

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 2: COLVEND AND SOUTHWICK TO KELTON



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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.

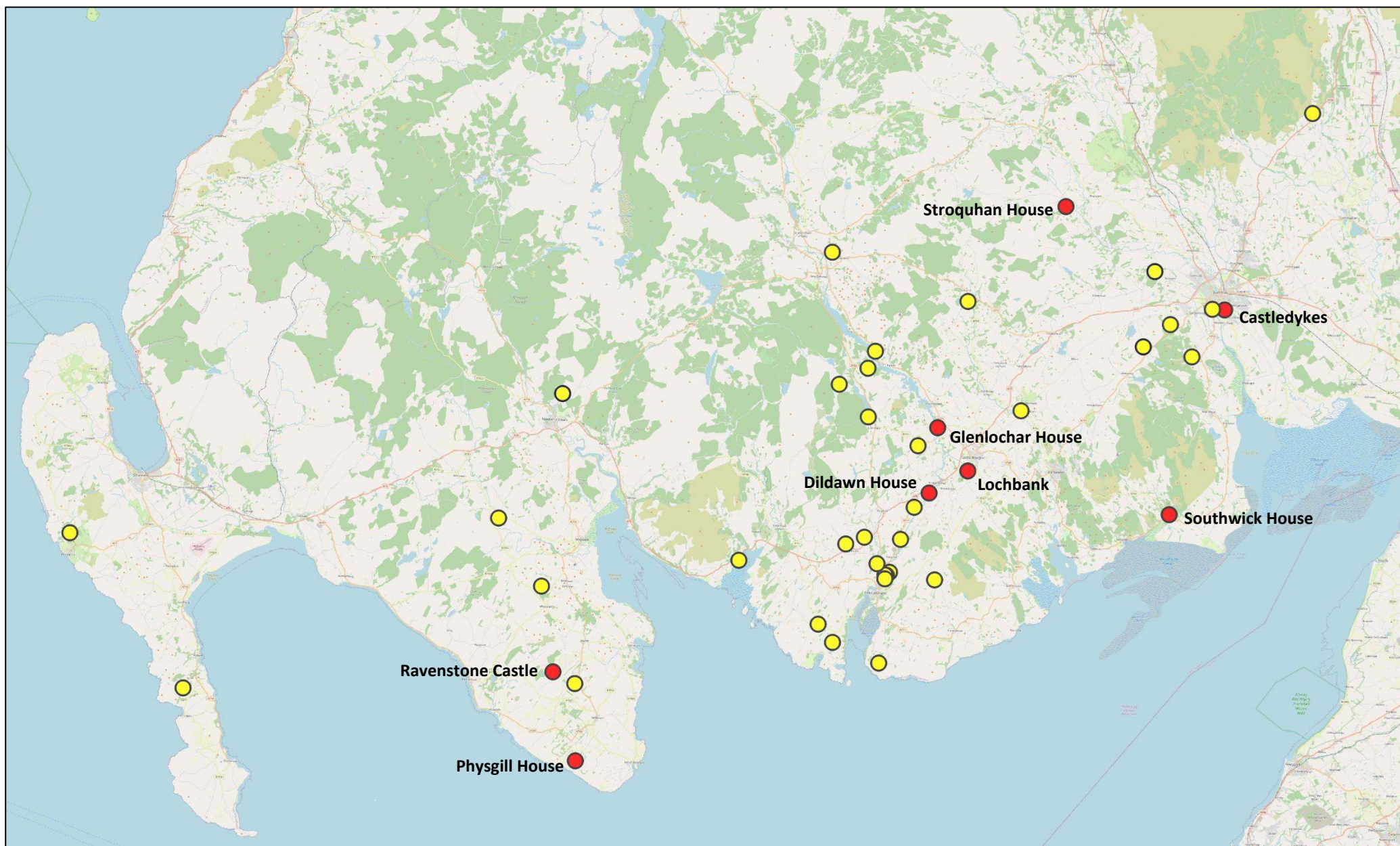
The volunteers' research has revealed the importance of recording these histories, and the origins of many bring to light a legacy that is not always acknowledged. After the abolition of slavery within the British Empire, the Slave Compensation Act of 1837 authorised a commission to manage the distribution 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

Southwick House, Colvend and Southwick

by Lawrence Holden



Southwick House - From Castle to Grand Mansion

Southwick House embraces a long standing way of life. In Galloway, land and the landed estate has been a dominant resource over many centuries and the main dwelling place of a large landowner evolved to meet the needs, culture and conditions of the particular period as the centuries went by. The Lordship of Galloway has an ancient and varied history. It was truly a “crucible of nations”. The Vikings focused attention on the area, no doubt appreciating the fertile band of farmland along the coast from the harbour at Kirkcudbright. The very name “Southwick” is a corruption of the Norse “Vik”, a bay.

The brutal aspect of the Viking period persisted. As a remote part of Northumbria the absence of law imposed by a central authority established conditions of lawlessness. Tribes and races clashed. Wigtown and the Machars peninsula brought religion and much culture but brutality was endemic. This continued through to the period of raiders, Gyptians in the hills and smuggling.

The overriding need to create security remained prime for a long period. Moving on and into the period after the Act of Union the iron grip of Lord Dundas established a culture where security was devolved to large land owners. There were many means, within and without the margins of the law, whereby massive sources of wealth would be obtained. Very large landholdings were the norm. Estate owners naturally inclined to have places which bespoke

power and status and where gracious living could flourish. Southwick reflects all these conditions. They had family and retinues to support.

It was not until 1490 that any hint of ownership in the estate around Southwick appears on the written record. In that year James IV of Scotland (who was married to Margaret Tudor) granted the estate and property Auchinskeouch to his Falconer John Lindsay in feu. This could have been part of his fee. The clan Lindsay had first appeared in the Borders in the 12th Century. Its motto is "Endure with Strength". Part of the clan moved north and Castle Crawford in upper Clydesdale became the family seat and in 1398 Sir David Lindsay was created Earl of Crawford. As time passed that Earldom became recognised as the premier Earldom of Scotland.

Back in 1490 the position of "Master Falconer" was a top one in the feudal Royal society - in influence it was only those in the monarch's council who bore more formal authority but in reality the "Master Falconer" was closer in personal contact and the grant of an estate was an act of great favour. At that time this area of Galloway was only just emerging from being a Gaelic speaking area and was feudal in an ancient sense. King James IV has been seen as the best Stewart monarch. He was a vigorous and effective King and dealt with the problem of the Lordship of the Isles. He visited Whithorn to make penance at the shrine to Saint Ninian and no doubt the royal nature of the castle at Buittle would be familiar to him. Before his time, in the mid 14th century, King David II (son of Robert the Bruce) had bestowed lands in the area to his favourites William Gallerei, Lawrence Gillibrand and Andrew Buttergask.

The name of the site granted to John Lindsay evolved to Auchenskeoch and a castle was built on it by James or his son John in the second half of the 16th Century. This demonstrated the wish of the family to endure. The Castle was listed on 20th June 2002 as a "Secular Castle" visible as an *"upstanding ruin situate on the NE Shoulder of a low hill overlooking the Southwick Water"*.

John Lindsay's widow, Marion Bonkle, retained the grant after her husband's death as she remained in service to the Queen. The site of the castle is a glorious one in a pleasant plateau up a valley from the sea. James Lindsay also had "retour" of the farm at Glenstocken at that time. The remains of the castle certainly confirm the impression that it was built to give security in uncertain and brutal times.

The listing gives details - *"Only the round tower at the N corner of the Castle and a large proportion of the NE wall of the main block survives. The original*

form of the castle is, therefore conjectural, but it may've need built as a Z plan townhouse which would make it unique in Galloway"

In 1628 John's son James inherited the property and also succeeded his father as Master Falconer to James V and then to Queen Mary. He soon mortgaged the estate to Patrick Young. This seems to have had the effect, in due course, of passing control to the Young family who retained the lands until about 1780.

The ownership of the landed estate originally given to John Lindsay is a complex puzzle. The records are faint but an interesting history can be detected. Lindsays remained involved. Ownership was split and divided and the higher land around the castle at Auchenskeoch separated from the lower lands where Southwick House stands. It appears likely that a family new to the area with the surname Youngs took control of some of the property as mortgagees. They had access to money earned by slaves in the West Indies.

PH M'Kerlie took on a massive exercise in tracing ownership of land in Galloway and in 1877 published *"The History of the Lands and their Owners"* . Unfortunately this work has some clear omissions and in some cases the accuracy of his work has been challenged. He had, however, access to many records and at the very least he provides pointers. He records, with an air of mystery, that *"about 1662 we find Patrick Ewing of Auchenskeoch fined £1,000 for adherence to the Presbyterian faith; but we are at a loss to know who he was, as his name does not again appear, and is not one which belongs to the district. The land was at that time obtained by Patrick Young, a name also new in Galloway. He married Janet Quilter and in July she had sasine, along with her husband, of the land at Auchenskeoch. They appear to have had issue - William and John. In March 1669 John Young, the second son, had sasine of the land but why does not appear. Again, on 11th June 1673 Patrick Young of Auchinskeoch (sic) had principal sasine of the land at Auchinskeoch, Clonreard etc. We again find mention of the farm at Ryes, which James, son of John Lindsay of Fairgirth, had detour on 6 January 1680."*

The details continue to show a complicated and confused picture - William Young appears in 1709 succeeded by his son Alexander in June 1734. M'Kerlie then notes that in 1741 *"William Lindsay - Writer of Edinburgh has sasine of three-lib land of Boreland of Southwick"*. This brings back a Lindsay to the area but Boreland of Southwick is significantly to the north of Auchenskeoch. M'Kerlie also records that when Alexander Young died his widow and relict Mary Herries had sasine of Auchenskeoch.

The involvement of the Youngs in the slave trade is confirmed in the compensation records now compiled by University College London for loss of slaves under the Act of the UK Parliament in 1837. They show that :-

" Robert Young of Auchenskeoch, son of Lieut. Alexander Young of Auchenskeoch and brother of William Young of Auchenskeoch (q.v.). Charles Spearman of Thornley was his brother-in-law and Duncan Campbell of Bedford Square (q.v.) was his son-in-law; Robert Young's grand-daughter Jane Campbell married Alexander Young Spearman. Described as a 'West India merchant' in genealogical material although his firm

(apparently in London, given the birthplace of some of his children) has not yet been traced in the London Gazette. A document on the 1798 sale of the Rosebank estate (q.v.) gives him as late of the Crescent in the Minories in the City of London."

Further :-

"Original grantee with William Young of the Auchenskeoch estate in Tobago, and possibly the grantee also of Parrot Hall (St John no. 20 under Robt. Young) and Calder Hall (St Andrew no. 1), as

well as further lot in St Andrew no. 30. His widow Harriet sold the Rosebank cotton plantation and the enslaved people on it (Queens Bay division, St Paul parish, Lot no. 11) to Jacob Wilkinson of London in 1798." *"It may have resembled a hall house with a simple basement, principal floor with timber partitions. The walls are constructed of natural granite boulders which are roughly hewn for the window margins and gun loops."*



The Youngs established a London base but it would also have been desirable for them to retain a Scottish property. They seem to have had continuing influence in the area and also money.

Reverting to the Lindsay ownership of the Southwick M'Kerlie notes that *"Roger Lindsay was the owner in the 16th century and that he married a Janet Maxwell and that when Roger Lindsay died she in a fully witnessed document set to Herbert Lindsay of Southwick Mains the land of Barskeoss and Holm Meadow, with her hail third of part of the Lordship of the mains."*

There was further significant Lindsay involvement in the late 17th century. M'Kerlie then notes that *"The Lindsays continued to be the owners. On 10th November 1721 John Lindsay of Mains had sasine of the land of the Mains."*

This is possibly the best indication that a Lindsay, this John Lindsay, was responsible for making Southwick House “ a Lindsay creation” as the author Andrew McCulloch in *“Galloway, a Land Apart”* suggests. The Lindsay clan certainly had wealth. Alexander Lindsay, the 6th Earl of Balcarres (1752-1825) was Governor of Jamaica between 1794 and 1801 and family connections were significant with connection in the West Indian trade

M’Kerlie then he writes *“We learn nothing more until 1799 when, James Riddell of Ardnamurchan and Argyllshire, was the owner by purchase.”*

This James Riddell was the younger son of James Riddell (who acquired the land at Kinglass at Linlithgowshire and was a man of science, an LLD and created a Baronet in 1778 and died in 1797). He should be distinguished from the Sir James Milles Riddell the Second Baronet whose good intentions for his estate brought disaster but is also known to have granted feus of land at the Mains. M’Kerlie records that the farms then were *“Mains of Southwick, etc, Barness, Dinmuck, Porrowton and Brockside, Bank, Baresrape and Sea, Burgh, Eastwood etc”*. It seems that *“Glensocking”* was owned by Robert Carrick of Bloco at that time. He later became the MP for the Stewartry.

Building grand mansions became a notable thing and a mansion on the scale of Southwick was feasible in the 1750s.

Looking at the 1864 photograph of the house found by the owner, Robert Thomas, a similarity with the nearby house at Arbigland can be seen and the design of the two houses related to the Palladian style used with exuberance by William Adam (1689- 1748) and his sons Robert (1728-1792) and John (1721-1792). The creation of Dumfries House by Robert Adam in 1754-8 marked the height of this design in southern Scotland but the earliest recognised manifestation of this style of mansion was Mavisbank House near Edinburgh built in 1723.

The section about Mavisbank House on the World Monuments website sets the scene :-

“Mavisbank House is recognised as one of the finest examples of Neoclassical architecture in Scotland. As the first Palladian-style villa in that country, the house represents a shift from the prevailing Baroque style of the period. Commissioned by Sir John Clerk of Penicuik and designed by William Adam— Scotland's foremost architect at that time— Mavisbank had a profound influence on Scottish architecture, inspiring a new generation of country houses with symmetrical plans, curving wings, and classical ornamentation. “



Mavisbank House in 1870

This is high acclaim. In 1722 vital teamwork took place between William Adam and Sir John Clerk, who was one of the influential figures in the early stages of the Scottish Enlightenment. The input of both client and architect was important. The Trust set up to preserve Mavisbank has explained what Sir John Clerk wanted : -

“Mavisbank was not to be a family home or the centre of the estate, which would continue to be at Penicuik, but rather a villa, firmly in the country but close enough to the town for easy commuting on horseback, for entertaining,



Arbigland



Photograph taken by Mrs Wauchope taken 12 May 1864 made available by Robert Thomas showing original layout

away from the cares of family and estate business, and for the enjoyment and display of culture and learning through architecture, music, his picture collection, library and antiquarian interests."

This vision is symptomatic of enlightenment thinking and was trend setting, as was the design.

Mavisbank was built early enough in the 18th century for the design to be much admired and copied by 1750. The detailed story of the building of both Southwick and Arbigland would be fascinating if it could be traced. The influences are clear.

The listing of Southwick House does not name an architect. The same is the case for Arbigland. But the vogue for superior houses and the attractiveness of the Adam designs set a trend. The example of Dumfries House created in the 1750s shows how powerful this was. The 5th Earl of Dumfries, William Crichton Dalrymple, inherited an estate in Ayrshire in 1742. He had the ability to recognise genius in those who had yet to make their name in their chosen career. That talent saw him commission Robert and John Adam, who would later become major figures in the field of architecture, to design his new mansion, Dumfries House, for him.

This would have made a notable impression and the Adams brothers gained other commissions including one for Sir Samuel Hannay at Kirkdale overlooking Wigtown Bay in Galloway.

The basic symmetrical, classical design of Southwick House followed this new fashion being set and could have been built by an enterprising local builder in this new fashionable style without the expense of architect's fees or the special level of ornamentation and refinement that an architect would bring. This is seen in the lack of architectural detail and the modest entrance, and it is interesting to note that at Arbigland house the design of the doorway entrance was changed. The original doorway at Southwick was similar to the one at Craigdarroch, Moniaive, which was built by William Adam in 1729. Sir Mark Stewart put in the present porch when making alterations and it is comparable to that at Arbigland.

The listing of Southwick House describes it as "*Mid 18th century in origin*". Unfortunately it does not seem possible to be specific about exactly when the House was built but it seems that it was built well before James Riddell bought it. M'Kerlie makes no mention of the house or its building, apparently taking "The Lands" in the title of the book at face value. The possibility that it was built by John Lindsay seems real. His reputed ownership and the fact that his clan had West Indian connections and therefore wealth are both supportive factors.

The complications relating to the Auchenskeoch part of estate may be accounted for by the activities of the notorious merchant Richard Oswald. He would have caused perturbations in the local market for land. He used his vast fortune - he had an income equivalent to that of the Prince Regent and used it to buy huge tracts of land in Ayrshire and in Galloway including areas around Southwick. His methods of acquiring wealth shed much light on the nature of mercantile activity at the time. He was an early trader in tobacco, had a contact to provide bread to the British army during the seven years war, was a slave trader on a major scale, advised the government on the conduct of the American War of Independence and negotiated the Peace of Paris at the end of that war. He was certainly involved in the dealings in the vicinity of Auchenskeoch. However M' Kerlie records that by the 1780s Auchenskeoch was sold to Thomas Chrichton, who had been a merchant in England. his forbears had been lairds in the area but had forfeited their property from having joined in the rebellion of 1715.

After this complex period M'Kerlie then notes that "*the next owner found is Lt-General Sir James Dunlop.*" We know that he died in the house on 30 March 1832.

The Duke of Wellington regarded the retirement of General Dunlop as a great loss to the army but he went on to distinguish himself in politics. As a member of the "House of Dunlop" extended family with many members of great renown he was a substantial figure.

The House of Dunlop is not strictly a clan but the chief of the family is called "of that Ilk" ie of that name. Over time the Dunlops came to include many people and places of renown. The Dunlop who made the name a household one was a relatively modest man. John Boyd Dunlop (1840-1921) trained as a veterinary surgeon at Edinburgh University and went to Ireland to practice as a vet. He became familiar with making rubber devices and used this knowledge to make the first practical pneumatic tyres for his son's tricycle. He sold out in 1895 but his tyres made his name. Other notable Dunlops have flourished all over the world. In Scotland they have included the Principal of Glasgow University, two Lord Provosts of Glasgow, who were tobacco Lords, the White Witch of Dalry, Bessie Dunlop, Frances Anna Wallace Dunlop, sponsor of Robert Burns, and Captain Robert John Wallace Dunlop who freed the lives of some 5,000 slaves whilst commanding HMS Star. James Stuart Wallace-Dunlop (b1968), 30th of that ilk, is the current Chief.

Their grand houses include Hunt Hall (Dunlop House) at Cunningham, 30 miles short of Glasgow; Garnkirk at Calder 6 miles NE of Glasgow; Househill at Paisley; Rosebank at Cambuslang on the Clyde; Tollcross at Shettleston, Lanark; Gairbraid near Marshal, Glasgow and Corsock within reach of Southwick which was acquired by the Murray-Dunlops in the mid 19th century. Corsock is of particular interest as it is within easy reach of Southwick and The Murray-Dunlops made their mark there. Alexander Murray-Dunlop was the leading lawyer involved in the Disruption of the Kirk and became a founder member of the Free Church of Scotland and added to the East end of the house in the Scottish Baronial style as well as planting many trees there.

General Dunlop became "*of that Ilk*" in 1784 when his father transferred the family estates to him. Previously in 1777 he had enrolled as an Ensign for service in the American Revolutionary wars. He then distinguished himself in India and in the Napoleonic war. After retirement from the army he served as MP for the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright between 1815 1826. He was created a baronet in 1838.

