is likely to represent a projecting stair tower (Chamber 2). The

projecting wings are also square on plan (Chambers 3 and 4), with the later extension rectangular on plan (Chamber 5). The building makes use of local stone, roughly worked, with individual blocks largely, but not exclusively, small in size. The structure is composed of random rubble, set in semi-regular courses, with similar masonry evident in both the original structure and the later extension. The quoins of the original structure tend to be larger and are often roughly squared, but those in the extension are of similar size to the adjoining masonry. Some use of brick is evident, denoting more recent repairs and modifications to the structure, probably occurring in the early twentieth century.

Externally, the arrangement of the doors and windows is asymmetrical. The principle doorway in the SSE elevation is set off-centre, with one flanking window to the ENE and two placed in the longer stretch of wall to the WSW. The windows vary in their character: All have stone rybats, sills and lintels, but the lintels and rybats at ground level in the SSE elevation are grooved. Two of the three at first floor level are also grooved, but the west-southwestern most is chamfered. Where the wings face inwards onto the balance of ground at the front of the house, the treatment of the windows again varies. At first floor level the lintels are plain, at ground floor level the lintels are grooved, with plain rybats. The grooved lintel at ground floor level on the WSW-facing elevation of the ENE wing appears to have derived from a smaller window opening than that which it now accompanies, leading to suggest that it may have derived from an earlier structure. This was the only evidence identified which could be linked with a potential forerunner to the c.1680s Borgue Old House.

A recess set above the main entrance, aligned with the centre of the first floor windows, would originally have held a carved stone panel, potentially decorated with a coat of arms. It should be noted that this would not have housed the ex-situ datestone from Borgue Old House which is now located above one of the doorways of the late 19th century Borgue House, as the extant stone is triangular in shape. This suggests that it may have derived from the pediment of an ornamental doorpiece, which does not match the surviving main entrance at Borgue Old House.

Also worthy of note with regards to this discussion of the external character of Borgue Old House is the proliferation of chimneys. There are tall plain rectangular-sectioned stacks, rubble-built, located centrally on the short WSW and ENE elevations of the main portion of the building, with a similar feature projecting from the wallhead to the WSW of the main entrance. Both of the projecting wings (Chambers 3 and 4) also have central rectangular-sectioned chimneys on the front, SSE-facing elevations.

Chamber 1 (Main Chamber)

This rectangular space forms the main portion of the house, and would originally have housed the principle rooms. It originally comprised two storeys and an attic, with further internal subdivisions inferred through the presence of multiple fireplaces.

At ground floor level, the main entrance into the house was located slightly to the NNE of centre in the NNW-facing elevation (SSE wall). At either end of this elevation were narrow doorways allowing entry into the wings (Chambers 3 and 4). Both were partly blocked with roughly coursed rubble, the stones small in size and similar in character to the fabric used in the original building. To the ENE of the main entrance, there was one window, set within a splayed embrasure; to the WSW, two windows, with one located on either side of a large fireplace. The windows were similar in terms of their dimensions and were again set

within splayed embrasures. The fireplace was larger than the rest occurring throughout the building, and its carved stone surround suggested that it may have played a role in a principle room within the house (Figure 12).



Figure 12: View of NNW-Facing Internal Elevation, with Large Fireplace

The rear, SSE-facing elevation has a broad opening into Chamber 2 (the probable stair tower) placed directly opposite the main entrance, which suggests that visitors, on entering the property, had a clear view towards the stair. It is possible that the opening may have been infilled with stud work to create a more elaborate opening (perhaps arched), but this cannot now be ascertained. To the WSW of this opening, two windows of regular size, set within splayed embrasures, are set within the wall at ground floor level. A third window is located in the short stretch of wall to the ENE of the opening.

All of the internal window openings appear to have made use of timber lintels, most of which are now missing. A stretch of the ground floor wall lying to the WSW of the opening to Chamber 2 and the ENE window opening, is plastered.

There are additional fireplaces at ground floor level (Figure 13), placed centrally in the gable walls (the ENE- and WSW-facing elevations). These have a much plainer character than the large fireplace in the NNW-facing elevation, with its carved stone surrounds. They could potentially have had a timber mantel and surround, possibly tiled, with some use of cast iron envisaged for the grate and fireback. The presence of two such fireplaces – one in either gable wall of the building – suggests that the house was originally subdivided into at least three chambers at ground floor level, with the chamber lying immediately to the WSW of the main entrance representing the principal room where guests were entertained.

Within Chamber 1, the arrangement at 1st floor level appears to have been similar. There is no opening above the main entrance in the NNW-facing internal elevation (this location on the external elevation is where the recess for the carved stone is location), but there are equivalent doorways accessing the wings at 1st floor level, and the fenestration is similar on both long elevations. In the SSE-facing elevation, the expanse of wall which sits directly opposite the area of solid wall above the main entrance houses two aumbries or recesses (Figure 14). Fireplaces are also located at 1st floor level in similar locations to those

at ground floor level, though their alignment may vary slightly. All of these fireplaces are very plain in character, suggesting that they were originally furnished with wooden overmantles and cast iron grates and firebacks. It is possible that stoves were installed in some of them.