Regardless of the detail of who built the house and when, the year 1750 marks the beginning of momentous change in Scotland and this had a profound influence on every aspect of life in rural as well as industrial Scotland. Mercantile activity made trades previously unthought of possible. Agricultural innovation transformed how land was farmed. In the lowlands, as well as in the Highlands radical changes were forced, eliminating many life choices. Industrialisation operated as a magnet drawing many country folk to the cities, especially Glasgow, and in Galloway many new towns were created. For an estate such as Southwick this meant that matters would have to be managed in



Two images of Southwick House made available by Robert Thomas



an entirely different way. Making vast wealth became possible and this was a powerful driver. Upward mobility became possible for many and especially for the buccaneering entrepreneurs of burghs like Kirkcudbright.

At the end of the 18th century Scotland had been a poor country but, in this period marking the beginning of formidable change, its history had given it a competitive advantage. John Knox and the reformation of the Scottish Church created a religion that, with rigour, imposed a discipline and a way of living on all. The most effective aspect of this was education - a school in every parish. The country may have been poor but most were educated.

At the same time across Europe, leading thinkers, in a spirit of reason, began to exercise a rationality freed from restrictions. As Scottish people were educated this "enlightenment" was able to flourish and the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen became the leading centres of European Enlightenment. "Moral philosophy" led the way but the more disciplined rational way of thinking was applied to every subject, especially in the sciences and went hand in hand with the improvements under way. This added a creative and also a moral force to a process of transformation. At Kirkcudbright the 4th Earl of Selkirk was hugely influenced by what he was taught by Professor Francis Hutcheson, one of the founding fathers of the enlightenment at Glasgow University and his son Lord Daer, even more so, by Professor Dugald Stewart at Edinburgh University. As a result improvements in that district were far reaching and many benefited.

At nearby Arbigland William Craik (1703 -1798) in the course of a long and varied life was notable for his many innovations in agriculture. He drained the merse to support cattle, developed Jethro Tull's rotation system and improved the soil. He was passionately interested in the improvement of farm implements and founded the Dumfries Agricultural Society to encourage others. He also showed clear financial benefit because, as in the case of Lord Selkirk, the rents on his tenanted farms improved dramatically. It is of interest that both Southwick and Arbigland were built without the professionalism of architects. This may indicate that the status of sheer mass and the need to make an impression, was the priority of land owners, rather than refined elegant design.

A further related example is that of Admiral Keith Stewart, son of the sixth Earl of Galloway who was MP for Wigtown Burghs in 1762, some 110 years before Sir Mark Stewart. After a distinguished career in the navy, he was a keen and enterprising agriculturalist. He farmed some 2,000 acres and employed some 60 hands. He studied all the new methods and greatly improved his estate. He died at Glasserton in 1795 and his estate was sold to the Hathorn Stewarts at Physgill near Wigtown.



These local examples to other landowners fostered the creation of wealth by enhanced productivity.

By the early eighteenth century the existing castle would have been no longer suitable for owners of ambition, and the creation of an impressive place to live down the valley nearer the sea is understandable.

The house was listed on 4th November 1971 as follows : -

“Description

Mid 18th century in origin, refaced and enclosed by large late 19th century additions. 2-storey over raised basement, symmetrical classically detailed house. Squared rubble, polished red sandstone margins and rusticated quoins. S front: 5-bay central section is original mid-18th century

part, central projecting corniced porch, pedimented lugged architraved doorpiece, double-leaf panelled doors. Flanking door, 19th-century tripartite windows, margined and corniced. To 1st all single light windows in ?18th-century margins with ?19th-century frieze and cornice. Flanking original house, recessed single bay and advanced end pavilions, tripartite windows. All sash and case windows with plate glass glazing, 12-pane to centre ground. Band course over basement, moulded eaves cornice.

Flanks similarly detailed with canted bays rising through 2 storeys shallow square, projections at attic level to W. Rear elevation all single light windows, single storey (basement) projecting bay to centre.

Original house probably reroofed and roof level raised 19th-century, piended slate roofs, tall corniced axial stacks”

The fact that by 1885 Sir Mark Stewart put value on fine design marks an important evolution of the perceptions of what was important from the perspective of large landowners.

The Stables are also listed. Viewing them the striking design makes an impression and the local granite is used to good effect.

The Details : - Probably Peddie and Kinnear. Built by Sir Mark MacTaggart Stewart 1885.

3 ranges of 2-storey granite buildings grouped in U-plan around courtyard, pend entrance to E. Bull-faced broached granite walling to courtyard elevations (and all of E range) wih monolithic margins, otherwise coursed rubble. Slate roofs throughout. E range: symmetrical Elevation with central pend, advanced



gabled centre and end bays. W elevation, formerly 3 cart arches to ground, now all partly blocked with domestic windows/doors inserted, converted to domestic usage. Pend with bull-faced and broached granite voussoirs, polished granite bands, soffite timber lined. Over pend, timber and cast-iron clock in fleche.

N range: stables to E, 3 stalls with hay loft above, feed chutes. Barn to W end.

W range: coach houses converted to garages early 20th century to E. Glazed full-width canopy on cast-iron columns with timber and cast-iron brackets. Decorative timber barge-boards.

Statement of Special Interest

B group with Southwick House."

During the same period as the addition of the stable substantial additions are made to the main house. In consequence the simple three- fold design was entirely removed.

The essentials of the next period of the story of the House are set out in an essay on "The Surnames of Kirkcudbrightshire" written by Mr James Shaw, of Tynron, near Moniave in 1882 :-

"Sir Mark John Stewart, Baronet, of Southwick, Colvend. In 1628 there is Lindsay of Auchenskeoch. 1668, William Lindsay, Southwick. The Lindsays, after 150 years possession, sold out, and the lands were more than once bought and sold. At last, Mr Sprot, a merchant, got the lands, and his daughter, Janet, married Mark Hathorn. The surname Stewart was assumed. Lady Hathorn was mother of the present M.P. for the Stewartry. Lindsay, it may be remarked, is a surname not very rare in Kirkcudbrightshire."

The phrase "*lands were more than once bought and sold*" omits some interesting ownership before Mr Sprot came on the scene.

It is possible that Mr Sprot was well known in Kirkcudbright as Thomas Sproat of the High Street. In 1801, during the Napoleonic wars there were grave food shortages. Mr Sproat was a merchant and dealt in potatoes. He was able to make a fortune by exporting them. Naturally this gave rise to anger and Mr Sproat was assaulted. The good lady who did the act was put in jail in The Tollbooth and became one of the most notable prisoners who had been placed in the jail. In the 1837 Pigot's Directory he appears under the name of Thomas Sproat twice - once as a Shipowner and also as Grocer, Spirit Dealer and Ironmonger. It is possible that he could have adopted the name of Sprot (rather than Sproat) to be more distinctive as there was the was a large and significant clan of Sproats at Borgue.

Mr Sprot's daughter Janet married Mark Hathorn, who, as James Shaw relates, assumed the name Stewart and they gave birth to Mark John Stewart on 12 October 1834. The date Mr Sprot acquired Southwick House and lands is unclear but in view of the wide scope of his merchanting he, too, would have been capable making a fortune in the West Indies. It is interesting that James Shaw mentioned that "*the lands were more than once bought and sold*". The market would have been difficult and perhaps volatile during the Napoleonic war period and it may be safe to assume that Mr Sprot was well capable of driving a bargain.

It is also likely that the extent of the lands would have then been greater than the 2,310 acres recorded in the mini "Doomsday" record of 1873. There would have been much expenditure, and the cost of four grand weddings, so lands could well have been sold off. By way of comparison Lord Selkirk had over 20,000 acres in 1873. M' Kerlie records that "*The farms are Southwick, Kells, Glenstocking, Dunmuck, Shawfoot, Mainsail etc. The derivation of Kells*

is probably the same, as will be as will be found under the parish of that name. Glenstocking, in the first syllable, is Gaelic gleann, a glen, and stocking probably from the Norse stok-land, an isolated land. Dunmuck is possibly from the Gaelic dun-muig, the gloomy hill". The position about actual ownership is also complicated by the fact that Mark Stewart claimed in Parliament to be the largest tenant farmer in the House of Commons.

Distinctive or impressive names were important in those times and occurred again when Mark John Stewart was to assume the additional name MacTaggart as recorded below. He went into public and political life as a Conservative and represented Wigtown Burghs from 1874 to 1880 and again for a few months later in 1880 and also sat for Kirkcudbrightshire between 1885 and 1906 and briefly in 1910.

It is interesting to note that three of his predecessors as MP for Wigtown had the surname "Stewart". One of them James Stewart (MP 1812} was the second son of the fifth earl of Galloway.

He married in 1866 Marianne Susanna Ommanney, daughter and heiress of John Orde Ommanney (d.1846), who was a son of Sir Francis Molyneux Ommanney. Her mother Susanna MacTaggart was a daughter of Sir John McTaggart, 1st Baronet, and through her they inherited an estate at Ardwell.



In 1905 he assumed the additional surname of MacTaggart as he and his wife took possession of the Ardwell estate of her grandfather.^[2] He was an officer in the 1st Ayrshire and Galloway Artillery Volunteers and was appointed their Honorary Colonel on 22 December 1888.^[3] On 7 October 1892, he was made a Baronet, of Southwick in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright and Blairderry in the County of Wigtown.^[4] MacTaggart-Stewart died in September 1923, aged 88.

He was succeeded in the Baronetcy by his only surviving son, Sir Edward Orde MacTaggart-Stewart, 2nd Baronet.

M' Kerlie records the farms held by Sir Mark as being Southwick, Kells, Glenstocking, Danmuck, Shawfoot, Mainshill etc. He adds Glenstocking, in the first syllable, is the Gaelic glean, a glen and stocking probably from the Norse "*stop-land, an isolated land*".

There is very little information about the history of the life of the family. However a fascinating insight into the life of the family is given in an essay by Ann Allingham of Southwick, Queensland, Australia written for Sotheby's in connection with the sale of a rare and exceptional Aboriginal bowl which had been collected by Robert Stewart, the younger brother of Sir Mark. She writes : -

"At Wigtown, which overlooks Solway Firth in the extreme south-west of Scotland, a large crowd gathered at the local Town Hall one night in late November 1878. The occasion was the opening address in the lecture series mounted annually by the Dalbeattie Mechanics' Institute of neighbouring Kirkcudbrightshire. Despite the decided winter chill the Wigtown hall was 'completely filled' the speaker being a local identity, recently returned from abroad. 'Mr Robert Stewart of Southwick' was 'warmly received' and his topic duly announced: "Our Colonial Empire, with a Practical Account of Life in Queensland".

More than a regular Scottish repatriate, Robert was of the Stewart clan and thereby inextricably bound with Scottish history, legend and the land; he now envisaged a political career, having recently been endorsed as the conservative candidate for Kirkcudbrightshire. His Wigtown audience was duly regaled with 'incidents and illustrations' of his 'adventures'. Stewart spoke on colonial opportunities: in pastoral pursuits and prospecting for gold, on colonial attitudes, climate, wildlife and made observations on Australian Aborigines. To enhance the atmosphere the Town Hall stage was 'covered with opossum skins... pictures illustrative of the subject... and also specimens of boomerangs and clubs used by the natives of Queensland'. Robert Stewart's Wigtown speech was at once his opening political foray and the initial public display of his collection of Aboriginal artefacts gathered on the North Queensland pastoral frontier. 130 years hence a selection of items from his collection are offered for sale by Sotheby's.

On 13th June 1836 Robert Stewart was born at Southwick House, the second son of Mark Hawthorn Stewart and his wife Janet, nee Sprot. Southwick on the Kirkcudbrightshire family estate is 'picturesquely' placed some 20km. south of Dumfries, between the 'rugged foothills' of the Boreland Range and the shores of Solway Firth. Here Robert grew up with his two sisters: Mary and Isabella,

and his older brother, Mark.

As befitted the status of eldest son of a landed gentry's family, Mark's education was impeccable: Winchester College, Christ Church, Oxford, and thence to the bar of London's Inner Temple. Back in Scotland in 1866 he married Marianne Susanna, heiress to Sir John McTaggart, Bart., whereafter her Ardwell Estate combined with Southwick, gave Mark an extensive landed interest. He served in parliament from 1874, was knighted in 1892 and his biographer summed him up as: 'landlord, M.P. and gentle squire' who gave a life of 'splendid usefulness'. But for the remaining Stewart children, life's expectations were of a lesser order. While benefiting from the Stewart name and superior social connections, concern to preserve the family estate intact meant that they would not inherit property. It was hoped that the daughters would marry well, while Robert, as the younger son, must make his own way in the world.

Robert's education is recorded as 'good', whereafter he went to London to follow 'commercial pursuits'. In 1855, while yet a teenager, he opted for a military career, securing a commission in the 79th Highlanders, which regiment was about to embark for the Crimea when hostilities ceased there in 1856. Soon after the Highlanders were posted to India where they saw rugged service during the Indian Mutiny, not least in 1858 during the relief of Lucknow. Stewart was in the thick of this action, and for a time he was adjutant to the regimental commander and also rendered service as linguist and interpreter.

With the cessation of hostilities in 1859 the British Military decided upon a substantial demobilisation of the Army in India, so that many young officers of Robert Stewart's ilk became concerned for their military prospects. Alert to possible alternative careers, they took note of accounts of opportunities currently offering in Australia, specifically in pastoral pursuits. Demand for wool in industrial Britain had given rise to the Australian squatting rush; the colonial economy had been transformed so that by the end of the 1850s Australia could fairly claim to be 'riding on the sheep's back'. Having decided to sell his army commission Robert sailed from India for Australia, now in quest of a squatting career.

By the time of Stewart's arrival the best pastoral land of the south eastern colonies had been taken up. But in 1860 the colony of Queensland, recently granted colonial autonomy, launched an alluring publicity campaign designed to attract pastoralists north to settle its vast unoccupied regions and thereby generate much needed revenue. When, on 1st January 1861, the new Pastoral District of Kennedy was declared open for settlement, what ensued was a dramatic land rush. As the first wave of pastoralists hastened north with their

flocks and herds in a desperate quest to secure the best country, among their throng was Robert Stewart.

In location the Kennedy District was wholly tropical. Constituting a roughly rectangular region, it was bounded north and south by the 18°S. and 21.5°S. parallels, to the west by the Great Dividing Range, and to the east the Coral Sea. Vegetation varied according to rainfall, with areas of dense rainforest around Cardwell and the Herbert River in the extreme north, there were areas of mangrove along the coast, but generally further west the dominant cover was savannah woodland with a variety of pasture grasses.

To service and administer the new district Bowen was founded in 1861, but within a decade that mantle passed to the more northerly port of Townsville. In the initial frenzied grab for land much attention had focused on the North Kennedy region, dominated by the great Burdekin River. This awareness was due to Ludwig Leichhardt who had reported favourably on this country during his Port Essington expedition in 1844. Robert Stewart soon secured a fine stretch of country with extensive frontage to Fletchers Creek, a western tributary of the Burdekin and some 130km. south-west of the future port of Townsville. His initial three continuous leases comprised some 232 sq.km.

In honour of his childhood home Robert named his property Southwick. Robert Gray, a friend and fellow squatter who served with Stewart at the relief of Lucknow, passed by in 1865; he described the Southwick homestead site:

'His homestead, though awkwardly situated on basalt and black soil, commands a lovely view of one of the few perennial streams of the north, extending in this locality into a lake covered with water-lilies and teeming with wild-fowl of all descriptions – grebe, waterhens, ducks, geese and black swans. Beyond at the end of the valley, Mount Stewart stands up blue in the distance.' “

After making a reasonable fortune from cattle Robert returned home and the essay shows very well the life he was able to live at Crossmichael:-

“His stations now were converted from sheep to cattle, and as the 1870s progressed and northern mining fields took shape Stewart did a robust trade in beef cattle. A fellow squatter later observed of Stewart with awe: 'last year alone he cleared £12,000.'

But still demand flagged for northern properties. Placing managers on all his stations Stewart went home in 1874 when he married Georgina Eeanor Maxwell, third daughter of Sir William Maxwell, Bart., of Cardoness on Wigtown

Bay. Thereafter he moved regularly between Scotland and Queensland and finally, in 1881, he sold Telemon, Marathon and Southwick. This trip meant he missed the 1880 elections and his probable political career, but, as he'd always planned, his stations fetched premium prices. Back in Queensland yet again in 1887 he sold his remaining station Fairlight, so that finally Robert Stewart could retire home to Scotland.

Back in Kirkcudbrightshire the Stewarts lived first at Glenlaggan, near Parton on the River Dee, from whence Robert could orchestrate his next key project: construction of their grand country house. In 1883 he had purchased Culgruff, an estate near the village of Crossmichael, and a mere 30km. north-west from the family seat at Southwick. Here he built Culgruff House, a three-storied 'noble mansion-house' complete with turreted tower, set amidst gardens and wooded grounds and with fine views over nearby Loch Key and Crossmichael on the River Dee. Quite the most striking room in the house was the morning room, with stained glass windows and vaulted ceiling above walls of double height and here on prominent display was hung Stewart's collection of Aboriginal artefacts."

As well as giving an insight into the family, especially the advantages given to Mark as an eldest son, this is a vivid which demonstrates the nature of Scotland's links with Australia and how a fortune could be made there at that time.

Sir Mark and Lady MacTaggart-Stewart had five daughters and one son:^[5]

- Janet Gertrude McTaggart-Stewart (b.1871), married in 1899 Robert George Seton (b.1860), a descendant of the Barons Brownlow, and left children.
- Sarah Blanche McTaggart-Stewart (b.1872).
- Frances Emily McTaggart-Stewart (1873–1949), married in April 1903 Archibald Kennedy, Earl of Cassilis (1872–1943), who succeeded in 1938 as Marquess of Ailsa. They left no children.
- Susanna Mary McTaggart-Stewart (1878–1961), married first in 1901 Archibald Patrick Thomas Borthwick, 20th Lord Borthwick (1867–1910), and secondly in 1916 Alfred FitzRoy, 8th Duke of Grafton, leaving daughters by both husbands.
- Margaret Anna McTaggart-Stewart (1880–1962), married in 1906 (div. 1919) Sir David Charles Herbert Dalrymple, 2nd Baronet (1879–1932), and had children.

- Edward Orde McTaggart-Stewart (1883–1948), who succeeded as 2nd and last Baronet, leaving two daughters by his wife married in 1917

If Janet Sprot was in any way like Mrs Bennett in Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" this would have been quite an achievement. His aristocratic relatives were well represented at his funeral on 26th September 1923

Sir Mark's contribution as a Conservative MP was one of civic service to the community of a kind then practised by landowning MPs. He would have presided over multiple functions and taken an interest in local activities. In particular he and his wife built the new church at Southwick in 1891



He was known for his interest in the development of local railways. Separate railway companies developed stretches of railway. This must have meant that the role of local MPs in bringing cohesion was important. The route to Portpatrick and Ireland began with the opening of the Castle Douglas and Dumfries Railway in 1859. The Portpatrick Railway opened its 60 mile line from Castle Douglas to Stranraer in 1861 and reached Portpatrick in 1862. The Wigtownshire Railway opened its 19 mile line from Newton Stewart to Wigtown and Whithorn in stages from 1875 to 1877. The Kirkcudbright Railway opened its 10 mile branch from Castle Douglas to Kirkcudbright in 1864 and operated for about 100 years.

Clearly he made sure he was well connected in many ways. In his speech in the House of Commons on the Game Laws (Scotland) Bill 1874 he stated that he was "*one of the largest tenant farmers in the House*" and makes the case that in Scotland the cost of cultivating land in Scotland was far higher than in England and explains why the game laws should take account of this. He was also interested in the Voluntary Force.



UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF H.M. THE KING.

THE BAZAAR

IN AID OF

THE VICTORIA INSTITUTE, GRANTOWN-ON-SPEY,

WILL BE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, 24TH AND 25TH AUGUST.