Figure 13: Interior, ENE Wall (WSW-Facing), Showing Fireplaces and Window Embrasures

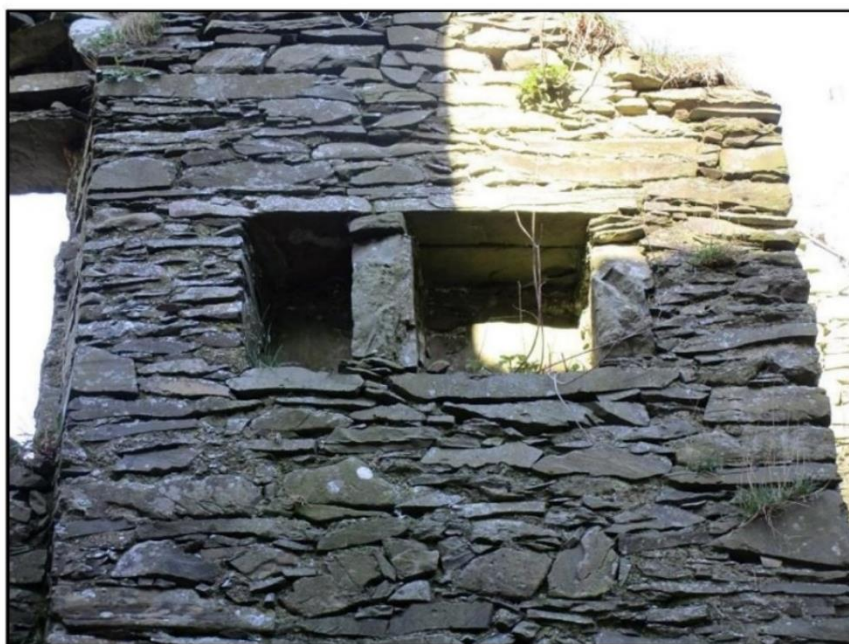


Figure 14: Aumbries or Recesses at 1st Floor Level, Interior, WNW Wall (SSE-Facing)

The presence of fireplaces at second floor level in both gable end walls indicates that there was further accommodation at attic level. In the WSW-facing gable, the fireplace is displaced slightly to the NNE in order to accommodate a window.

Chamber 2 ('Stair Tower')

This comprises a small chamber which projects from the rear, NNW, external elevation of the building and extends to the full height on the structure. There are openings to the exterior at ground level at the SSE end of the WSW wall, and in the centre of the NNW wall. The latter has a splayed embrasure, and is more likely to represent a window, on the basis of comparison with other window openings located elsewhere. It now forms a larger opening more reminiscent of a door, and may have been informally adapted as a doorway at a relatively recent date. The other opening, which is located within the W corner of the chamber, immediately abutting the NNW wall of Chamber 1, has a straight embrasure and is likely to represent an original secondary entrance to the house.

On the basis of comparison with houses of contemporary date located elsewhere throughout Scotland, this chamber is likely to have housed a stair which accessed the upper floors of the building. The stair is likely to have been of the scale-and-platt form, and manufactured from timber. Occasional voids evident within the wall fabric – although informal in character - may represent seating points for the timber framework which would have supported the stair.

Chamber 3 (ENE Wing)

This chamber is rectangular on plan, and extends over two storeys. The ground floor room was originally entered through a doorway located at the WSW side of the NNW wall, which linked it with Chamber 1. A similar access arrangement is evident at 1st floor level.

The ground floor doorway was subsequently partly blocked with rubble infill, similar to the masonry used in the earlier structure, but originating in a later phase of activity. A new opening slapped through the WSW side of the SSE wall is very poorly finished (Figure 15).



Figure 15: Inserted Opening and Ceramic Pipe in SSE Wall of Chamber 3 (ENE Wing)

The later doorway respects an original fireplace which occupies the centre of the SSW wall at ground floor level. Another fireplace sits slightly to the WSW at 1st floor level. Both are of the smaller, simpler form, comprising a splayed recess with a stone lintel. There are two windows, both placed in the WSW elevation, and located centrally in the ground floor and first floor respectively.

Joist-holes in the ENE wall mark the 1st floor floor level; below this, the wall has been plastered to roughly dado-height (Figure 16). One unusual feature is the presence of a slanting ceramic drain pipe passing through masonry of the SSE wall, just above the fireplace (refer to Figure 15). No obvious disturbance of the masonry is evident in its vicinity, but it must be a late 19th century or early 20th century insertion and it probably indicates that this space was later re-used as a small pen for livestock, perhaps a pigsty or a loose-box for a horse, though the entrance seems a little narrow for the latter.



Figure 16: Joist-holes Marking Line of 1st Floor Level with Plastered Wall Below, ENE Wall, ENE Wing

Chamber 4 (WSW Wing)

This chamber is similar in character to the ENE wing, balancing its counterpart and creating symmetry at the WSW end of the main SSE elevation: it is rectangular on plan, and extends over two storeys.

It was originally entered by a doorway from Chamber 1, at the ENE end of the NNW wall, but like its counterpart in Chamber 4, this opening is now partly blocked with a rubble infill, and a new opening slapped through the ENE end of the SSW wall. This allows access into Chamber 5. The 1st floor room was accessed from Chamber 1 by a similar doorway to that located at ground floor level.

There are fireplaces at ground and 1st floor level in the SSW wall (NNE-facing), and once again, the 1st floor fireplace is situated slightly off-centre. The fireplaces – like the majority of those located elsewhere within the house – are small and set within splayed stone recesses. There are two windows with splayed embrasures set centrally at ground and 1st floor level in the ENE wall.

A row of joist-holes in the WSW (ENE-facing) wall indicates the floor level of the upper storey, but there are additional socket holes set in a row below this level at dado height, which suggest that some kind of timber framework or fitting was originally present here.

Chamber 5 (Extension to WSW Wing)

This small rectangular chamber was added to the SSE end of the WSW wing (Chamber 4). Although the masonry used in its construction is similar to that employed in the original house, its later date is confirmed by the fact that the NNW wall incorporates the existing SSE wall of the WSW wing (Chamber 4) with no tying-in of the masonry (Figure 17). Some variation in the fabric is apparent in the SSE wall of Chamber 5: the fabric here appears to be snecked rubble, with more pinning stones used than in the fabric of the original building.



Figure 17: NNW Wall of Chamber 5, Showing Junction Between Original and Later Masonry



Figure 18: Arched Recess in SSE Wall of Chamber 5 – Possible Ovens

The room is entered from the exterior of the building by a doorway at the NNW end of the NNE wall. Another doorway has been inserted into the ENE end of the SSE wall of the adjacent WSW wing (Chamber 4), allowing access from inside the earlier building. There is a single window, placed to the SSE of the doorway in the NNE wall.

The most distinctive feature within Chamber 5 is the fireplace in the SSE wall. This takes the form of a large arched recess, formed from large roughly-worked slab-like voussoirs. Within the recess are two large arched chambers composed of firebrick or tile, with a third, smaller chamber sitting in the apex of the recess and straddling the two larger chambers below. These appear to have functioned as ovens.

The roof was pitched, with the remains of an iron or steel framework still in situ. The light character of this framework suggests that the structure was re-roofed during the 20th century with a corrugated sheet metal or Uralite roofing material.

Discussion

An examination of Borgue Old House reveals evidence for at least three phases of building within the structure.

Phase 1

Most of the house appears to represent the results of a single phase of building, with the original structure comprising the main portion of the house (Chamber 1), the off-centre square stair tower to the rear (Chamber 2) and the two projecting wings (Chambers 3 and 4) which sit at either end of the front SSE elevation. The windows are large and of uniform size, but while they are placed level along the lengths of each façade, they are not arranged in a symmetrical fashion, as would be expected in a Classically -influenced house. Window surrounds are mostly chamfered but some rolled mouldings are present. The gables are steeply pitched, and although the wallhead is corbelled in these locations, the classic ‘crow-stepped’ style does not appear to have been present.

A square recess above the main entrance is likely to have contained a coat-of-arms or similar, but this is now absent. The character of the main entrance itself is plain, and it is possible that this area was repaired or re-worked at some point, and a pedimented doorway removed. The triangular datestone which would once have surmounted this entrance has now been set above a doorway in the late 19th century Borgue House.

Evidence of the re-use of masonry derived from another building is suggested by the mis-sized lintel which sits above the ground floor window in the WSW external elevation of the ENE wing. It is also possible that the stone rybats for the large ground floor fireplace in the NNW-facing internal elevation of the main portion of the building (Chamber 1) were removed from another building, as they bear no resemblance to the other fireplaces within the structure. It is not clear that they formed part of an important public space or whether the host fireplace was purely functional in character and sited within the kitchen. Elsewhere, the fireplaces would have been ornamented through the use of wooden fire-surrounds and mantelpieces, cast-iron grates and fire-backs and also fire-tiles. Delft fire-tiles, for example, were becoming increasingly sought-after towards the end of the 17th century.

Accommodation appears to have been well-provided for both family members and servants, with fireplaces evident within ground and 1st floor rooms throughout the house and at attic level within the main portion of the structure (Chamber 1).

The fabric of the building comprises small blocks of roughly worked local stone, much of a fairly uniform size, laid in semi-regular courses. The quoins are roughly squared, particularly in the lowermost courses. Joist-holes within the internal walls indicate the locations of floor levels, and the roofing material of the original structure appears to have included large flat tiles of stone, of which one or two examples survive, now *ex situ*.