The Opening Ceremony will be performed on Wednesday by The Right Hon. the Earl of Cassillis and Sir Mark MacTaggart Stewart, Bt., MP.
Chairman—William Laurie Dunn, Esq.

And on Thursday by Sir Archibald Williamson, Bart., M.P. and Lady Williamson.
Chairman—Sir John H. N. Graham, Bart., Larbert.

The WORK STALL will contain a magnificent assortment of useful and ornamental articles at prices remarkably moderate.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

LUNCHEON. CAFE CHANTANT.

The Railway Companies will issue Day Excursions Return Tickets at Single Fares from all Stations between Inverness, Elgin, and Pitlochry on the Highland Railway, and between Elgin and Bont of Gort on the Great North of Scotland Railway.

Galloway is noted for its many and fine gardens. At Southwick House the gardens are extensive and are open under the Scottish Gardens Scheme. They have three main areas. The first is a traditional formal walled garden with potager and large glasshouse producing a range of fruit, vegetables and cutting flowers. Adjacent to this is a hedged formal garden with herbaceous, shrub and rose beds centred around a lily pond, with roses being a notable feature. Outwith the formal gardens there is a large water

garden with two connected ponds with trees, shrubs and lawns running alongside the Southwick Burn.

In conclusion we can see how the ownership of land was closely connected to power and influence and how remarkable it was that the Lindsay Clan probably saw the transition from castle to mansion.

Note : Newspaper images courtesy of British Newspaper Archive

Glenlochar House, Crossmichael

by Caroline Reeves

Glenlochar House timeline

(Italics used for Danevale Park items)

1793? Glenlochar House - then known as Glenlochar Lodge - built (according to previous owners)

1795 *Danevale Park Estate built (late Georgian country house)*

Glenlochar House was originally named Glenlochar Lodge, built on land that became Danevale Park, with extensive farmland that was part of the Crofts estate owned by William Renny. It seems Walter Sloane Laurie (1730-1801) of Redcastle purchased or rented Danevale in 1789. He died in 1801. He is known for changing the name of the village of Clauchenpluck to Laurieston. The Laurie/Lawrie family appear to be very litigious. They were the developers of Sloane Square in London. Their money came from plantations in Jamaica. He lived at Woodhall, now known as Laurieston Hall.

1806 *Mr J Macintyre (Glasgow merchant) married Miss E A Ferrier at Danevale Park*

1807 Isabella Andrews was born to Robert and Christie Andrews

1809 Catherine was born to Robert and Lydia Christie

1811 Margaret was born to Robert and Lydia Christie

1826 *Danevale Estate including Glenlochar Lodge, for sale 500 acres Scotch measure, farm houses are in good repair, another house (Glenlochar Lodge) with offices and garden suitable for the accommodation of a small, respectable family.*

1838 *Claims against James Donald, deceased, of Danevale Park*

1841 census living at Glenlochar Lodge:

David Gerrard aged 25 – farmer

Margaret aged 20

3 children and 2 servants

1846 Glenlochar Lodge to let, unfurnished, 7 1/4 acres, garden, offices and a field measuring seven acres and a quarter Scotch. Apply to Webster and Renny, Edinburgh. Andrew Duff, gardener at Danevale will show the house and grounds (Danevale also advertised at same time, to let furnished) Ad from Glasgow Courier

DESIRABLE COUNTRY RESIDENCES.

To be LET, Furnished, for one or more years,

THE MANSION-HOUSE of **DANEVALE**, with Offices, Garden, Orchard, Lawn, and Pleasure Grounds, situate in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, 2½ miles north of Castle-Douglas. The House and Offices are in excellent repair and very commodious, the Garden is large, the Lawn measures nearly 20 acres Scotch measure, and the adjacent Plantations and Grounds are well supplied with walks. If wished, the Tenant may have, in addition, an arable field of nearly nine acres Scotch; as also, the right of Shooting over the Estate, and to Salmon and other Fishings in the river Dee, which runs in the immediate vicinity of the house.

The Coach between Kirkcudbright and Ayr passes the gate daily, and there are frequent public conveyances from Castle-Douglas to Kirkcudbright and Dumfries.

GLENLOCHAR LODGE, which is a moderate sized and agreeable Residence, also pleasantly situated on the banks of the Dee, would be LET, Unfurnished, along with the Garden, Offices, and a Field measuring fully 7½ acres Scotch.

Apply to Messrs. Webster & Renny, W.S., 16, Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

Andrew Duff, gardener at **Danevale**, will show the Houses and Grounds.

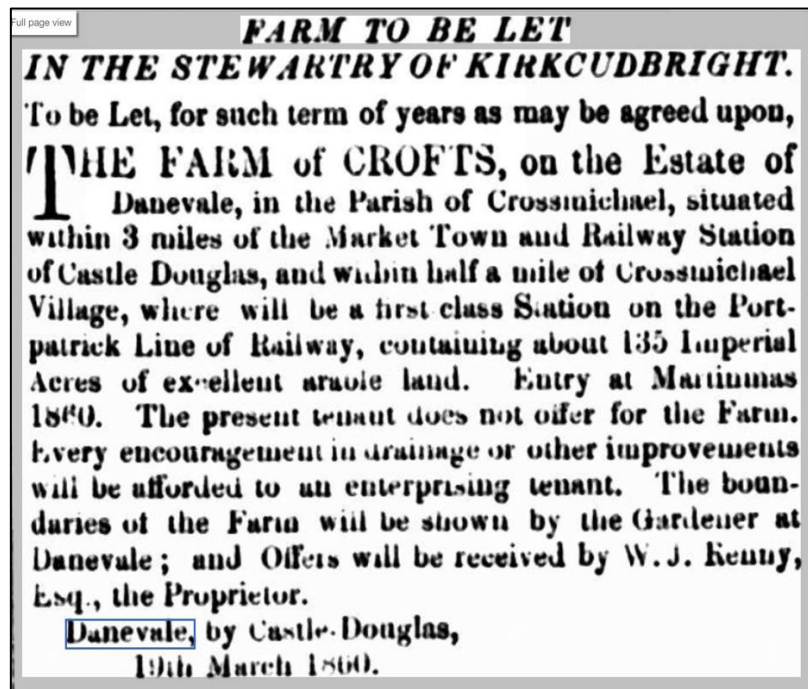
- 1847 William John Renny inherited Danevale from his father and married Julia Isabella Robertson.
- 1847 Mary Margaret, youngest daughter of Captain Sanderson, died aged 11 months
- 1847 Captain Sanderson gained game certificate 'for the year 1847, ending 5th July, 1848, between 1st August and 1st September 1847.

William Renny married Julia Isabella Robertson

- 1848 Daughter born to William Renny.

SLIGHT SHOCK OF EARTHQUAKE.—We learn from a correspondent that a slight shock of earthquake was felt in the centre of the Stewartry on Monday last. He was travelling from Laurieston, and when about a mile and a half from Glenlochar Bridge, at a quarter to eight a.m., heard a rumbling sound and felt a slight motion of the earth, as if a heavy carriage had been rolling past. The noise apparently came from the west, and gradually died away towards the north. It continued, as nearly as could be calculated, for about the fifth part of a minute. Met a gentleman on the road, who stated that he observed the same phenomenon. He must have been two miles from our informant when the shock was felt. Several persons in the neighbourhood felt the same sensation at the same hour.—*Dumfries Courier.*

- 1849 Earthquake
- Mrs H Christie died at Glenlochar Lodge (relative of P Sanderson, Banker, Edinburgh)
- 1850 Captain A C Sanderson gained game certificate 'for the year 1850, 5th July, 1852, between 21 August and 1st September 1851.
- 1850 Captain A C Sanderson gained game certificate 'for the year ending 5th July, 1851, between 1st August and 1st September.
- 1851 Captain A C Sanderson gained game certificate 'for the year ending 5th July, 1852, between 24 August and 1st September.
- 1852 A daughter born to Mrs Richard Jones Congreve, at Danevale Park
- 1854 A son born to Mrs Richard Jones Congreve
- 1856 Tolls and duties levied at Glenlochar Toll House (Gate and side-bar) to let for one year from 26 May 1856, at Castle Douglas Court House
- A son born to wife of W J Renny at Danevale Park*
- 1857 Imposter, Richard Taylor of Lancashire, lodged at Glenlochar Lodge, defrauding local businesses. Ended up in prison.
- 1859 Trustees meet to discuss the turnpike from Gatehouse, by Lauriston and Glenlochar, to Gerranton.
- 1860 An 'old woman' named Carruthers was residing at Glenlochar Lodge, was walking along the Crossmichael Road, charged by a cow and thrown in a ditch. Dr Finlay attended to her at a house next to CD post office.



- 1864** Robert Cochrane drowned, found in the water near Glenlochar Lodge.
- 1864** 29 January The Stewartry Foxhounds meet at Danevale
- 1865** William John Renn resident
- 1872** John C Gray married Marianne, eldest daughter of William John Renny at Danevale Park
- 1874** Stillborn daughter to William Renny
- 1876** Teacher wanted immediately for Glenlochar School by the School Board of Balmaghie. A new house is being built for the teacher, and meanwhile an allowance made for rent. Salary £40
- 1876** Premature twin boys born to John Renny's wife
- 1879** February death of William John Renny, J.P. Married second time 1873, Margaret Forbes. His daughter Edith Maud, died the same day
- 1879** William Duncan, S.S.C., Edinburgh, Principal Extractor of the Court of Sessions, purchased Danevale Park, 493 acres, £28,000
 Isabella Halliburton Black Duncan dies, aged 87. Grandfather, Adam Black, was the founder of publishers A&C Black. Lover of music, founded the Galloway Music Festival.
- 1880** Proposals to lower the height of the river by doing work at Threave Castle, Threave Bridge and Glenlochar Bridge. Shouldn't affect Glenlochar Lodge.
- 1881** The Maid of Livingstone story mentions Glenlochar.
- 1882** Story that the stones taken from Glenlochar Abbey to build Threave Castle were then taken by Sir Alexander Gordon of Greenlaw to build his mansion. It isn't definite that Glenlochar Abbey existed. Confusion over site or Roman fort.
- 1882** Danevale House altered by David Robertson, well known Edinburgh architect

1883 Charles Renny (son of William Renny of Danevale Park) died in Queensland Australia.

TO LET,
on Lease, or by the Year,
GLENLOCHAR HOUSE, GARDEN, &c. The
House is finely situated on the Dee, and is
easily accessible from Castle-Douglas and Crossmichael
Railway Stations, from the latter of which it is
situate little more than a mile.
Apply for particulars to Mr RICHARD HEWAT,
Solicitor, Castle-Douglas.

1884 Mr Thompson, gardener at Danevale and Glenlochar House

1884-5 Glenlochar House, office, houses, garden and small park. If let on lease the proprietor will paint the house and repair the office-houses.

TO LET,
GLENLOCHAR HOUSE, OFFICE-HOUSES,
GARDEN, and Small PARK, pleasantly
situated on the Banks of the Dee, about 2½ Miles from
the Post and Market Town of Castle-Douglas, a
Station on the Glasgow and South-Western Railway,
and 1½ Miles from Crossmichael Station, on the Port-
patrick Railway.
Entry can be had immediately if desired.
If Let on Lease the Proprietor will paint the House
and repair the Office-houses, as may be agreed on.
The Gardener at Danevale will shew the Premises.
For further particulars apply to RICHARD HEWAT,
Solicitor, Castle-Douglas.
29th January, 1885.

1885 Cows from Glenlochar House at Wallet's Auction, CD.

TO LET,
GLENLOCHAR HOUSE, OFFICE-HOUSES,
GARDEN, and Small PARK, pleasantly
situated on the Banks of the Dee, about 2½ Miles from
the Post and Market Town of Castle-Douglas, a
Station on the Glasgow and South-Western Railway,
and 1½ Miles from Crossmichael Station, on the Port-
patrick Railway.
Entry can be had immediately if desired.
If Let on Lease the Proprietor will paint the House
and repair the Office-houses, as may be agreed on.
The Gardener at Danevale will shew the Premises.
For further particulars apply to RICHARD HEWAT,
Solicitor, Castle-Douglas.
29th January, 1885.

1887 Isabella J Lees, niece of William Duncan, married AJ Burgess. Wedding at Crossmichael church
Mrs Bridget ??? of Orroland, the Lady of Major General Ferrier??

1898 William Threipland Duncan, died aged 38, only surviving son of the late William Duncan

1890 May. Two of the sons of William Thompson, gardener at Danevale. Thomas, 14 and David, 11, swam
out of their depth. The other two brothers tried in vain to rescue them. Called their father and others
working close by to help but both boys drowned. Buried at Crossmichael church.

1895

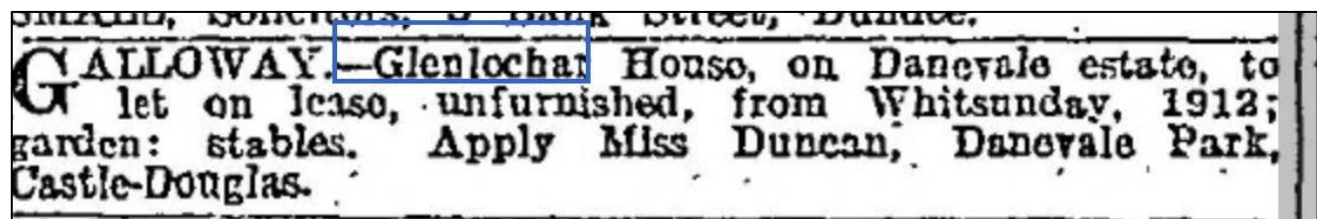


1905 *May Margaret, The Fair Maid of Galloway* story. By S R Crockett. Mentions Glenlochar

1908 *Mr Thomas Shaw, the Lord Advocate, has taken Danevale House for August and September.*

1912 Glenlochar House to let, apply Miss Duncan at Danevale.

1913



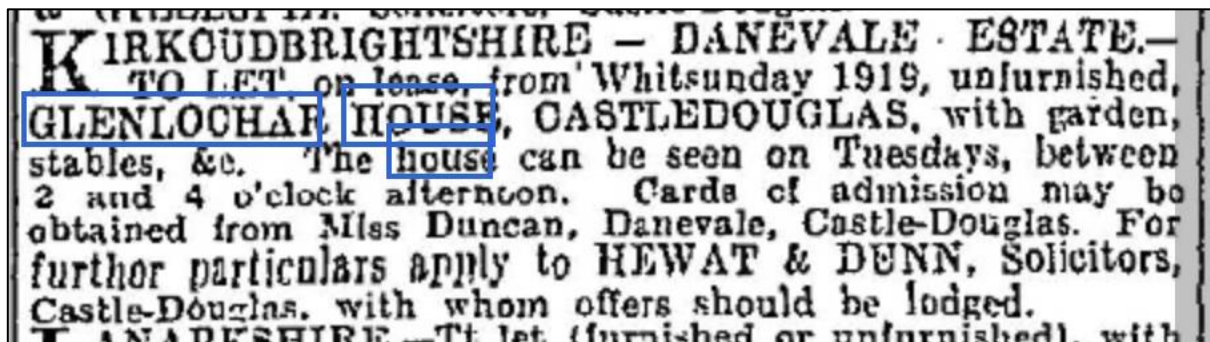
1914 *Crossmichael Relief Fund, Miss Duncan onto committee*

1916 Private James Riley, chauffeur at Glenlochar House, killed in action.

1918 *Miss Duncan elected to the French War Emergency Fund*

1919 Certified assistant female teacher wanted for Glenlochar school. Ability to teach singing and play accompaniment. £100 salary

1919 To let from Danevale estate, Glenlochar House, with garden, stables etc. Apply Miss Duncan, Danevale



KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.
DESIRABLE FURNISHED MANSIONHOUSE AND SHOOTINGS AND FISHINGS TO LET.

The desirable residence of GELSTON CASTLE (FURNISHED), about 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles from Castle-Douglas, together with the SHOOTINGS and FISHINGS connected therewith, are to let, from 25th March, for such period as may be agreed on.

For further particulars apply to Messrs LIDDERDALE & GILLESPIE, Solicitors, Castle-Douglas.

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE — DANEVALE ESTATE.
GLENLOCHAR HOUSE, CASTLEDOUGLAS, with garden, stables, &c. The house can be seen on Tuesdays, between 2 and 4 o'clock afternoon. Cards of admission may be obtained from Miss Duncan, Danevale, Castle-Douglas. For further particulars apply to HEWAT & DUNN, Solicitors, Castle-Douglas, with whom offers should be lodged.

LANARKSHIRE.—To let (furnished or unfurnished), with entry and for such period as may be arranged, **AUCHTYFARDLE HOUSE, LESMAHAGOW**, with policy grounds, gardens, stabling, &c.

The HOUSE is situated in an extensive policy park, and contains 3 public rooms, 13 bedrooms and dressingrooms, and ample other accommodation: the offices consist of

- 1934** Glenlochar House to let
- 1940** Miss Duncan, secretary to the North-Eastern branch of the RNLI Ladies Guild presented with a framed award in recognition of services.
- 1942** Miss Isla Black Duncan died, 9 November
- 1944** Glenlochar House Country Quarters to let. Unfurnished, with early possession. 3 sitting rooms, 5 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, larder, pantry and servants' accommodation, and garage, wash house, productive garden, lit throughout by electric light, rent £80.
- 1949** To let unfurnished with possession at 28 May 1949, Glenlochar house. 3 sitting rooms, 5 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, larder, pantry and servants' accommodation. Garage, wash house and productive garden, house is lit throughout with electric light. Rent £50. Contact Hewat, Dunn & Ramsey, Castle Douglas.
- 1951** Original Danevale House demolished and a new house built in the Park.
- 1951** Danevale re-opened for the Snowdrop Festival by Mrs Gillespie.
- 1952** For sale: Glenlochar House, 29 May. House and one cottage in about 6 acres. 2 public rooms, 3 bedrooms and one dressing room (all bedrooms with wash hand basins), servants' accommodation and good kitchen premises with an Esse cooker, mains electricity, a range of outbuildings including a garage, vegetable garden and small orchard. Assessed rental £83. Vacant possession. Lidderdale and Gillespie, Castle Douglas
- 1952** New headteacher appointed at Glenlochar School, Mr Thomas P McCulloch
- 1953** 22 June, Glenlochar House purchased by Douglas Black McWilliam £2,250.
- (Marchfield and Loch Dow sold in December 1983, Charles Stewart and Wilma McKerlie)

1956 Event ID: 728257
Category: Descriptive Accounts
Type: Archaeology Notes
Permalink: <http://canmore.org.uk/event/728257>
NX76SW 13 c. 734 647

(Area: NX 734 647) A fairly worn denarius of Trajan (98-117 AD) dug up by a gardener at Glenlochar House "with other coins" was submitted by A E Truckell, Dumfries Burgh Museum, on 25 May 1956.

A S Robertson 1963

Glenlochar House (NX76SW 59) is now under new ownership. The former gardener could not be located and the present owner knows nothing of this coin.

Visited by OS (RD), 29 July 1968

1970s and 80s

*Danevale full time gardener, hothouses full of melons, cucumbers, trees with peaches. Myra and Bridget two donkeys in the middle of the walled garden, plus chickens.
(written by daughter of the gardener)*

2001 Glenlochar Bank sold for £70,000.

Glenlochar Lodge sold for £60,500.

2011 5 April, Glenlochar Roman Fort, annexe, road, camps and barrows entered on the Schedule of Monuments.