The walls are of modest thickness. Taking into consideration the wall thickness, the large windows and the presence of a projecting stair tower to the rear, the original structure at Borgue Old House owes its character more to the style of vernacular building which proliferated within Scottish towns and rural settings from the late 17th century right through to the late 18th/early 19th century, when the more symmetrical Classically-inspired Georgian style came into fashion. Although it is an imposing feature in the landscape, it is entirely related to the earlier tradition of tower-houses and fortified dwellings and there is no evidence that such an earlier structure has been incorporated into its fabric. The use of rolled mouldings and the presence of the massive fireplace with its scrolled rybats may, however, be inspired by the earlier tower-house tradition.

Phase 2

This phase is represented by Chamber 5, the extension at the SSE end of the WSW wing. The addition of this chamber to the existing structure has entirely spoiled the original symmetrical plan of the late 17th century building, with the floor plan of the extension expanding beyond the original WSW limits of the WSW wing (Chamber 4). The Phase 2 walling abuts the Phase 1 walling, with no tussling evident, providing confirmation that both elements are not contemporary, and that Chamber 5 was built to respect and also incorporate the existing structure.

The wall fabric is similar to that seen in Phase 1, characterised by small blocks of roughly worked rubble, laid in semi-regular courses. There is, however, more evidence of snecking courses and pinnings, although these are insufficiently common for the masonry to be comfortably characterised as snecked rubble. The quoins are smaller than those used in the Phase 1 building, although individual blocks do not appear to have been squared off to the same degree. Nonetheless, the style of the masonry is similar, and can be interpreted as representing a local style which makes use of locally available stone that may not be particularly suitable for the production of fine architectural details.

The interior of Chamber 5 is dominated by the arched recess in the SSE wall, with its smaller arched tile infills. This appears to have been the setting for some kind of pyrotechnic activity, though no chimney now survives to confirm this interpretation. However, the compartmentalised character of the fireplace is more suggestive of a series of ovens, and this may suggest an industrial function, perhaps linked with agriculture. The extension appears to have been built at roughly the same time as Borgue House was built (during the second half of the 19th century) and it may be associated with Borgue Old House ceasing its function as the primary domestic residence on the site.

Similar rubble masonry to that used in Chamber 5 has been used to partially block the original doorways (Figure 19) linking the ground floor of Chamber 1 to the ground floor rooms of the adjoining ENE and WSW wings (Chambers 3 and 4). Access to these rooms was maintained, however, by the slapping through of new openings, with the ENE wing (Chamber 3) now accessed from the exterior through the SSE wall and the WSW wing (Chamber 4) accessed from Chamber 5, again through the SSE wall. It is interesting to note

that the blocking fabric has not been coated with plaster, inferring that the plastered walls are contemporary with Phase 1 occupation.

A large bore stoneware pipe has been inserted into the fabric of the SSE wall of the ENE wing (Chamber 4) above the fireplace (and potentially passing through the flue) may also have been added during this phase. Its presence suggests that the ground floor chamber of the ENE wing (Chamber 4) was converted for use as livestock accommodation, with the inserted pipe assisting ventilation. A sloping raggle evident in the external SSE elevation of the ENE wing (Chamber 4) suggests the addition of a lightly built lean-to type structure, which again could have been used as part of livestock accommodation.



Figure 19: Partially blocked doorway linking Chamber 1 with Chamber 3 (ENE Wing), Viewed from Interior of Chamber 3

Phase 3

Evidence of a third phase of activity is slight, represented by the use of bricks within the fabric of the building. Use of brickwork is present in the form of a blocked window in Chamber 5, and a repair to the walling of the WSW wing (Chamber 4) at ground floor level, visible when viewing the exterior of the building.

Since the incorporation of brick-built elements post-dates the late 19th century Chamber 5, it stands to reason that this work must post-date the late 19th century. It is likely to represent small scale repairs and modifications carried out during the earlier part of the 20th century.

Conclusion

By examining the evidence provided by documentary sources, historic mapping and the extant remains of Borgue Old House itself, it is clear that much of the structure represents a single episode of building, which took place c. 1680. No remains of an earlier structure can be identified in the surviving fabric, although it is entirely possible that some of the architectural details (in particular one window lintel) derived from an earlier building located elsewhere. The building was subsequently extended in the late 19th century, but apart from

small scale episodes of minor alteration and repair which appear to have taken place in the earlier part of the 20th century, it remains largely intact and unchanged, although its internal details must now be largely inferred, as its interiors have been entirely stripped out leaving just the shell of the building remaining.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the owner of Borgue Old House, Christine Clement, for so generously sharing her time, as well as her knowledge and insights into the history of the building, and for bringing to my attention the Edwin Forbes drawings which provide such a valuable resource for studying the building. I would also like to thank James Dunlop for assisting with the on-site photography. Finally, a special 'thank you' is extended to the staff of the Holiday Property Bond site at the 'Coo Palace,' who very helpfully provided me with local knowledge and assistance.

Louise Turner
4th June 2023

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Senwick House, Borgue

by Jennifer Roberts



NGR: 264560, 546669

Canmore ID 105923

Senwick House is a B listed house in Borgue Parish. It is described on the listed buildings website as being built in the early 19th century. It has two stories, as well as a basement and an attic with later dormers. There are early 20th century additions to the west. (The house was enlarged in 1911 by the Hope-Dunbars.) The building has rendered walling, lined with ashlar, (see the grey edging, in the picture below), smooth rusticated quoins, windows with raised painted margins and bold voussoirs (a wedge-shaped or tapered stone used to construct an arch). The House has a three bay entrance elevation to the north with a central gabled porch, with deeply overhanging eaves which was built in 1879. The porch has a consoled corniced door-piece with a round-arched doorway and semi-circular fanlight. The original windows were sash and case with twelve panes.

The rear elevation is similarly detailed. It has a centre mullion and a bipartite dormer to the centre. The slate roof has a tall pair of corniced axial stacks with octagonal cans.

More recently the interior has had many alterations, with the subdivision of many rooms and the removal of some cornices when it was either converted into the hotel or the care-home.



Senwick House as it is today. Note the modern extensions.

Canmore, Historic Scotland has several listings in the grounds of the house.

*The gate piers,
more specifically
the balls on top.*



The gate piers Canmore ID 63959 are dated as nineteenth century. The walled garden, Canmore ID 105925, has not existed as such for many years.

*One of the
remaining walls can
be seen, the other is
behind the orchard.*



The Old Stable House, Canmore ID 105923, Enterkin Lodge or the Gate lodge Canmore ID 214208 and the cottage, Canmore ID 105924, are in private hands.



*Aerial View of Senwick
House, gardens and
associated buildings. The
walled garden has two
hedged sides.*

The present owners believe Senwick House is preceded by a cottage cum farmhouse, the remains of which may still survive in the garden walls.

The House is thought to have been built in 1760 by the Corries, although M'Kerlie in his book *History of the lands and their owners in Galloway* (1879) says that the Blairs of Senwick sold Senwick Estate to the Corries in 1779. At the same time the Corries also purchased Dunrod. William Corrie had made a large fortune as a 'Scotch Trader' and lace manufacturer in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. He had set up his two brothers in local farms, but when he died his fortune passed to his daughter Jane. When she died in 1828 with no direct heirs, Adam Corrie her cousin inherited everything, including Senwick House.

A tenant of the House was Sir John Gordon of Earlston and Afton.

John Gordon was born at Montego Bay, Jamaica in 1780 and later served in the First Regiment of Foot. He succeeded as the fifth baronet of Earlston and Afton in 1795 after the death of a distant cousin.

Sir John married Juliana Gallimore on the 19th April 1811 at Trelawny, Cornwall, Jamaica. Juliana was the daughter of Colonel Jervis Gallimore of the Greenfield Estate and Sarah Virgo. Juliana was born at Greenfield in 1782. Her mother Sarah Virgo had died in 1809 and in her will had left Juliana "old Kitta, Madge, Johnny and Becky to hold the said slaves with their future offspring and increase."

Senwick House has another West Indian link. On December 19th 1819 Major-General Riail, Governor of Grenada (1816-1823) and a hero of the Canadian Wars, proposed to Eliza Scarlett of Paru (or Peru) in Jamaica whilst staying at Senwick House. Eliza was the eldest daughter of James Scarlett and Eliza Virgo Scarlett nee Gallimore. Eliza accepted and the couple went on to have two daughters. Eliza was later to receive compensation of £1074 in 1836 for the fifty-three enslaved people working on her Jamaican estate.



The sampler sewn by Henrietta Blair which mentions Senwick. The sampler's date is unclear but is probably 1790. The sampler is linen fabric with silk stitches.

Photo Tanya Austin



*Major-General Riail
1775-1850.*

Juliana Gallimore died at Senwick House on 13th February 1824 at the age of 42. Her memorial is in Senwick Church, although it is much worn and difficult to read.

"She was blest with a benevolent heart and an honourable mind and was to her husband a sincere and affectionate wife,

*I left this life without a tear
Save for the friends I held so dear
To heal his sorrows Lord, descend,
Into the afflicted prove a friend."*

*The text is difficult to read
but translates as above.*



Like the Gallimores, Sir John Gordon also had estates in Jamaica and in 1836 received compensation of £3316.5s for the one hundred and sixty four enslaved persons on his Carlton Estate. In his will he stated that he had sold his Golden River coffee estate to his reputed natural sons Francis and John "having given liberal allowances to them for payment by instalments without interest within fourteen years, I consider them thereby and with their own industry sufficiently provided."

A story is related by John Henderson in his article on Senwick Churchyard that when Juliana died she was buried in the Blair portion of the churchyard and a tablet was erected. The Blairs however took exception to this and ordered its removal. There was even talk of exhumation and although this did not happen the memorial tablet was removed to its present place.

On the 21st June 1825 in Edinburgh, just over a year after Juliana had died, Sir John Gordon re-married and with his new wife Mary Irving of Dumfries went to visit Senwick House. The London Star reported that the tenantry and "respectable" farmers prepared bonfires to honour the happy couple. On the couple reaching Senwick there was a discharge of cannon and musketry and cheering by the fires. Local gossip suggested Sir John left Senwick on Whit Sunday in 1828 and that no new tenant had been found for Senwick House.