2018 Servitude rights from Danevale to Marchfield (Robert Young Wallace)

Castledykes, Dumfries

by Lynda Mackie



Castledykes Park lies between Glencaple Road and Kingholm Road 1.5km south of Dumfries Town Centre. There are five hectares of public park on a site where once stood two ancient castles and throughout more than 800 years a number of dwellings occupied the site, the most recent of which, built by Walter Newall in 1820, was demolished in 1952 to make way for the park we see today.

The name “Castledykes” is from the original Castle of Dumfries which stood on this site in the 13th century.

The earliest records of Castledykes are to be found in the papers of King Edward I, commonly known as “The Hammer of The Scots.” This castle had replaced an earlier timber keep and was built of stone.

In 1298 the castle of Dumfries was garrisoned by 76 soldiers, crossbowmen and engineers, who were in charge of siege machines, together with carpenters and masons. The castle at Castledykes commanded a strategic position overlooking the River Nith and could easily be reached by boat at a time when land routes were beset with difficulties.

King Edward I began to develop Castledykes Castle as a fortress to control southwest Scotland and work began on the fortifications on 5/9/1300. Wages of masons, sawyers, smiths, ditchers and clerks are recorded as ranging from 2 pennies to 9 pennies per day, though women working on the site as ditchers were only paid one and a half pennies per day. Many of the ditchers had come from Lochmaben where they had been working on Lochmaben Castle.

On 17/9/1300 King Edward I visited the castle at Dumfries to check on the progress of the defences. Robert the Bruce seized the castle from the English and it was to this castle that he escaped after he, on 10/2/1306, murdered John Comyn of Badenoch and Dalwsinton at Greyfriars Church in Dumfries.

When Edward I’s men re- entered the castle in 1306, when Robert the Bruce was on the run, they found missing from the inventory of castle contents, 9 casks of wine, 2 casks of honey, 222 quarts of salt and 100 horseshoes.

By 1332 the Chapel of the Castle of Castledykes is recorded as The Chapel of St Mary The Virgin. It and the site of the castle were declared in the records of The Sheriff of Dumfries as a waste and of no taxable value, so the castle seems at that time to have been completely destroyed.

The lands of Castledykes in 1666 were owned by Robert McBrair. By 1707 the Burgh of Dumfries held the site of the castle ruins and the sandstone quarry there which was of vital importance as a source of stone for the town. Trees were planted at this time and a road constructed between St Michaels Church and what was the town’s quarry at Castledykes.

By 1738 James Moorhead was the tenant of Castledykes. He was a Dumfries merchant of some standing and built a substantial house on the site. In his will he left provision for the establishment of Moorheads Hospital for the poor which still stands opposite St Michaels Church. He also left £10 to Robert McBair in Bristol and £30 to the apprentice James McBair in Annan so we are to assume he was in some way related to the McBair who held the land in the 17th century.

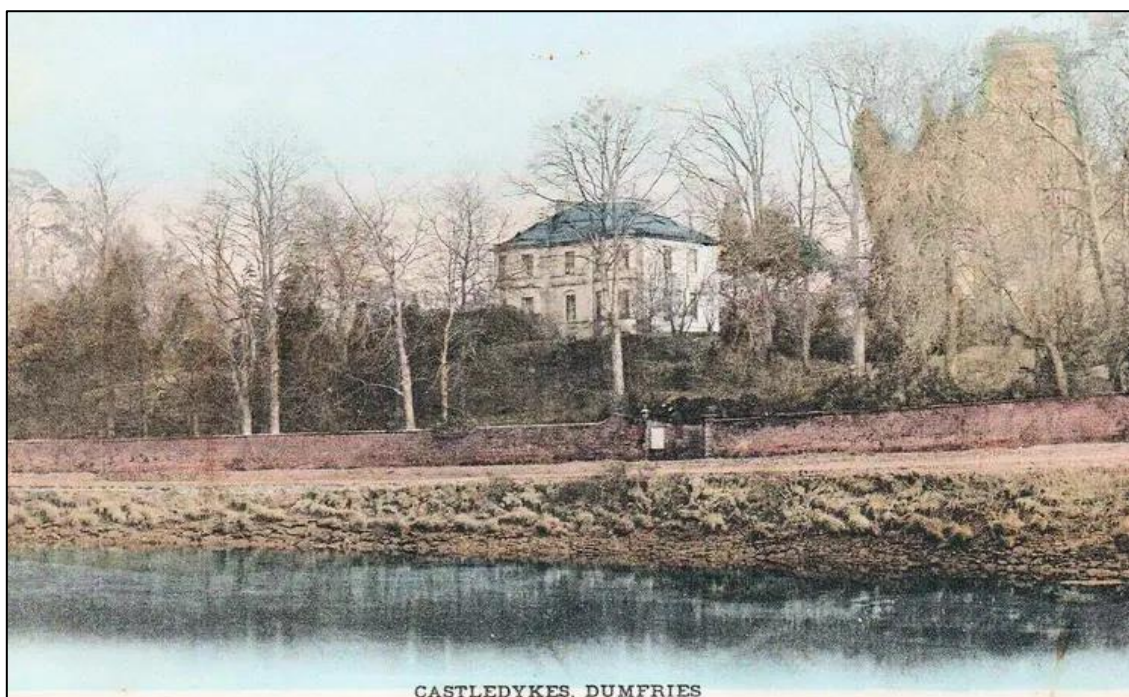
A French émigré, Joseph Elias Perochon, may have built, but definitely occupied, Perochon's Cottage on the lands of Castledykes, shown on Wood's Map of Dumfries in 1819. He had escaped the French Revolution and married Agnes Eleanor, the daughter of Mrs Dunlop of Dunlop in 1794.

Mrs Dunlop was a friend and correspondent of Robert Burns and describes Mr Perochon in a letter to the poet as being, "One of the worthiest of men without a sixpence to his name." Joseph Perochon was a merchant in Dumfries and is believed to have been blind. His wife was buried in the grave in St Michaels Churchyard which prior to the building of the Burns Mausoleum was the first resting place of the poet.

In 1803 Castledykes was up for sale and it was purchased by William Thomson, Writer. He already owned a great deal of property in Dumfries. In 1824 he became Provost of Dumfries and died in 1847 at Woodhouse in Kirkpatrick Fleming, the parish where he was born some 84 years previously. He was in dispute with the council immediately after he had purchased Castledykes and was complaining that the council were allowing quarrying of sandstone on his land and the workers were destroying his trees when they were transporting the stone. The Council gave in to his complaint, presumably since he had a finger in many Dumfries pies.

No images of this original mansion house exist but we do have a description of it when the house came up for let in 1817. It is described as having fine views of shipping and public walks. It had three sitting rooms, six bedrooms, a nursery, a servants' house and stables with stalls for three horses as well as a stall for a cow and a gig house to store the coach. It had well turned-out grounds with fruit trees and shrubs.

In 1821 the property of Castledykes was acquired by Ebenezer Stott. As a young man he had gone to America to be factor for Richard Barnham's cotton plantation in North Carolina. He founded the firm of Stott & Co of Pittsburgh Virginia and made a fortune. In 1825/26 the Pigot's Directory valued the estate of Castledykes at £20,000 which was an enormous sum at the time. He and his wife developed the grounds at Castledykes and scandalised the Dumfries population by paying the Town Council the huge sum of £100 for soil from the Merse to enhance his gardens.



Ebenezer Stott built a new house on the site. The architect was Walter Newall. The old house at a value of £400 was demolished and Newall built an Italianate villa on the site. The cost of the house, offices, gardens, vinery and conservatory was £20,000. The first floor of the house had a 20 foot by 18 foot dining room with a drawing room of the same size, a library and a butler's pantry. The second floor had four bedrooms, three dressing rooms and a water closet on each floor. The basement housed the housekeeper's room, store room, warm shower and baths, a servants' hall, washhouses, kitchens and cellars. In addition, the garret had four bedrooms, presumably for servants since the Stotts were childless. The offices, or other buildings on the site had four stables for horses so had been extended as the stable block in 1819 had only room for three horses. There were two porters' lodges or gatehouses and a gardener's cottage. This was a fabulous house and garden. Fruit grown there included grapes, nectarines, peaches, apricots, pomegranates, figs, plums pears and apples at a time when the general population of Dumfries would have no knowledge of such exotic produce. Ebenezer Stott had no children and his wife took many of her exotic plants back to America when he died.

Both Ebenezer Stott and his brother Watson Stott had inherited Threave Grange and Threave Castle from their uncle James Gibson in 1770 when they were still resident in America. At that time there was considerable dispute as to the ownership of Threave Castle which James Gibson claimed was his property but the general population believed it belonged to the Crown. Many stones from the castle were used in the mid-18th century to construct dykes on the land which the Stott brothers inherited from their uncle. Watson and Ebenezer Stott are buried in St Michaels Churchyard Dumfries.

Ebenezer Stott's nephew, Gibson Stott, inherited Castledykes in 1830 but sold it almost immediately to John McAdam of Craigadam at Kirkpatrick Durham. He had started off life as a poor shepherd in the hills above Carsphairn. He went to America as a young man and became a cotton merchant based in Liverpool. He died a wealthy man in 1836 aged 62.



Sir Simon Heward of the East India Company inherited Castledykes in 1837 but sold it to John Alexander Pringle, also of The East India Company, who may have been related to John Pringle who owned the land at Troqueer almost opposite the site of Castledykes.

We know that Robert Burnet, who was born in Aberdeenshire 1803, was gardener at Castledykes in 1852 and at the time the owner of the property was Sir Thomas Buchan Hepburn of Seaton in East Lothian, but occupied by his son, John Buchan Hepburn, a lawyer and writer to the signet. Robert Burnet had been employed as a gardener at Kirkbean from 1837 when he first came to Dumfries and Galloway. He was

gardener at Castledykes from the 1840s until 1870 when he returned to Aberdeenshire. He is listed in the records there as a provision merchant so seems to have set up as a greengrocer. The under gardener in 1851 was a Joseph Hiddlestone from Terregles aged 18.

The son of John Buchan Hepburn died at Castledykes in 1851 and in 1857 he was given a loan of £3000 from Robert Scott who is described as a jute manufacturer. He and his sons owned the Dumfries tweed mills. The business had its origins at Kingholm Quay but soon outgrew its premises and was established by the banks of the Nith. Robert Scott 1780-1861 was from humble beginnings and was the son of a gardener, but by the time he died at Albany Place Dumfries he was an extremely wealthy man. His son Robert Scott was the tenant of Castledykes when £3000 loan was given to its owner until he secured the property and is listed as the owner in 1865. He lived there until he died in 1871 when the property went up for auction.

During Robert Scott's ownership in 1867 there was an enquiry into the pollution of the Nith by effluent from his mills, but Robert Scott blamed the Burgh Sewer and the matter was not pursued by the Town Council.

At the time of the auction of Castledykes in 1871 a Mr Peacock is listed as the head gardener so must have taken over from Robert Burnet in 1870. As well as a gardener and coachman there were two lodges, where gatekeepers were employed to open and close the gates at any time of day or night and ensure only those permitted to do so entered the environs of the property.

In 1861 one of the lodges was occupied by the Lewis family. It was a dwelling with only two rooms. He was a woollen spinner and since his wife was from Lilliesleaf near Hawick. I think she was one of the many woollen mill workers who flocked at this time from the border towns to work in the tweed industry in Dumfries. They lived in the two-roomed lodge with their five children.

Robert Burnet, his family and an under gardener, William Neilson from Irongray, lived in the six roomed gardeners' cottage. There is no record of what became of the under gardener, Joseph Hiddlestone, who had been there ten years earlier.

John Johnston, a labourer from Torthorwald, his wife, their 20-year-old draper's apprentice son and two other teenage children, lived in the other two-roomed gatehouse.

The stables and three-roomed house was occupied by the coachman, George Wightman from Dornock, his wife from Tinwald and their children. John aged 15 was an apprentice clerk. Agnes, George, Robert and Janet were still at school. When Castledykes estate was sold in 1871, George Wightman and family moved to Maxwelltown where he was employed as an ostler at The Kings Arms Hotel which used to stand on the corner of Glasgow Street and the approach to The Buccleuch Street Bridge. He was taking care of the horses and carriages of hotel guests. None of his large family left home and with the arrival of the railway George Wightman moved from horses to become a warehouseman in the mill. With all his grown-up children still at home unmarried and employed as clerks printers and dressmakers the family prospered and moved to 2 Montague Street Dumfries.

Castledykes was purchased by Dr James Bruce who served as honorary sheriff substitute. He caused quite a stir in 1875 when he attempted to remove the ancient roots of trees on his property by blasting them out with cotton patent gunpowder to the alarm of all living nearby.

In 1887 Castledykes was sold to Hugh McGregor who had a confectioner's business on the corner of Queensberry Street and High Street. He is recorded as producing in the region of 40 tons of preserves annually. Probably it was a good commercial venture to purchase Castledykes since the grounds contained very many fruit trees and bushes as well as greenhouses and a vinery. Many of the glasshouses had been built during Robert Scott's time. By 1891 Hugh McGregor had died but his widow Jessie McGregor aged only 37 and her young family remained at Castledykes. Unlike the previous owners they seem to no longer employ a coachman but the coachman's house and stable yard were let to Frederick Thomas, an Englishman, who

at the time describes himself as a self-employed book agent and his wife was a Laundress probably employed at The Crichton Laundry. With their six children they lived in the three-roomed stables cottage.

Although shown as a book agent in 1891 ten years earlier, Frederick Thomas was a humble porter living in two rooms in Dumfries High Street and by 1901 he and his family were living in Church Street where he is employed as a navvy so he seems to be a guy with big ideas which never quite materialised.

The gardener's house was occupied by James Bayne who was a gardener in his own right and ran a fruit and flower shop. By 1895 James Bayne was still the tenant of the gardener's house but the stables and coachman's house were tenanted by James Callaghan and The Reverend Alexander Chapman. There seems to have been a rapid turnover of tenants of the stables between 1891 and 1895 and the coachman's house was occupied in 1895 by Thomas Hall.

Hugh and Jessie McGregor's son, James McGregor, became a nurseryman and seedsman and ran the grounds of Castledykes as a market garden. His mother, Jessie McGregor, lived at Southernness and leased the mansion house to James Carmont who lived there until his death in 1922, although the Town Council bought Castledykes from Mrs McGregor in 1901 in preparation for the establishment of the sewage works. John Carmont was born in Maxwelltown in 1840 and worked as a clerk for the Ordnance Survey before becoming a banker with The Crichton Royal Bank and an agent for the British Linen Bank. From 1888-1916 he was treasurer to The Nith Commission. He was a devout Roman Catholic and conducted the choir at St Andrews Roman Catholic Cathedral as well as being the music critic for The Standard. One of his sons became a distinguished advocate, one a priest and a daughter an abbess. Two unmarried daughters remained as tenants in the house long after the death of their father.

When the town purchased Castledykes in 1901 it cost £17,500. James McGregor continued to operate his gardening business in the stables and stables house. Other houses on the property rented from the council were occupied by William and Ellen Townsley in the gardener's cottage and George Halliday, a miller, in the lodge.

In 1906 Castledykes was the setting for the 600-year anniversary of the capture of Castledykes Castle by Robert the Bruce. After lunch for 100 gentlemen there was a procession from the town to Castledykes led by Masonic Lodges Burns Clubs and Provosts from near and far. The procession was accompanied by bands and volunteer regiments. A block of sandstone was laid at Castledykes to commemorate the event. In 1914 there was an open-air Burns Festival at Castledykes. Maxwelltown Male Voice Choir sang and there was music poetry and dancing. The Guild of Players performed scenes from the life of Burns. It was planned that this would be an annual event but did not continue after the outbreak of war in 1914. There is a commemorative stone at Castledykes in tribute to the coronet and two lynors who were killed in WW1.

The fine mansion built by Walter Newall for Ebenezer Stott fell into disrepair and in 1952 Castledykes house was demolished to make way for the park we know today. There are no longer gatehouses at the entrances to the grounds but the gardener's cottage still exists and recently the stables have been converted to become a family home.

Stroquhan House, Dunscore

by Mik Wisniewski

Stroquhan House (also known as Stroquan House)

Parish: Dunscore

Postcode: DG2 0UP

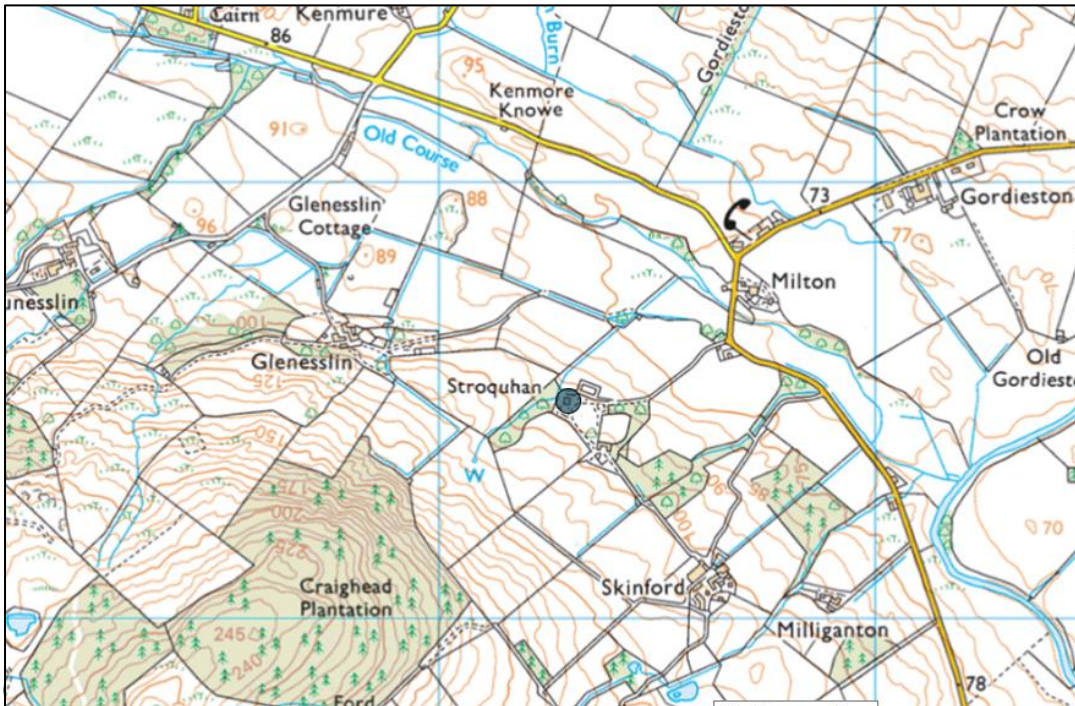
NGR: 284298, 583496

what3words: <https://w3w.co/nuggets.leaned.snowboard>

Stroquhan House (also known as Stroquan House) is a sandstone country house in Glenesselin, approximately 2 miles (3 km) southwest of Dunscore to the west of the Cairn Water. It dates from the end of the 18th Century with 19th-century additions³.



Stroquhan House in 2020⁴



and been responsible for dispatching a notorious thief named Coulton who lived in nearby Glenesslin. As a reward they were granted

³ The Gazetteer for Scotland 2022 'Stroquhan' [online] available at:

<https://www.scottish-places.info/features/featurefirst4702.html> [accessed 29 August 2023]

⁴ Scottish Field 2020 'Stroquhan Estate, Dunscore, Dumfriesshire' [online] available at:

<https://www.pressreader.com/uk/scottish-field/20200907/289115730672348> [accessed 29 August 2023]

land by the monarch and each built a tower, one being built at Stroquhan. This was recorded in 1615 as being owned by a John Kirkhoe. The current house was built in the second half of the 18th century on the site of the tower.⁵

Note: Kirkhoe (or Kirk) was historically a common name in the Dunscore area. It is associated with the Maxwell Clan which itself had strong links with the wider area.

The original house was built to a 2-storey rectangular plan in the second half of the 18th century. A full-height bow was added around 1800 at the north end of the east elevation. The house was remodelled in 1845 in the style of Walter Newall (architect) with a 3-storey piend-roofed rectangular tower added to south.⁶

The house is mostly rubble-built with ashlar dressings. The bow addition is rendered and the 1845 work is polished red ashlar. The tower bipartites to elevations, paired at east and linked by cills or cornice; the ground floor windows project, the upper windows are architraved; the remaining south-facing bay is similarly treated. The house has a margined near-centre porch (also circa 1840) on the east elevation with consoled pediment above the door; there is a crest in square panel on house above. Sash windows (mostly small-paned) throughout; cornices; chimney stacks are mostly 1845 with corniced octagonal flues; slate roofs. There is a twin-gabled west elevation.

It was denoted as a Class B listed building on 26th June 1986.⁷

Walled Garden

The house has a walled garden which itself is Category C listed (1986⁸).

The garden is thought to be early 19th century with a roughly quadrangular enclosure, The wall is curved at the southeast and linked to stables at the southwest. Rubble-built, partly brick-lined walls with ashlar coping. Circular pier at northwest angle beside gate; small lean-to boiler house on north wall and a small glass house.



View from southeast taken 1975-76, copyright HES via <https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1633493>

⁵ Savills 2020 'Stroquhan Estate, Dumfriesshire' [online] available at: https://assets.savills.com/properties/GBEDRUEDR200012/EDR200012_EDR20000312.PDF [accessed 29 August 2023]

⁶ Historic Environment Scotland 1986 'Stroquhan' [online] available at: <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/200335387-stroquhan-dunscore> [accessed 29 August 2023]

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*



View from the north taken 1975-76, copyright: HES via <https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1633494>



View from the southwest taken 1975-76, copyright: HES via <https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1633495>

Stroquan Lodge

A lodge house (Stroquan Lodge) stands at the junction of the estate by the public road. Entrances to the private landscaped grounds around country houses at this time were often guarded by lodges. It was the role of the lodge-keeper – often an elderly estate employee – to give access for bona fide visitors and to exclude undesirables. The iron gates barred the way to any unwanted visitors. Lodges were small, but often reflected the architectural style of the mansion. This lodge is in a mild form of 'Tudor-bethan'.

The Lodge was built c. 1840-50 at around the same time as the main house was remodelled. It is a symmetrical, single storey, 3-bay lodge built from painted rubble, with chamfered margins and hood-moulds⁹. The North elevation: central panelled door, 12-pane sashes in the outer bays with a single window to either flank (that to west without a hood-mould). There is a central apex stack; a piended roof with graded slates. There is a modern addition to south: chamfered, square gatepiers; painted ashlar; corniced; Gothic acanthus leaf finials on raised bases. The main gateway is flanked by similar piers to the pedestrian ways; fine Gothic traceried cast-iron gates with foiled, cusped and crocketed decoration.

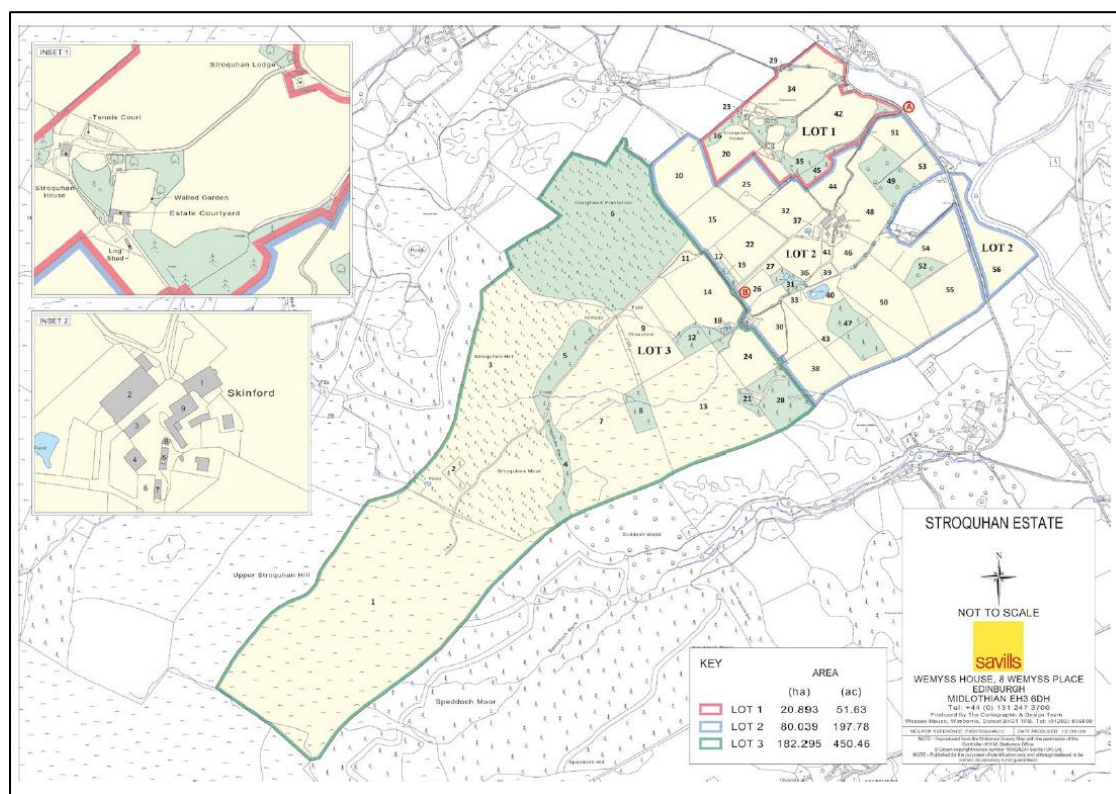
The Lodge is category B listed (1986)



View from northeast taken 1975-76, copyright: HES via <https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1633490>

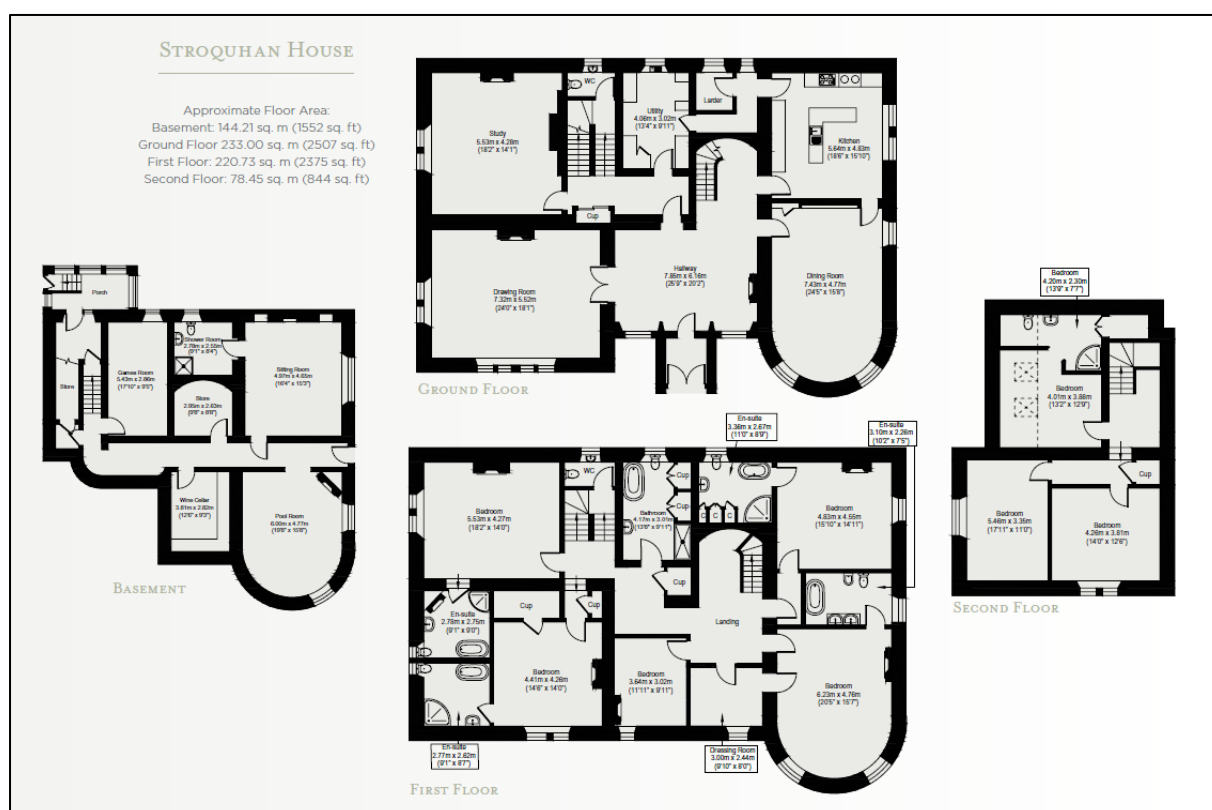
⁹ Historic Environment Scotland 1986 'Stroquan Lodge, Gates and Gatepiers' [online] available at: <https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB4161> [accessed 29 August 2023]

In 2020 Stroquhan Estate was put on the market for sale by Savill's Estate Agents who produced a detailed sales brochure and an accompanying viewing video¹⁰. The Estate was put up for sale in 3 lots:



Lot 1 Stroquhan House

This included the house itself; gardens and grounds (including a walled garden); stables and former coach house; Stroquhan Lodge; around 35 acres of parkland and grassland.



¹⁰ Savills 2020 'Stroquhan Estate, Dumfriesshire' [online] available at: https://assets.savills.com/properties/GBEDRUEDR200012/EDR200012_EDR20000312.PDF [accessed 29 August 2023]





Lot 2 Skinford Farm

The farm lies to the south of Stroquhan House itself and comprised: two cottages; a variety of farm buildings; around 170 acres of farmland.

Lot 3 Craighead Plantation & Stroquhan Hill

This consisted of around 450 acres of farmland, grazing and forestry.

According to the Registers of Scotland, Stroquhan House was sold on 2nd October 2020 for £980,000. The property type is shown as Agricultural and it is not clear if this sale was for the agricultural land on the estate or the buildings also¹¹. There are no previous online records of property purchase.

Ownership now appears to be by Stroquhan Estate Ltd.¹²

At the time of the 1851 census Stroquhan House was owned by Francis (I. or J.) Wilson shown as "landed proprietor" farming 300 acres. Clearly some of the land shown in 2020 had been acquired later in addition to the original estate, which also included Stroquhan Lodge.

¹¹ Scotland's Land Information Service 'Stroquhan House, Dunscore, Dumfries DG2 0UP' [online] available at: <https://scotlis.ros.gov.uk/property-summary/DMF7191> [accessed 29 August 2023]

¹² Companies House services 'Stroquhan Estate Limited' [online] available at: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/02236653> [accessed 29 August 2023]

People associated with Stroquhan

Note: names are frequently associated simply with "Stroquhan" and not explicitly with Stroquhan House. However, in the context of the sources, it is reasonable to assume that Stroquhan House is often the location. The exception are the Moffat names who cannot be placed at the House with certainty.

The area contains a number of Stroquhan name places - Stroquhan Moor, Stroquhan Hill etc - but it's not clear if the house was named after the area or the landmarks named after the house.

Walter Newall

Walter Newall (1780-1863) was the architect responsible for the remodelling of the house in 1845. He was born in nearby New Abbey and was the leading architect in the Dumfries area, from the 1820s until his retirement.¹³

His built works included villas at Cardoness (1828), for Sir David Maxwell, and Glenlair, Corsock (1830), home of mathematician and theoretical physicist James Clerk Maxwell. In Dumfries, Newall built the Assembly Rooms (1825), several commercial buildings including offices for his own use on the High Street, and several private houses including Moat Brae (1823), whose gardens, a childhood haunt of author J. M. Barrie, were the inspiration for Peter Pan. Newall remodelled a windmill in neoclassical style to serve as the town observatory, which later became Dumfries Museum. He designed St Mary's Church and clergy house at New Abbey (1824). He also designed several Gothic churches, including those at Buittle (1818–19), Anwoth (1826–27), and Kirkpatrick Durham (1849–50).¹⁴

Moffats

Samuel Moffat of Stroquhan

Born 1726 Stroquhan

Died 31 May 1778

RMM, Dunscore Churchyard, CMN 2 p2

<https://genealogy.clanmoffat.org/getperson.php?personID=I60668&tree=ClanMoffat>

Alexander Moffat (son of Samuel above)

Born 1763 Dumfriesshire

Listed 1797 at Stroquhan, Dumfriesshire

Died 2 March 1835 Bush Cottage, Sundaywell, Dumfriesshire, Scotland

OPR, Dunscore Churchyard, CMN 2 p2

Andrew Moffat

Born 7 May 1896 Stroquhan Lodge, Dunscore, Dumfriesshire

GRO-Edinburgh 4, 168

<https://genealogy.clanmoffat.org/getperson.php?personID=I38906&tree=UKEire>

¹³ Colvin, Howard, (1978) A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects, 1600–1840, John Murray, pp.697-699

¹⁴ Wikipedia 'Walter Newall' [online] available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Newall [accessed 29 August 2023]

Andersons

Robert Anderson

Born 1751 Stroquhan

Died December 25, 1828 Stroquhan House

<https://www.geni.com/people/Robert-Anderson-Esq/6000000038912172020?through=6000000038910944210>
<https://digital.nls.uk/directories/browse/archive/85572227>

John Anderson HEIC (Honourable East India Company)

Born 1795 Stroquhan

Died Dec 24 1845 - No 1 Euston Place, Euston Square, London

Acting Resident Councillor of Penang, Malaysia from 1829-1830.

<https://www.geni.com/people/John-Anderson-of-Straquhan-Dumfries-HEIC/6000000038910944210>

William Anderson

Died 2/12/1845 - At Penang, fourth son of the late Robert Anderson, Esq., of Stroquhan.

Mary Martha Anderson, Stroquhan

At Edinburgh, on the 12th inst. **James Anderson**, Esq. younger of Stroquhan, to Mary Menzies, daughter of Dr Robert Anderson, one of the ministers of Edinburgh.

20th June 1820

Thomas Carlyle (the Scottish historian and philosopher) lived at Craigenputtoch, some 6 miles away from Stroquhan House from 1828-1834 and mentions various members of the Andersons in his letters.

<https://carlyleletters.dukeupress.edu/search-results/stroquhan>

In May 1831 he writes:

"Miss Anderson and other members of her family had moved from Stroquhan, a farm near Craigenputtoch" to Moffat from the letter contents.

and *"they [the Anderson family] had moved to Moffat after the family's financial collapse."*

This may be connected with the fact that Robert Anderson and his son died within a short time of each other. Carlyle writes in 1829:

"Old Mr Anderson of Straquhan also is dead" and "James Anderson, the young Laird of Stroquhan, our kind neighbour and acquaintance died of two days' illness a few weeks ago; an event which causes deep sadness among all connected with him. What will become of his Distillery is not known."

Previously in 1830 he had written:

"... with regard to the Bridgewater, Inddia-ship [sic], I have engaged to the Stroquhan people (who are living in trembling hope and fear about the fate of their Brother and his whole family embarked therein) that you will get the best information, which is to be had in London, about the real chances of safety or destruction for this ship: I believe, it sailed from Penang, of which place the Governor also was in it, and a son (or perhaps this was he) of the India Directors' chairman; it was seen last in the straits of Sunda, and must either have perished or taken refuge in Bombay."

It appears the Andersons on board the ship survived as Carlyle later in 1830 writes:

"John's letter to the family bringing joyful news concerning the long-lost ship Bridgewater and the Anderson kin on her."

"Apparently the son and brother thought for some months to have been lost at sea on the Bridgewater and only recently returned home."

It appears that Stroquhan was put up for sale along with its contents in 1831. Carlyle writes:

"The Stroquhan Roup (auction) has been [going on] these two days; and, it would seem [one or two words missing], John Anderson means to occupy the house; for he is buying in all the furniture of any value."

and in 1833:

"It is said Stroquhan has found a Purchaser; yet also that we are not to have a new Neighbour, but only the Edinburgh people a new Lawsuit. The case it seems is this: John Anderson hearing that the property is sold suddenly steps forward and says: This property was never my Brother's, for my Father who survived him, was of unsound mind when he gave it up; and so now it is by fair inheritance mine; and I will pay my Father's debts from it, but of my Brother's not a shilling!"

The outcome of the legal dispute is not known.

Wilsons

However, by 1843 Stroquhan is occupied by the Wilson family who presumably commissioned the remodelling of the house around this time.

<https://digital.nls.uk/directories/browse/archive/85560236>

The 1851 census shows the Wilson family at Stroquhan:

Francis J. Wilson, Age 30, Landed proprietor farming 300 acres employing 9 labourers, born Berwick on Tweed.

Jane M. Wilson, wife, age 23, born Kilwinning, Ayr

Thomas T. Wilson, age 5, born Dunscore

George C. Wilson, age 4, born Dunscore

Jessie M. Wilson, age 1, born Dunscore

Other people at the time of the census at Stroquhan:

Helen Colville, sister in law, age 21, born Kilwinning, Ayr

Henrietta Somerville, cousin (unmarried), age 42, born Ruthwell, Dumfries

May Somerville, cousin (unmarried), age 34, born Dalton, Dumfries

Mary Douglas, housemaid (unmarried), age 24, born Mouswald, Dumfries

Grace Bellby, housemaid (unmarried), age 23, born Holywood, Dumfries

Grace Alton, nurse (unmarried), age 24, born Glencairn, Dumfries

Marion Brydon, cook (unmarried), age 27, born Applegarth, Dumfries

The 1861 census shows:

Jane M. J. Wilson, widow and fund holder, age 33, born Kilwinning, Ayr

Jessie M. J. Wilson, age 12, born Dunscore

Francis W.J. Wilson, age 11, born Dunscore

Jane M. J. Wilson, age 9, born Dunscore

Others:

Mary F. Brystocke, governess (unmarried), age 32, born England
Eleanor Mathison, lady's maid (unmarried), age 27, born Aberdeen
Margaret Lawrie, cook (unmarried), age 36, born Dunscore
Mary Ferguson, housemaid (unmarried), age 28, born Kirkbean, Kirkcudbright
Jane Goodfellow, table maid (unmarried), age 17, born Canonbie, Dumfries

Set in the South wall of the church in Dunscore is a memorial in white marble to Francis Johnstone Wilson of Coglein and Stroquhan, who died in 1856 aged only 36 years. The verse of scripture reads:-

I know that he shall rise again in the Resurrection at the last day.

This poem follows:-

*Write no record of the dead
But that Christ for him has bled
And the thought may solace give
That the dead in Christ shall live*

<https://www.dunscore.org.uk/items-of-interest/dunscore-churchyard/>

By 1862, Mrs Wilson had moved to 14 Dean Terrace, Edinburgh although in 1872/3 Thomas J Wilson of Stroquhan was listed as farming 4198 acres.

[https://electricScotland.com/history/Scotland Owners of Lands and Heritages 1.pdf](https://electricScotland.com/history/Scotland_Owners_of_Lands_and_Heritages_1.pdf)

Stansfield

A Stansfield is shown at Stroquhan in 1872.

<https://digital.nls.uk/directories/browse/archive/87055598>

Watson

J. Watson and Archibald Watson 1878

<https://digital.nls.uk/directories/browse/archive/85157696>

Timms

J. Timms is listed at Stroquhan in the 1882/1885 Post Office Directory

<https://digital.nls.uk/directories/browse/archive/87044937>

Ainslie

C.A. Ainslie is listed at Stroquhan in the 1883/1896 Post Office Directory

<https://digital.nls.uk/directories/browse/archive/85168803>

Ewing

Colonel John Ewing is listed at Stroquhan in the 1903 Post Office Directory

<https://digital.nls.uk/directories/browse/archive/90676837>

Johnstone

The Dunscore War memorial was unveiled on 21st June 1920 by Mrs Johnston of Stroquhan following a united service in a packed Dunscore Parish Church. Brig. General Johnston gave the address.