Sir John Gordon died at Earlston House on 8th January 1843 at the age of 62.

Between 1848-51 the Kirkcudbrightshire Ordnance Survey Name Book described Senwick House as being 'A small but neat Mansion (of the modern style of architecture) with outhouses all slate and in good repair, in front of the mansion is a pleasantly ornamental garden, surrounded by a small plantation consisting of mixed wood, there is also a farm of land. The property of John Currie Esq. of Dunrod.'

Another tenant of Senwick House was William Poole. He was appointed to the Borgue Academy as a school master on 23rd March 1803 where he remained until 1843. He had studied at Edinburgh University and had then gone on to Ruthwell before being appointed to Borgue Academy. In 1803 the school had one hundred and seventy-eight pupils. As a lucrative sideline William Poole kept boys as boarders. At some stage, possibly 1833 when the school was in poor repair William Poole spent £150 of his own money to repair the school house. After he retired from the Academy he rented Senwick House. He lived there with his daughter Jessie. Although he had been unwell for some years, he had carried on teaching with the help of an assistant. When Mr Poole retired he was granted an annual sum of £17 provided he did not set up another school in the district. Local belief was that he had been forced to resign "before he was pushed" as he favoured the Free Church, where he was a trustee and practising elder. Mr Poole must have been a landowner as there were

several adverts in The Carlisle Journal of January 1846 concerning a farm in Liddersdale which he was trying to rent out.

In August 1855 the Dumfries and Galloway Standard reported that Miss Poole had been presented with a portrait of her father, the first rector of Borgue Academy.

William and Jessie Poole lived in Senwick House until 1865 when William Poole died aged 85.

John Corrie who had inherited Senwick House from his father Adam Corrie, died there in 1874 at the age of 80. According to the Census John Corrie seemed to have spent most of his time living in England. In 1851 he was living in New Windsor and in 1861 in Devon. His wife died in Milan in 1870 so it is possible he retired to Senwick House after her death.

In 1879 a porch and attic dormers were added to the House by architects Kinnear and Peddie.



The porch added in 1879.

Senwick House appeared to have no tenant in the 1881 Census as it was occupied by Thomas and Mary Robinson. Thomas was a general labourer, Mary presumably acted as a caretaker. The Corries in that year were living at Southpark.

In 1885 The Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser (GN&KA) reported that Mr and Mrs Corrie (i.e. Adam Corrie, John's son) were residing at Senwick House. Francis Groome in his book *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland* dated 1882-4 mentioned that Senwick House was the seat of Adam Corrie 'who holds 1062 acres across the shire valued at £1165 per annum'.

At the time of the 1891 Census Senwick House was again in the care of Thomas Robertson¹⁰ and his wife Mary. Thomas was 84 and had presumably retired from his previous work as a general labourer.

In 1896 Senwick House was bought by Captain John Hope, a nephew of the Earl of Selkirk, and became part of the St. Mary's Isle Estate. Presumably he did not live there very much as three years later he tried to let the house. Adverts appeared throughout April 1899 in the Scotsman. The advert said it had three public rooms, five bedrooms and a dressing room, as well as four servant's rooms. Senwick House also had a tennis court. It was to be let partly furnished. Applicants had to contact Robt. Dodgeon at The Grange, Kirkcudbright for particulars.

¹⁰ The difference in name between 'Robinson' in the 1881 Census and 'Roberston' on the 1891 Census is likely to be the result of an error either in the original recording or in the transcription – all other details confirm them to be the same people and, comparing with earlier and later census returns, it seems as if 'Robertson' is the correct surname.

In the 1901 census Jane Mitchell the wife of gamekeeper Robert Mitchell lived in Senwick House as a caretaker, or as the Census puts it 'to take charge of it', as had the Robertsons before them. Again in 1908 the House was advertised in the Scotsman, this time as a summer let. It is described as "a beautifully situated house overlooking the Solway ... containing three public rooms, six bed-rooms, a servants hall and bedrooms, stabling for three pairs of horses, good garden: boating: excellent shooting over 800 acres if required." Why was it so difficult to let Senwick House?



The view over Brighthouse.

In 1911 Senwick House was occupied by retired Army Captain, Charles Hope-Dunbar, the son of Capt. John Hope. Charles Hope-Dunbar reactivated the baronetcy of Baldoon, Nova Scotia.