Physgill House, Glasserton

by Jennifer Cianci

Historical Description of Land

Scottish Places describes the land Physgil House is situated on as part of the southern Machars¹. The Machars is a peninsula in the county of Wigtownshire in south-west Scotland² the land of which is comprised of rolling hills with no high peaks. The name “machars” is derived from the Gaelic word Machair meaning low-lying or level land.

Hunter gatherers inhabited the land from the Paleolithic era of prehistory and by the ancient historic times there were numerous Celtic tribes, the Novantae, Selgovae Brigantes, Cymri, Attacotti, Irish-Scot Picts, among others³ living in the area, having themselves migrated from mainland Europe during the Iron Age.⁴ Following the Iron Age, the area was controlled by the Romans, Saxons, and Scandinavians⁵.

As to the Scandinavians regarding the use if the land, an unknown author of a scholarly article found at the Westlandwhig Blogspot website talks about the possibility of longphorts⁶ in the Galloway area of Scotland⁷ and quotes to “*Wild Men and Holy Place*”, (1994), author, Daphne Brooke, that there is “place name evidence in the western Machars that shows Scandinavian settlements with names such as Eggerness, Sorbie,

1 Gazetteer for Scotland, “*Physgill House*”, Retrieved from and Used with permission from The Gazetteer for Scotland website at [Physgill House: Overview of Physgill House \(scottish-places.info\)](https://scottish-places.info/physgill-house), (accessed 26 February 2023).

2 Wikimedia Contributors (25 June 2022, 04:39 UTC), “*Machars*” peninsula, Wikimedia Foundation, Retrieved from Wikimedia website at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machars>, (accessed 05 May 2023).

3 MacKerlie, P. H. (Peter Handyside) (1891), “*Galloway in Ancient and Modern Times*”, Edinburgh and London, W. Blackwood and sons, pp. 2-8, Retrieved from the Internet Archive website at <https://archive.org/details/gallowayinancie00mackgoog/page/n4/mode/2up>, (accessed 23 February 2023).

4 “*History of Scotland (The)*”, Retrieved from the National Trust for Scotland website at <https://www.nts.org.uk/learning/adult-learning/the-history-of-scotland>, (accessed 09 February 2023).

5 Maxwell, Herbert, Sir, (1896), “*The County Histories of Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway*”, Edinburgh Blackwood, pp. 1-45, Retrieved from the Internet Archive website at <https://archive.org/details/historyofdumfrie00maxwuoft/page/n3/mode/2up>, (accessed 16 February 2023).

6 A longphort is a term used in Ireland for a Viking ship enclosure or shore fortress. Although these *longphorts* were used as bases for Viking raids, the term had additional meanings and these sites had multiple purposes. Wikipedia contributors (26 September 2022, 10:21 UTC), “*Longphort*”, Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia, Retrieved from Wikipedia website at <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Longphort&oldid=1112441279>, (accessed 30 May 2023).

7 Unknown Blogger (11 April 2016), “*Last of the Westland Whigs: A Viking longphort in Galloway?*”, Retrieved from the Westlandwhig Blogspot website at <http://westlandwhig.blogspot.com/2016/04/a-viking-longphort-in-galloway.html>, (accessed 28 May 2023).

Bysbie, Arbrack, Kidsdale, “Physgill⁸”, Appleby and Ravenstone in an arc around the Northumbrian settlements of Whithorn, Oughton, Broughton and Pouton” which leads to the suggestion that the Northumbrian Saxon “power in the Machars was strong enough to employ Viking settlers as a protective shield around Whithorn.”⁹

Following the Scandinavians came the Normans and the Feudal system, and it is during this period we begin to see certain clans here rise to prominence and intermarry among themselves. Surnames in this area begin to occur more frequently around this period and such names appear as the Bruces, Douglasses, Balliols, Fitz Alans, Fitzwalters, and Stewarts, among many others.

House Occupancy Over the Years

As the feudal system develops, we begin to see the Physgill estate land being used as an estate for the first time. Peter Handyside MacKerlie recounts the sasine of Physgill estate in his book, “History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway” beginning with 1460 of an incomplete feudal land charter from James III to Andrew, second son of Thomas M'Dowall of Garthland, and his wife, Christian (de Murray) M'Dowall of “Fishgill” that lasted until 1488.

For nearly 100 years, we see nothing on its use until, in the year 1576, we see it being gifted from Malcolm, Commendator of Whithorn to James M'Cartney. Then, in 1621, “the five merk land of Arbroag” to which the estate was a part of went from Sir John Vaus to Peter M'Dowall of Machermore. The next recording shows that in 1625 “Fisgill” was in possession of Alexander, son of Peter M'Dowall of Machtrimore¹⁰. All subsequent recordings appear in the name of Stewart, even through matriarchal lines; with those instances formal name changes occur to reflect the name Stewart.

8 A gill or ghyll is a ravine or narrow valley in the North of England and other parts of the United Kingdom. The word originates from Old Norse “gil”, which itself comes from Proto-Germanic form of the word, gilja, a cleft or gully. Wikipedia Contributors (17 March 2023, at 16:19. (26 September 2022, 10:21 UTC), “*Old Norse gil*”, Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia, Retrieved from Wikipedia website at https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/gil#Old_Norse, (accessed 30 May 2023). The word “gil” is used referencing the word Physgil in the book *The Norse Influence on Celtic Scotland* (1919) as “Physgil or ‘fish-gyll?’”, Henderson, George, (1910), “*Norse Influence on Celtic Scotland (The)*”, Glasgow, James Maclehose and Sons, p 163, Retrieved from Electric Scotland website at <https://www.electricscotland.com/history/vikings/norseinfluence.pdf>, (accessed 30 May 2023) and again on page 168 of the same book in “Gilhow in Glasserton”, to refer to “the ravine of the grave-mound’, at the head of Physgill Glen”, Henderson, George, (1910), “*Norse Influence on Celtic Scotland (The)*”, Glasgow, James Maclehose and Sons, p 168, Retrieved from Electric Scotland website at <https://www.electricscotland.com/history/vikings/norseinfluence.pdf>, (accessed 30 May 2023).

9 Brooke, Daphne (1994), “*Wild Men and Holy Places: St. Ninian, Whithorn and the Medieval Realm of Galloway*”, Canongate Press, p65.

10 MacKerlie, P. H. (Peter Handyside) (1870), “*History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway*”, Edinburgh, W. Paterson, p 510, Retrieved from Google Books website at https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_the_lands_and_their_owners_in/B4rSAAAAMAAJhl=en&gbpv=1&dq=history+of+the+lands+and+their+owners+in+Galloway&printsec=frontcover, (accessed 23 February 2023).

The genealogy of the first recording, Thomas M'Dowall of Garthland, shows his relationship to both the Vaus' and Stewart families¹¹ and that these and other families such as the Frasers and Gordons are all interconnected with the M'Dowall's by various marriages, most likely strategic.

When we get to the next recording of "Fisgill", it is to Alexander Stewart in 1637¹². He received this land through his father, John Stewart, Rector of Kirkmaiden, who married Margaret Stewart of Tonderghie, an estate on the coast a little further south of Physgill. John Stewart was the second son of Alexander Stewart, 5th of Garlies¹³ by his second marriage. Physgill became a formal part of the Stewart Heraldry as House Stewart of Physgill¹⁴, Lords of Physgill and Ballymoran, a cadet branch of House Stewart of Darnley under House Stewart of Garlies¹⁵, and it is this line that still owns the land to present day.

Alexander Stewart died in 1653 and the land went to his son in 1666, also named Alexander Stewart. In 1672, Alexander Stewart's son, John Stewart received "Physgill"¹⁶. It then passes to his son, Captain William Stewart in 1720. He had no children and the male line becomes extinct after he passes away in 1734. However, he was survived by his two sisters, Agnes and Elizabeth Stewart and his niece from his previously deceased older brother, Robert.

John Coltran claimed Physgill in 1725 through his mother Elizabeth Stewart Coltran and assumed Stewart name and thereafter being known as Captain John Stewart. However, In 1734 Agnes Stewart, daughter of Robert Stewart, contested this in court and eventually winning possession of Physgill.

11 WikiTree contributors, "*Thomas (McDowall) McDowall IVth of Garthland (c. 1400-1488)*," Retrieved from the WikiTree website at <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Macdowall-8>, (accessed 21 May 2023).

12 MacKerlie, P. H. (Peter Handyside) (1870), "*History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway*", Edinburgh, W. Paterson, p 511, Retrieved from Google Books website at https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_the_lands_and_their_owners_in/B4rSAAAAMAAJhl=en&qbpv=1&dq=history+of+the+lands+and+their+owners+in+Galloway&printsec=frontcover, (accessed 23 February 2023).

13 Burke, Bernard (Jan 1925), "*A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry*", Burke Publishing Company, pp. 1676-1677, Retrieved from Google Books website at <https://books.google.com/books?id=3RVXAAAAYAAJ&q=physgill#v=snippet&q=physgill&f=false>, (accessed 10 May 2023).

14 WikiTree contributors, "*Section 4.3.4.1.6 Stewarts of Physgill Clan Stewart-Roots and Branches*" Retrieved from the WikiTree website at https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Clan_Stewart_-_Roots_and_Branches#Stewarts_of_Physgill, (accessed 21 May 2023).

15 "*House Stewart of Garlies Coat of Arms*", Retrieved from Wappenwiki at http://www.wappenwiki.org/index.php/House_Stewart_of_Garlies, (accessed 21 February 2023).

16 MacKerlie, P. H. (Peter Handyside) (1870), "*History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway*", Edinburgh, W. Paterson, p 511, Retrieved from Google Books website at https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_the_lands_and_their_owners_in/B4rSAAAAMAAJhl=en&qbpv=1&dq=history+of+the+lands+and+their+owners+in+Galloway&printsec=frontcover, (accessed 23 February 2023).

She married John Hathorn of Meikle Airlies in 1738 and their son Robert was next to receive Physgill after her passing. His son, Stair Hathorn, received it after him in 1818 and changed his name to Stewart. During his lifetime, Stair purchased the adjoining estate of Glasserton which included the original Woodfall Gardens on that estate.

After he died in 1865, Physgill went to his first son by his first marriage (to Margaret, daughter of James Johnstone of Straiton, Midlothian), Robert Hathorn Johnstone, who also changed his surname to Stewart as his father had done before him¹⁷.

Robert Hathorn Johnstone Stewart's first born son, also named Robert (born in 1904) received it next. This Robert removed the "e" from Johnstone and went by Robert Hathorn Johnston-Stewart.

At least since From 2012 to present, Ninian Robert Hathorn Johnston Stewart has control of his ancestral estate, residing in Newton-Stewart. A 2013 conviction of his Glasserton & Physgill Estates' gamekeeper led to himself being convicted in late 2014 of the vicariously liable act of 1981.¹⁸

House Mentions Over The Years

The earliest mention of Physgill comes the 1636-1652 map of the coast from Loch Ryan nearly to the head of Solway by Robert Gordon¹⁹.

Andrew Symson, Church of Scotland minister and printer, mentions in his 1684 writing "A Large Description of Galloway" Physgill as being a good house²⁰.

17 MacKerlie, P. H. (Peter Handyside) (1870), "*History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway*", Edinburgh, W. Paterson, pp. 512-514, Retrieved from Google Books website at https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_the_lands_and_their_owners_in/B4rSAAAAMAAJhl=en&gbpv=1&dq=history+of+the+lands+and+their+owners+in+Galloway&printsec=frontcover, (accessed 23 February 2023).

18 Ninian Robert Hathorn Johnston Stewart was convicted at Stranraer Sheriff Court on 23 December 2014 after pleading guilty to for four offences under Section 15A(1) and Section 18A(1) and (2) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 of being vicariously liable for the criminal actions of Glasserton & Physgill Estates' gamekeeper Peter Bell, who was convicted in 2013 of laying poisoned bait which killed a buzzard, and for possession of three banned pesticides. The Glasserton & Physgill Estates were subsequently expelled from the landowners' representative organisation, Scottish Land & Estates. Raptor Persecution UK Web Article, 23 December 2014, "*First Conviction in Landmark Vicarious Liability Case*", Retrieved from the Raptor Persecution UK website at <https://raptorpersecutionuk.org/2014/12/23/first-conviction-in-landmark-vicarious-liability-case/>, (accessed 27 May 2023).

19 1636-1652, Gordon, Robert, "*A map of the Coast from Loch Ryan Nearly to the Head of Solway*", Retrieved from the National Library of Scotland at <https://maps.nls.uk/rec/48>, (accessed 20 February 2023).

20 MacKerlie, P. H. (Peter Handyside) (1870), "*History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway*", Edinburgh, W. Paterson, p 514, Retrieved from Google Books website at https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_the_lands_and_their_owners_in/B4rSAAAAMAAJhl=en&gbpv=1&dq=history+of+the+lands+and+their+owners+in+Galloway&printsec=frontcover, (accessed 23 February 2023).

The publication of the Transactions and Journal of Proceedings by Dumfriesshire and Galloway in 1951 included a description about Physgill and stated it had an “entirely different design from the northern face. This frontage has been dated a few days ago by Dr. James S. Richardson, late of H.M. Inspector of Ancient Monuments, as “about 1789...”.²¹ This places Physgill in the hands of Robert Hawthorn Stewart, son of John Hawthorn and Agnes Stewart.

The Old Statistical Account of 1796 concludes “The house of Physgill is spacious and beautifully situate. The circumjacent fields spread out around it with a very fine effect. The vicinity of the sea-shore is exceedingly interesting. The plantations, within these grounds, are not extensive, but not stunted or dwarfish. Mr (Robert Hawthorn) Stewart has formed an excellent garden, which he has surrounded with an uncommonly good stone and lime wall, full 14 feet in height. It affords great abundance of fruits, flowers, and pot-herbs, both ordinary and rare, and of the best quality.”²²

In 1818, Physgill House is described as the “seat of Robert Hawthorn Stewart, Esq. and situated 2 ½ miles west of Burrow-head” and that it is a “modern house”²³. Stair had also purchased the adjoining estate of Glasserton, including original Woodfall Garden.

On page 20 and 28 of the supplement section of Volume 12, Issue 287 of the Country Life Magazine dated 05, July, 1902, the Physgill House and property was listed as being let fully furnished for the shooting season. It lists the grounds as being 6000 acres of first-class low ground shooting, of which 45 acres are woods. The listing includes information such as a large entrance hall, three public rooms, seven bedrooms, ample servants’ accommodation, four-stall stable and a well stocked large garden with applicants to W. M. Stewart²⁴.

Canmore lists Physgill as the “Physgill Auxiliary Hospital” in use during Word War I.

Robert Hawthorn Johnston-Stewart hired architect Antony Curtiss Wolfe of A C Wolffe and

21 Transactions and Journal of Proceedings, (1951), “*Dumfriesshire and Galloway*”, United Kingdom: Council of the Society, p 102, Retrieved from Google Books website at https://www.google.com/books/edition/Transactions_and_Journal_of_Proceedings/HKVy-tDkQzAC?hl=en&gbpv=1&bsq=physgill+house++20th+century&dq=physgill+house++20th+century&printsec=frontcover, (accessed 17 May 2023).

22 Old Statistical Account (The), Vol. XVII, 1796, “*Glasserton, County of Wigton, Physgill*”, p 590, Retrieved from The Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1791-1845 website at https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/osa-vol17-Parish_record_for_Glasserton_in_the_county_of_Wigton_in_volume_17_of_account_1/osa-vol17-p581-parish-wigton-glasserton?search=physgill, (accessed 20 February 2023).

23 “*Traveller’s Guide Through Scotland, and Its Islands (The)*”, Volume 1, (1818), Edinburgh and London, John Thompson and Company and R. Baldwin, p 254, Retrieved from Google Books website at https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Traveller_s_Guide_Through_Scotland_a/ai1HAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0, (accessed 16 February 2023).

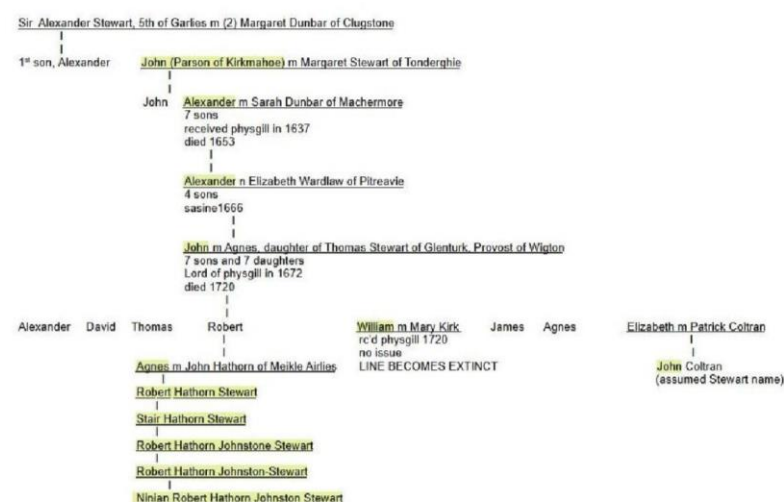
24 “*Country Life*”, (1902), United Kingdom, (n.p.), p 20-28, Retrieved from Google Books website at https://www.google.com/books/edition/Country_Life/z-BFAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0, (accessed 21 May 2023).

Partners in 1958 to restructure the house, of which alterations were performed in 1959²⁵. With these alterations, “The circa 1800 classical house was stripped back to the old house it had enclosed.”²⁶

In 1972, The house was placed as a C-grade historic building, which means the listing is of historic purposes only, because the structure(s) is/are not intact in original form. This further means that more alterations could be performed in the future. All that remains of the original from the 1958 alterations is the foundation to the house, although the structures surrounding the house; a walled garden, stables, and cottages, are all still somewhat intact to their original extent.

Innes F Macleod, in his 1986 book, mentions how “Some (Physgill, Logan) have had their Victorian and Edwardian excrescences removed and have recovered something of their original modest elegance...”²⁷

The genealogy of House Stewart of Physgill, Lords of Physgill and Ballymoran cadet branch is as follows:



25 “Dictionary of Scottish Architects Building Design Report of Physgill House” Retrieved from the Dictionary of Scottish Architects 1660 – 1980 website at https://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/building_full.php?id=410074, (accessed 28 May 2023).

26 “Twentieth Century Great House (The)”, (2002), United Kingdom: Department for Continuing Education, Oxford University, p 126, Retrieved from Google Books Website at https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Twentieth_Century_Great_House/f5kwAQAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0, (accessed 21 May 2023).

27 Macleod, Innes F. (1986), “*Discovering Galloway*”, J Donald, p 109, Retrieved from Google Books at https://www.google.com/books/edition/Discovering_Galloway/jJ1nAAAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&bsq=physgill+house++20th+century&dq=physgill+house++20th+century&printsec=frontcover, (accessed 28 May 2023).

Listing Records

Gazetteer for Scotland, Scottish-Places Listing:

A late 17th-century three-storey [sic] country house in the southern Machars of Dumfries and Galloway, Physgill House overlooks Port Castle Bay on the Solway Firth, 2 miles southwest of Whithorn²⁸.

Canmore Listing:

Canmore ID: 63104, "Physgill House Policies; Physgill Auxiliary Hospital; Site type: Country House (18th Century), Hospital (first World War), Tower House (medieval)". The Archaeology Notes section on Canmore includes the following description, "Physgill is one of the principal buildings in Glasserton parish. In 1684 it must have been an early 17th century tower-like structure. Nothing of that building has survived, unless it is an abnormally thick wall embedded in the basement of the N face of the present house. In 1725, the castle and close of Physgill is mentioned in a lease, so it appears that at that time the tower stood within a walled enclosure. Architecturally, the date of the N wing of the present house dates to c.1780, the year when its owner died, so the building was not completed; the E frontage, dating to c. 1789, being of entirely different design."²⁹

Historic Environment Scotland ("HES") Listing:

On 20 July 1972, HES added Physgill as a category C-grade historic building with the Local and Planning Authority of Dumfries And Galloway, in the Parish of Glasserton. This is a category of historic purposes only, but because the structure(s) is/are not intact in original form, it further means that more alterations could be performed on it as a result. HES lists the estate as comprised of a the house, a walled garden, stables, and a Gardener's Cottage at the following coordinates: 242816, 536663. NGR NX 42816 36663.

Physgill House, LB10127

Much altered mid-18th century house. Formerly enclosed on 3 sides by large early 19th century classical country house, latter demolished circa 1959, leaving original house in isolation.

Rectangular-plan, 3-storey and basement house, 2-storey [sic] 1959 addition to W, 2-storey [sic] piend-roofed [sic] pavilion to E survives from early 19th century house. All single light windows, sash and case with 12-pane glazing.

S ELEVATION: painted rubble with rendered raised margins, 3-bays, gable over right bay.

N ELEVATION: 4 regular bays, rubble with polished red sandstone margins.

E ELEVATION: part of early 19th century house, rubble with polished red sandstone angles and margins. Originally 2-storey [sic] now cut down to single storey [sic]. Single light window

28 Gazetteer for Scotland, "*Physgill House*", Retrieved from and Used with permission from The Gazetteer for Scotland website at <https://www.scottish-places.info/features/featurefirst5059.html>, (accessed 26 February 2023).

29 Canmore Contributors, (2013), "*Physgill House*", Canmore, National Record of the Historic Environment, a part of Historic Environment Scotland, Retrieved from the Canmore website at <https://canmore.org.uk/site/63104/physgill-house>, (accessed 26 February 2023).

Maps:

National Library of Scotland

National Library of Scotland, *County Maps of Wigtownshire, 1600's to 1960's*, <https://maps.nls.uk/counties/wigtownshire.html>. For detailed listing, see Wigtownshire Map Reference as part of the Map Reference page, following this report.

The 1776 George Taylor map was not pulled due to significance placed on roads only and details such as estates do not appear. For all Ordnance Survey maps with date series, maps were not pulled for every year. Only one map was pulled for each series for the sole purpose of showing Physgill consistently marked on maps throughout all years. The Ordnance Survey map for 1898-1904 link (https://maps.nls.uk/os/2nd_ed_list.html.) is broken on the NLS website rendering the map to be unavailable for access. This map, therefore, is not included in the references.

Individual listings of the Wigtownshire map ("*County Maps of Wigtownshire, 1600's to 1960's*" from the National Library of Scotland website at <https://maps.nls.uk/counties/wigtownshire.html>) that include Physgill.

- 01 [Map: 1636-1652, Robert Gordon, Coast from Loch Ryan Nearly to the Head of Solway](#)
- 02 [Map: 1654, Joan Blaeu, Gallovidae Pars Occidentalior, Wigtownshire](#)
- 03 [Map: 1654, Joan Blaeu, Gallovidia, Galloway](#)
- 04 [Map: 1662, Joan Blaeu, Gallovidae Pars Occidentalior, Wigtownshire](#)
- 05 [Map: 1662, Joan Blaeu, Gallovidia, Galloway](#)
- 06 [Map: 1745, Herman Moll, West Part of Galloway](#)
- 07 [Map: 1747-55, William Roy, Military Survey of Scotland](#)
- 08 [Map: 1782, John Ainslie, County of Wigton](#)
- 09 [Map: 1820, John Ainslie, Environs of Glasgow, Paisley, Ayr, Lanark, Sanquhar, Wigton, Kirkcudbright, etc.](#)
- 10 [Map: 1821, John Ainslie, Environs of Glasgow, Paisley, Ayr, Lanark, Sanquhar, Wigton, Kirkcudbright, etc.](#)
- 11 [Map: 1821, John Ainslie, Southern Part of Scotland](#)
- 12 [Map: 1826, John Thompson, County of Wigtown \(or Shire of Galloway\)](#)
- 13 [Map: 1843-1847, OS 6" 1st Edition, Scotland](#)
- 14 [Map: 1856-1891, OS 1" 1st Edition, Scotland](#)
- 15 [Map: 1885-1900, OS 1" 2nd Edition, Scotland](#)
- 16 [Map: 1892-1907 OS 6" 2nd Edition, Scotland](#)
- 17 [Map: 1892-1907 OS 25" 2nd Edition, Scotland](#)

- 18 Ordnance Survey map for 1898-1904 link (https://maps.nls.uk/os/2nd_ed_list.html.) is broken on the NLS website rendering the map to be unavailable for access.
- 19 [Map: 1903-1912 OS 1" 3rd Edition, Scotland](#)
- 20 [Map: 1910 Bacon's New Survey Map of South Scotland](#)
- 21 [Map: 1912 J.G. Bartholomew Survey Atlas of Scotland](#)
- 22 [Map: 1921-1923 OS 1/4", Scotland](#)
- 23 [Map: 1921-1928, OS 1" Popular Edition, Scotland](#)
- 24 [Map: 1926-1935 J.G. Bartholomew & Sons 1/2" to the Mile, Scotland](#)
- 25 [Map: 1937-1961 OS 1:25,000, Great Britain](#)
- 26 [Map: 1940s-1960s OS 1:1,2500-1:10,560 National Grid Map of Great Britain](#)
- 27 [Map: 1945-1947 OS 1" Popular National Grid Map of Scotland](#)
- 28 [Map: 1952-1961 OS 1" 7th Series, Great Britain](#)

PastMap

Individual listings of maps from the PastMap website that include Physgill:

[Map: 1843-1882 1st Edition Six Inch to the Mile Topographic Survey of Scotland](#)

[Map: Getmapping High Resolution Aerial Ortho-Imagery](#)

[Map: 1900's Ordnance Survey Topographic Mapping](#)

The Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1791-1845

Individual listing of the County of Wigton map from The Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1791-1845 website that includes Physgill:

[Map: The Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1791-1845, County of Wigton](#)

Photos:

Image 1³² consists of an old photograph posted on the Dumfries and Galloway! Whats Going on? FaceBook Group page with a date listed as 1903.



PHYSGILL HOUSE, NEAR WHITHORN.

32 Dumfries and Galloway! Whats Going on? FaceBook Page Contributors, (2019), "*Old Pictures: From over 115 years ago a view of Physgill House nr Whithorn - 1903*", Retrieved from Dumfries and Galloway! Whats Going on? FaceBook website page website at <https://www.facebook.com/DGWGO/posts/d41d8cd9/2861237860615656/>, (accessed May 16, 2023).

The next 4 images are of old postcards being sold online. The first postcard is being sold on ebay with a date of 1904.³³



33 "Postcard-Port Patrick & Wigtownshire Railway Official 38. Physgill House, near Whithorn", Retrieved from ebay website at <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/352303358267>, (accessed 26 February 2023).

The next 2 postcards are from the Dumfries and Galloway people, places, and heritage Website. The accession Numbers are CO013089 and CO289731 respectively and the iBase ID's are 1848 and 6964, also respectively. No dates are available for this either postcards.³⁴



34 View Dumfries and Galloway people, places, and heritage Contributors, "*Postcard of Physgill House*", Retrieved from View Dumfries and Galloway people, places, and heritage website at www.viewdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk, (accessed 26 February 2023).

The last postcard is listed on the Worthpoint Website described as a Wigtownshire Whithorn Physgill House Large House From Driveway Printed Card by the publishers WR&S Reliable Series and that the postcard was postally [sic] used with the date 1917 and that it has been written on but that it is in good condition.³⁵



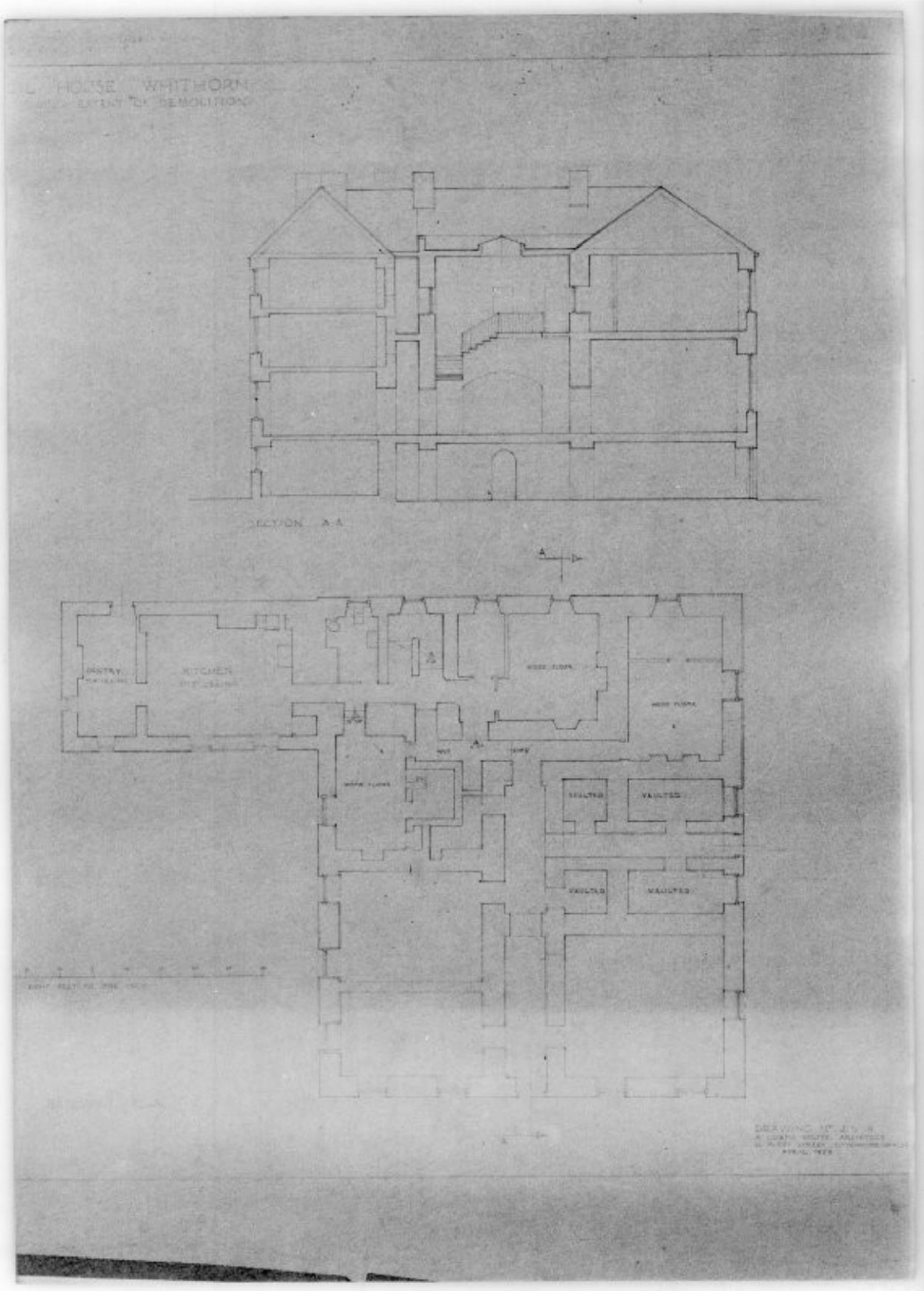
³⁵ Worthpoint, "Physgill House Whithorn", Retrieved from Worthpoint website at <https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/wigtownshire-whithorn-physgill-house-221630084>, (accessed 26 February 2023).

The following images are all from the Canmore Website and range from World War I to current time.³⁶

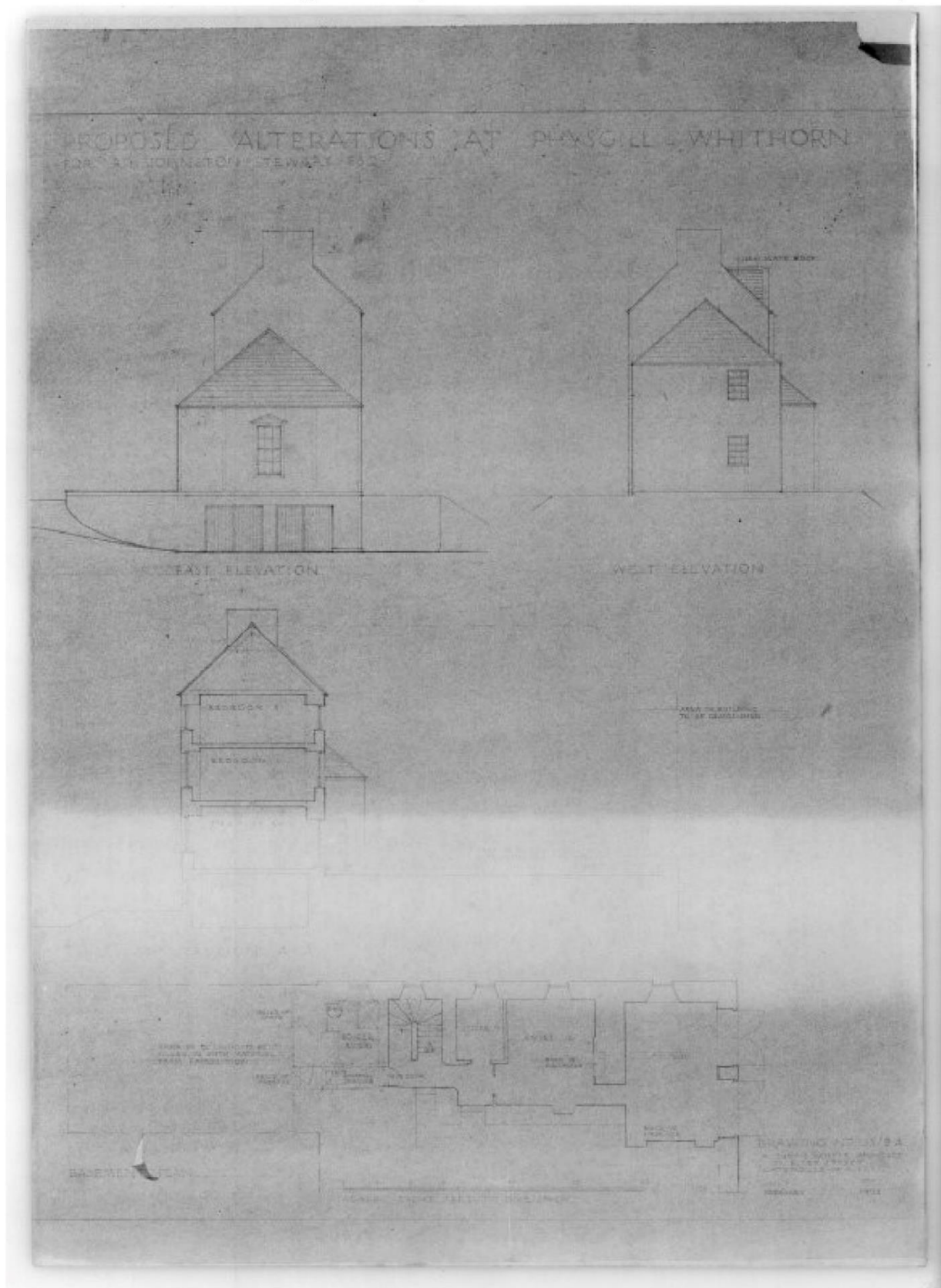
World War I Auxiliary Hospital, CAN1_48441