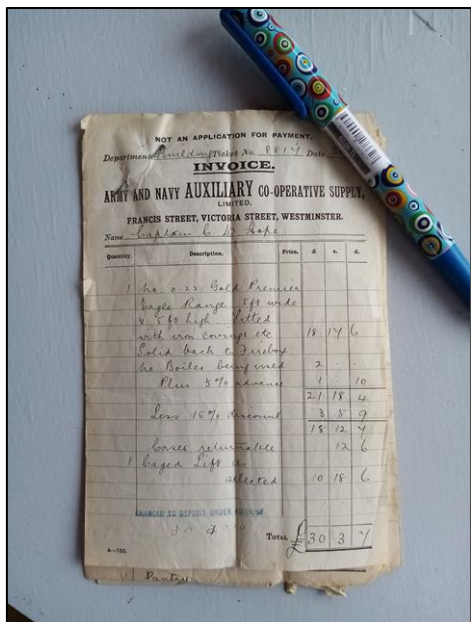
*The escutcheon of the Baronetcy of Baldoon,
Nova Scotia.
Established 1664*



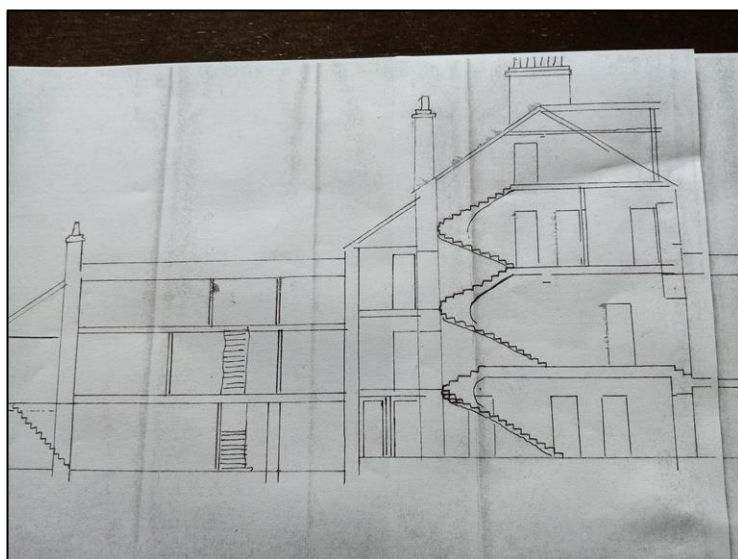
Sir Charles lived in Senwick House with his wife Edythe and son Basil. Mrs Hope-Dunbar appeared to have a problem with either attracting or keeping servants despite her willingness to let laundry maids keep their bicycle at the House. Three years later Mrs Hope-Dunbar was still advertising for a laundry maid. A perk of the job seemed to be that the laundry and wash house were situated inside the house. The governess also

wished to leave. In 1911 Mademoiselle Capel of Senwick House put a job wanted advert into The Scotsman. She wished for a situation to teach girls. (Maybe a six-year-old boy was too much for her!)

Sir Charles Hope-Dunbar added the Edwardian extension to the house almost doubling the size. He probably also laid out the gardens. In its Edwardian hey-day the gardens had a tennis court, bowling green and greenhouses.



Invoice for some of the 1911 improvements.



Architects Plans for the 1911 improvements.

By 1915 however a rather mysterious Lady K of Senwick House was advertising in The Scotsman 'Country Quarters Wanted' columns for a furnished country house, with sea views, in the vicinity of Gatehouse of Fleet, Kirkcudbright, Castle Douglas and Newton Stewart. Why she wanted to rent a house, with a description very similar, if not the same as Senwick House and in the same area is somewhat baffling. Lady K also appears to have trouble attracting or keeping servants, especially laundry maids!

Lady K must have found a new house to rent as by the following year a Mrs Wigan was advertising for servants.

Lewis Davis Wigan was still the tenant of Senwick House at the time of the 1921 census. He lived there with his wife Kate and on the day of the Census, Percy Wigan a clerk in Holy orders and Lewis' sister-in-law Catherine were staying with them.

In 1928 the Morning Chronicle reported that Mrs Corrie of Senwick House and Dunrod had died, so maybe she was living there at that time, as by then Senwick house had been part of the St. Mary's Isle Estate for many years.

In between 1931 and 1934 various adverts appeared in the provincial press advising that Senwick House was to let. It was described as a 'charming small Country House, with or without 2,200 acres of good low ground shooting.' Applicants were asked to apply to the factor of St Mary's isle.

In 1933 The Scotsman reported that Admiral Sir Alexander Ludovic Duff, KCVO, GBE, GCB of Capdock Lodge, formerly of Senwick House had died. The Admiral had commanded HMS Superb at the Battle of Jutland, was the director of the anti-submarine division 1916-17 and Commander in Chief of China Station.

Admiral Sir Alexander Ludovic Duff

Picture from National Portraits Gallery



Sir Basil Hope-Dunbar who had been four in the 1911 census was living in Senwick House both before and after the Second World War. He appears to have been a dog breeder and won prizes at the Scottish Kennel Club championships and the Scottish Field Trials, for example in 1937 he had a prize-winning litter of Dalmatian pups for sale. In October 1938 he won a prize with his undergraduate¹¹ deerhound and his bull terriers. Several years earlier he had been advertising the sale of Lakeland Terriers.

There still seemed to be a problem keeping servants at Senwick House for in April and May 1939 Capt. Hope-Dunbar was advertising for a married Butler. He was offering a cottage to go with the job. During the war he saw service in India with the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders.

During the Second World War the gardens at Senwick were altered by Prisoners of War who were called upon to create terraces overlooking Sir Basils changes. At the end of the war a plaque was placed in the garden commemorating the POW's.



The weathered plaque commemorating the German POW's, placed in 1947.

¹¹ An under graduate dog is one that has not won a Challenge Certificate or three or more First Prizes at Championship Shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for that breed.

Although the plaque is now so weathered as to be almost illegible it is still possible to work out the name German and Kurt. The nearest POW camp to Senwick was St Andrews Hall Camp 640. There were Italian prisoners of war staying in local houses and Nissen huts on St Mary's Isle, Kirkcudbright, who were apparently allowed out to work on farms in the surrounding area, but there does not seem to be any evidence of Germans staying there.

In 1947 Capt. Basil Hope-Dunbar advertised several working Labradors for sale, these included St. Mary's Pilot a third season golden retriever with a soft mouth for sale at £55, Sunshine of Senwick a partly broken dog golden retriever for £20 and Susan of Senwick a black bitch also partly broken for £18. By September when Capt. Hope-Dunbar was still awaiting a buyer, he had reduced the price of his soft mouthed Labrador retriever to £35. In 1950 the Scottish Field Trials Association held its thirty-first Retriever trials at Senwick House.

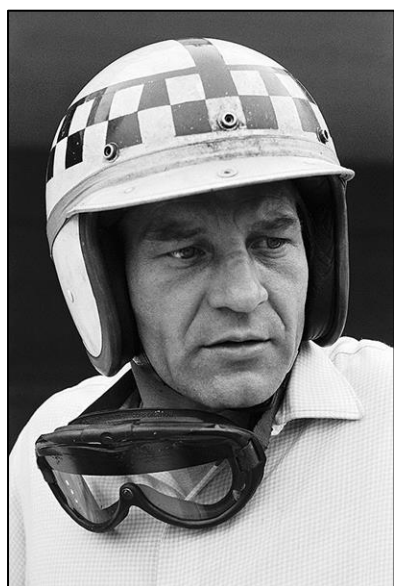
Senwick House is famous for its daffodil collection. These were planted by Capt. Hope-Dunbar who as well as buying bulbs from catalogues also used to visit the Netherlands to buy in new varieties.

Whilst Capt. Hope-Dunbar was kept busy with his dogs and daffodils, Mrs Hope-Dunbar was advertising for a nursery governess to look after a small boy of six years, a year later she wanted a governess for two boys. (She called herself Mrs Hope-Dunbar in the adverts whilst Sir Basil called himself Capt. Hope-Dunbar)

Capt. Hope-Dunbar died in 1961.



Ireland at the 1962 Crystal Palace Trophy.



Innes Ireland a local racing driver, bought Senwick House in 1972. Ireland had moved to Kirkcudbright as a toddler, when his father got a job as a vet. He is remembered locally for driving his car out onto the ice of Carlingwark Loch as a young man. After serving in the para's and the Kings Own Scottish Borderers he took up motor racing in 1959 driving for Lotus. He was the first Scottish driver to win a Grand-Prix first place, winning at Watkins Glen in the United States whilst driving for Lotus. In 1962 he was voted one of the UK's best dressed men and in the same year was elected president of the British Racing Drivers Club. He later worked as a journalist on a motoring magazine before returning to the Kirkcudbright area in the early seventies and buying Senwick house, he only lived there for a few years before putting the house up for sale in 1976. Whilst living at Senwick, Ireland operated a small fishing boat out of the harbour.

Robert MacGregor Innes Ireland 1930-1993

Photo Rainer Schlegelmilch

Later that year Pius Adrain Baines bought Senwick House and converted it into an hotel.

By 1981 Senwick House had become a family run “Country House Hotel set in twelve acres of woodlands overlooking the sea.” It was reported as having one of the finest shows of daffodils in South-West Scotland. It was AA listed and had been awarded an Egon Ronay Relais Routier. In 1986 on the SPC register it is described as having four reception rooms, eleven bedrooms of which five were en-suite, a basement flat, ten acres of gardens and sea views.

Richard Baines the curator of Logan Botanic Gardens moved to Senwick House when he was 10. In a podcast for PlantNetwork he said that the grounds were beautifully laid out by German prisoners of war. “The garden had a collection of over 200 cultivars of daffodils. To this day, I still think Senwick House probably has one of the most spectacular displays of daffodils in the whole of the UK.” He recalled that as his father spent more time working on the hotel he took on more of the garden, and grew about an acre of vegetables. The garden also had a large orchard. Richard Baines said that he did lots of propagation of the shrubs in the garden, and he also grew plants to show.

In May 1986 a notice appeared in the GN&KA advertising Senwick House for sale, a few months later an article appeared in the same paper reporting that Senwick House, set in eleven acres of land, was undergoing conversion work to meet the needs of elderly and frail people. It was being converted by Steve and Ed Tonks into a Care Home. Senwick House was to take on its current role as a Residential Home. The Tonk family were to own Senwick House for a couple of years before the present owners Geraldine and Tanya Austin took over.

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