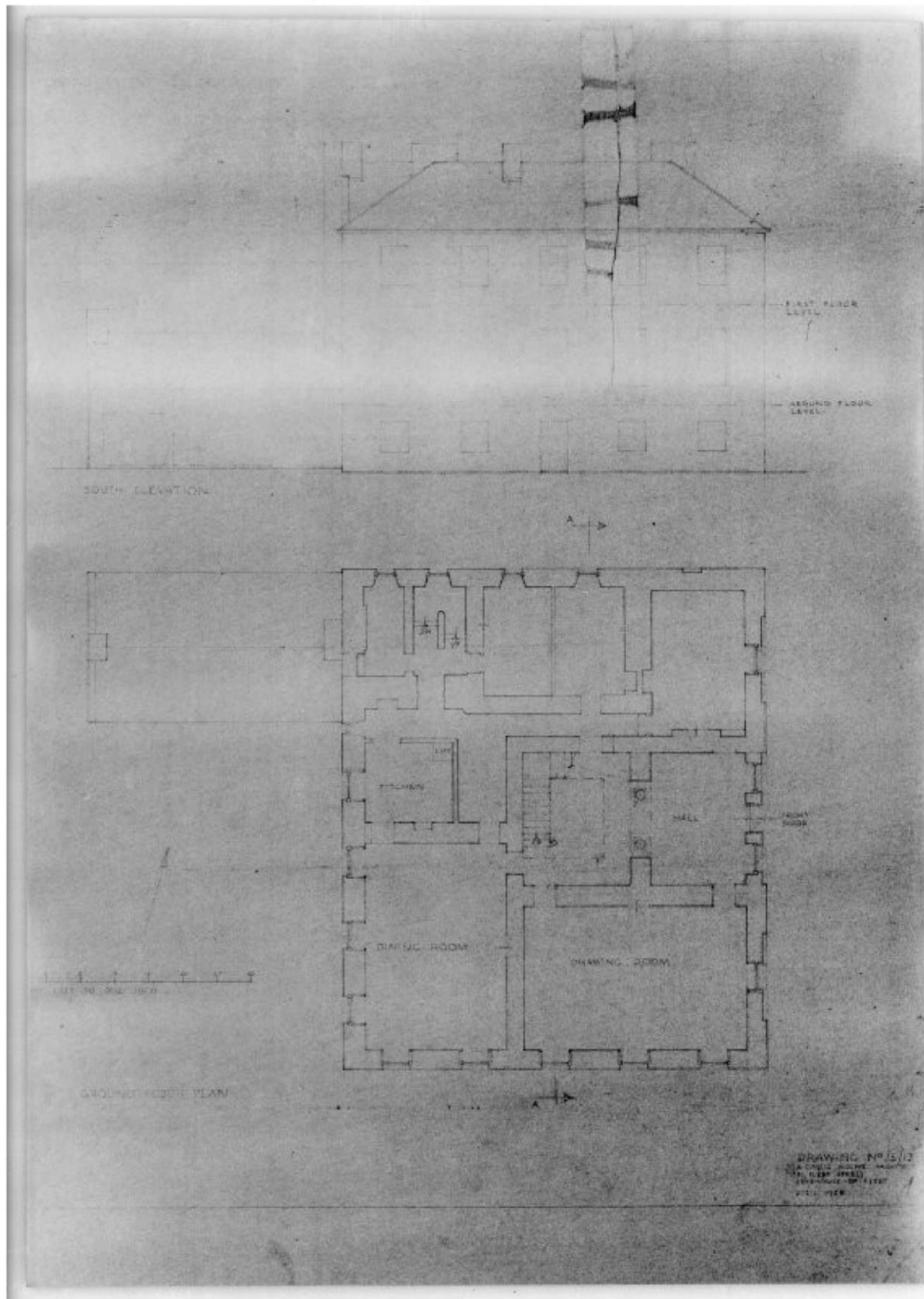


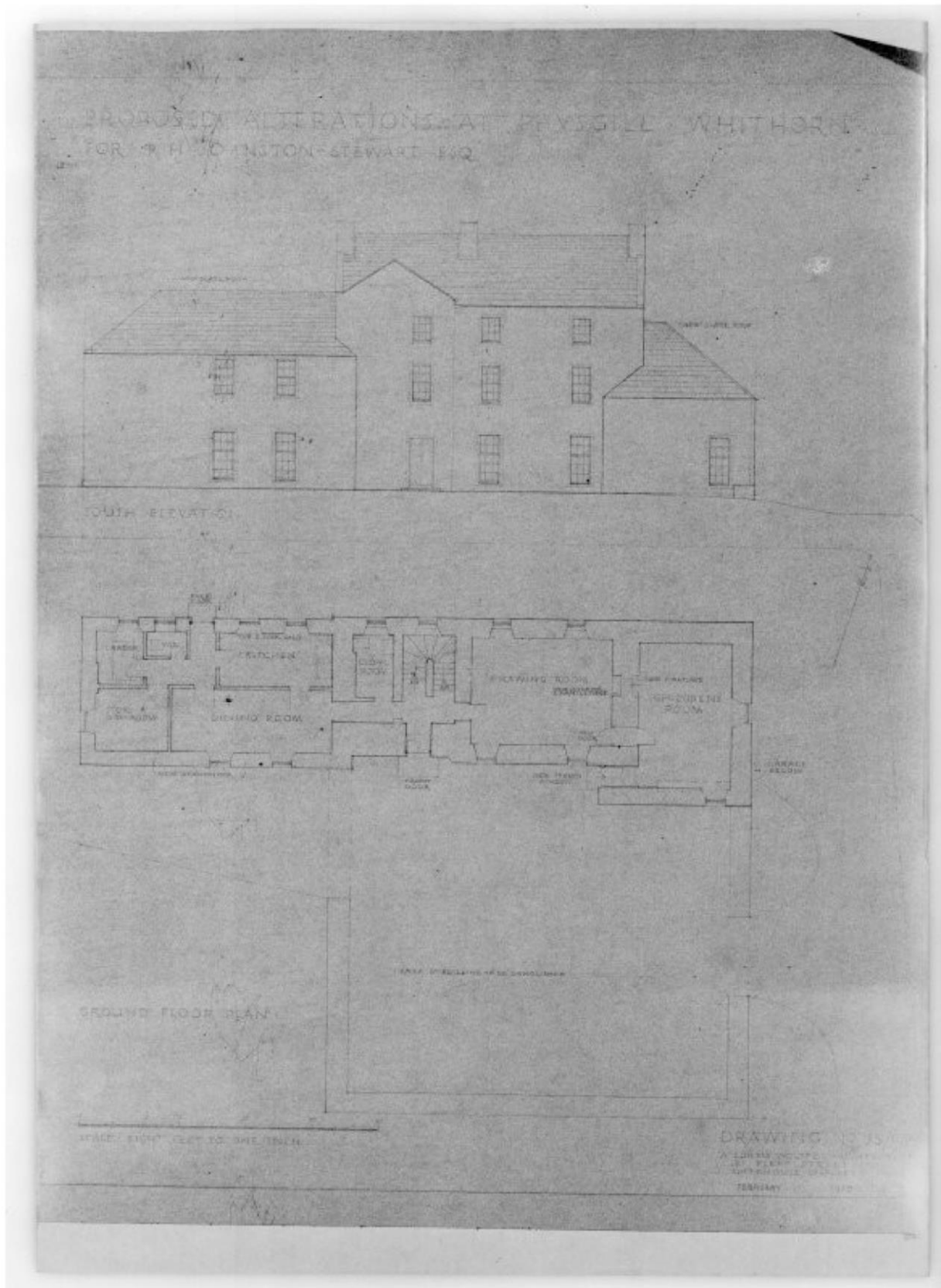
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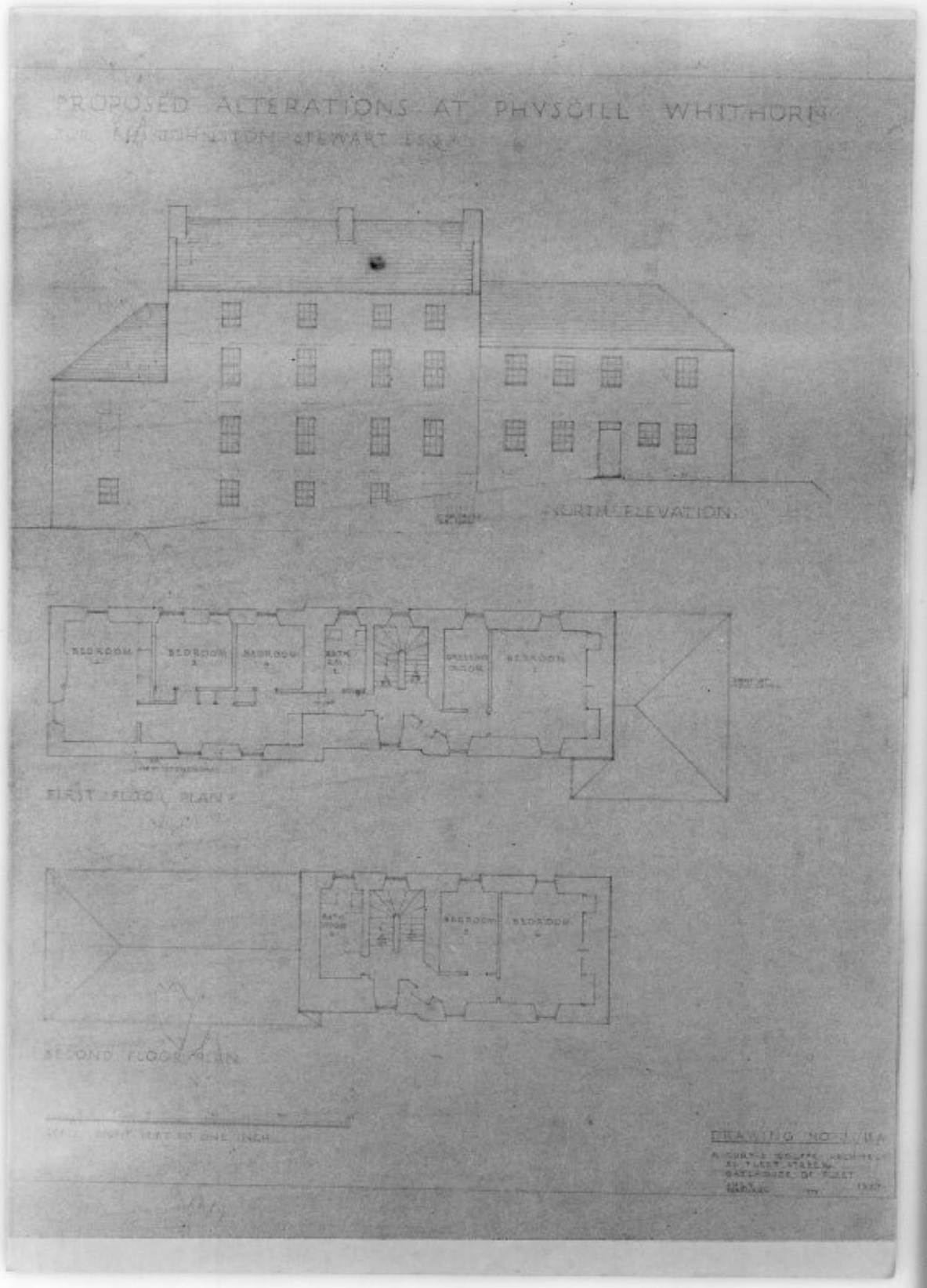


1958 Architectural Drawing of Antony Curtiss Wolfe of AC Wolfe and Partners, SC01574033









Photograph #1, CAN1_73841





There is a final image, but it is not included here as no permission was provided to use it. It is a photograph titled "Physgill House, Glasserton - Major Works During 2008 and 2012" and was taken on 04 April 2013 and uploaded to the Flickr website on 19 May 2013.³⁷

37 Mcshane, John (04 April 2013), "Old Pictures: From over 115 years ago a view of Physgill House nr Whithorn - 1903", flickr, Retrieved from Dumfries and Galloway! Whats Going on? FaceBook website page website at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/johnmcshanejoinery/>, (accessed 26 May 2023).

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Ravenstone Castle, Glasserton

by Lynn Bell



RAVENSTONE CASTLE CIRCA 1900

Ravenstone Castle

Ravenstone Castle, alias Castle Stewart, alias Remyston, alias Lochtown.

A note in advance, P H McKerlie, 'Lands and their owners in Galloway' is one of the more useful books when it comes to researching Galloway history. However it has its weaknesses and the McDowal family are one. A long running argument/feud still ongoing in 1878 based on the family name of the Lordship of Galloway, some authors give it as McCulloch, most as McDouall. As McKerlie is a branch of the McCulloch family he has a major down on the McDowells, most places he gives 3/4 pages to their history, Cruggleton castle has 100 pages. His comments on the McDouall's are not 100% accurate.

The earliest records are lost in time. From my understanding, the first habitation was an Iron Age Crannog on the White Loch. The naming of the site is slightly confusing, as McKerlie states its name



KINGDOM OF BERNICIA

Ravenstone/Remyston/Remistoun, is Norse for Ravens, or possibly the name of the Viking family who lived there, or the name of the Viking clan. Professor John McQueen, however attributes the name to the Anglo-Saxon occupation in the 7/8th century when Galloway was part of Bernicia. [See *appendix 1*]. As far as the early historians are concerned Andrew Symson mentions Ravenstone or

Remistoun as being a strong house belonging to Robert Stewart, 2nd brother of the Earl of Galloway. Agnew has a long dissertation on the MakDouall family of Galloway, [his spelling not mine] but does not go into much detail as to which branch of the family owns Ravenstone. Both Maxwell and McKerlie give very similar versions of the beginnings of Ravenstone, mainly on an Island on a loch, but are rather vague on detail. McKerlie gives a lot of information on the McDowal family, but very slanted towards their NOT being the descendants of the Lords of Galloway in favour of the McCulloch family being the true descendants. Basically the general view is

Gilbert McDouall the natural son of McDouall of Garthland was granted the properties of Ravenstone and Freuch by his father.

Phase 1

The first dateable record we have is 1445 when Gilbert McDouall, son of McDouall of Garthland, is recorded as 'of Remistoun and Freuch', but where was his castle?!!! Once more we are in a state of confusion. According to Herbert Maxwell the first residence of Gilbert McDouall was on a small island on Dowalton Loch.

McKerlie describes the place as a castle on an island in a loch. He goes on to say Pont gives the name of the loch as Boirlant. There are also passing references to Gilbert's first residence as being in a small settlement later known as Macher Stewart.

So we have six choices as possible sites for Gilbert's residence:-

- 1 Dowalton Loch crannog, [Loch called Boirlant by Blaeu],
- 2 Longcastle next to Dowalton loch,
- 3 White Loch crannog [loch called Remistown by Blaeu],
- 4 Ravenstone Castle,
- 5 the O.S. {6" 1851 map}, Fosse - site of Castle,
- 6 Macher Stewart.

An archaeological dig was carried out on the White Loch crannog in 1884 by the then owner and friends. They found a stone structure on top of a wooden one. [See *Appendix 2* Robert

Monroe's summation on White Loch crannog from Antiquary publication and maps].

I think we have two strong contenders for the early castle, the crannog and the fosse. Neither are dated and both could potentially be a 15th century tower house. I feel that the fosse site is more likely to be the old castle, as did the local people although they gave it the wrong name. As you can see from the map Castle

2266. At Edinburgh, 5 Feb. The KING confirmed to PATRICK MAK-CLELLANE of Gilstoun, and JONETE GORDOUN his spouse, 5 marks of land of Culnook, 3 marks. of Cowlkay and Drongandis, 4 marks. de Barladow, 3 marks. de Grennand, anciently extended, in the barony of Remistoun, vic. Wigtoun;- which the same Pat. resigned: - TENEND said Pat. and John and to the other of them living longer in conjoint infeudation, and to the heirs legitimately begotten among them, who are deficient, he reads. and the nearer heirs of the said Pat. whatever:-TEST. as in other charters &c. xxvii 143.

List of names as written	Various modes of spelling	Authorities for spelling	Situation	Description remarks
CASTLE STEWART	(in ruins) to be written in german text.	rev sam richardson. sam howard esq. mc kenzie's hist of galloway vol 1 p 2. ainslies map 1782.	008	an old square castle three stories high with the corners rounded . the walls a great portion of which are now standing are about 5 feet thick & built with shell lime.- it was the residence of the stewarts of castle stewart but now belongs to col stepford blair. of penninghame house.

Continued entries/extra info

This was a family residence in the seventeenth century at about the end of the that century a younger brother of the earl of galloway married the heiress of castle stewart. from whom it came into possession of the earls of galloway. and about 13 years ago it was purchased by james blair esq. of penninghame house.

O.S. NAME BOOK

Stewart was still standing and inhabited. This must be the predecessor whose owner was long forgotten.

Very few records of Gilbert McDouall exist, however the same can not be said of his offspring. I have found a record in the "Wigtownshire Charters" which relates to an earlier court case [which I can not find]. The substance seems to be that in the early 1530's Fergus McDouall son of Gilbert claimed to be heir to his father's lands of Ravenstone, and the jury agreed. The nub of the problem is that Patrick McClellane, brother and heir to Thomas McClellane of Gelstoun claims his brother had previously bought the Estate. Consequently Patrick was suing, all those who were involved. {see appendix 3} Also attached to appendix 3 is a rather confusing record, also from the Wigtownshire Charters. It would appear that in 1515, Thomas McClellan of Gelstoun had some sort of control over Ravenstone as he is asking Maxwell to remove his brother from there. I suppose it could be a wadset.

Phase 2 of construction

We are on much stronger ground here, as at some time in the 16th century the Barony was acquired by the McLellan/McClellan family. The earliest record of their occupation that I have found is the record in the "Great Seal of Scotland" attached to appendix 1, number 2266. I enclose an internet "translation".

The McClellan family reputedly built the L-Plan Tower House which is the nucleus of the present property. [See *appendix 4*]. Very little of note apparently happened during the occupation by the McClellan family. No Privy Council records, no church records, and nothing in local history books. Why did he build the new L-plan tower house when the property built by McDouall was still standing? At least we can assume it was still erect as it was described 300 years later as substantial remains. I have found the occasional mention of McDowall of Remiston after the acquisition by the McClellan family. Perhaps they retained the castle but not the title?!!!

Phase 3 of Construction

The Stewart occupation is a most confusing time. I can find no point in time when the castle changed hands from the McClellan family to the Stewarts first Josias Stewart, then about 50 years later Robert Stewart.

Josias Stewart was the next owner of Ravenstone. A very interesting person, I have gathered more information on him than on all the other occupants together. He was the second son of Andrew Stewart of Ochiltree and Margaret, daughter of Lord Methvin, born some time after 1560. His older brother Andrew inherited the title on the death of his grandfather, his father having died young. His mother had been Chief Lady in Waiting to Anne of Denmark. {*Appendix V*}

In 1601 Lord Bargany was murdered. Lady Bargany was Jean the younger sister of Josias. In 1602, Josais accompanied his sister Jean to visit the Queens doctor, but she died on the way home. Josias was her executor and was elected tutor to her son the new

Lord Bargany. Josias erected a marvellous tomb for her and her husband in Ballantrae {see appendix VI}.

Appendix VII is a collection of pages printed from the

Registrum Magni Sigill Regum Scotorum

With Google translations of the paperwork connected to either Josias or Ravenstone. I felt rather than write down all the records, a quick overview of the facts, with the records as a separate entity for anyone really interested in the fine details to read at their leisure.

A brief overview of the life of Josais Stewart:-

In December 1617 The lands of Ravenstone were granted to Marie Stewart, daughter of Josias elder brother, and her husband John Kennedy.

In January 1617 Lands of Ravenstone were granted to Josais. Later that year he grants the lands of Blairquhan and Ravenstone to his heirs on his death. [What happened to Bonynton and his brother in Blairquhan I have not found out.]

1619 At some point Margaret, only child of Josias married John Kennedy Laird of Bargany, In December of 1619 she flees Bargany to return to her fathers house. Josias presents evidence to the Privy Council of her husbands violence to her. [Brief account from Privy council records Series 2 vol XII]

The next few years are fairly quiet

According to a couple of texts I have read Josias was a great purchaser of land but I cannot find anything to confirm this!

1622 Jacob Inglis has a sasaine on lands of Ravenstone.

1623 Decreet by John Pringle among others Josias Stewart.

1623 Gilbert Neilson has a sasaine on the lands of Ravenstone.

1623 John Gilmour has a sasaine on the lands of Ravenstone.

1629 Janet Crosbie and her sisters have a sasaine on Ravenstone lands, as has John Inglis.

At this point Josias and his cousin James Kennedy of Blairquhan appeal to the Privy Council for protection [presumably from their creditors] to come to Edinburgh to sell some land to pay their debts {appendix VIII, I included a lot of the Privy Council records.}

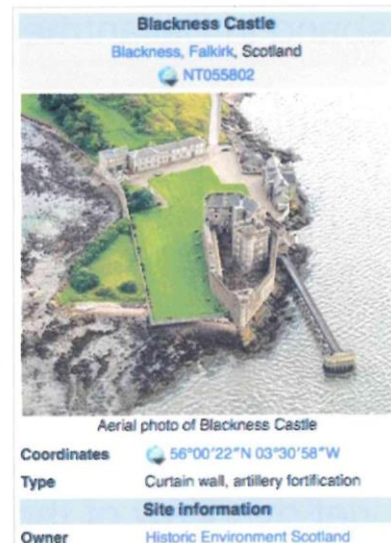
This pattern continues, every few months they are asking for protection. In 1632 he claims to have cleared his debt to the

Blackness Castle is a 15th-century fortress, near the village of [Blackness](#), Scotland, on the south shore of the [Firth of Forth](#).

It was built, probably on the site of an earlier fort,^[1] by [Sir George Crichton](#) in the 1440s. At this time, Blackness was the main port serving the [Royal Burgh of Linlithgow](#), one of the main residences of the Scottish monarch. The castle, together with the Crichton lands, passed to [James II of Scotland](#) in 1453, and the castle has been crown property ever since.^[2] It served as a state prison, holding such prisoners as [Cardinal Beaton](#) and the [6th Earl of Angus](#).^[3]

Strengthened by [Sir James Hamilton of Finnart](#) in the mid-16th century, the castle became one of the most advanced artillery fortifications of its time in Scotland. A century later, these defences were not enough to prevent Blackness falling to [Oliver Cromwell's](#) army in 1650. Some years after the siege, the castle was repaired, and again served as a prison and a minor garrison. In 1693, the spur protecting the gate was heightened, and the Stern Tower shortened as a base for three heavy guns. Barracks and officers' quarters were added in the 1870s, when the castle was used as an ammunition depot, until 1912. The castle was briefly reused by the army during [World War I](#). It is now a [Scheduled Ancient Monument](#), in the care of [Historic Environment Scotland](#).

Because of its site, jutting into the Forth, and its long, narrow shape, the castle has been characterised as "the ship that never sailed". The north and south towers are often named "stem" and "stern", with the central tower called the "main mast".^[4]



CASTLE BLACKNESS

Exchequer. This continues until Oct 1636 when the Depute Sheriff of Wigtown orders Josias Stewart and his supporters to present themselves to Castle Blackness on Pain of Treason.

1639 Josias has control of Ravenstone again, but not for long.

1643 Robert Inglis, son to John Inglis is served heir to the Barony of Ravenstone.

1652 John Fergusson is styled as of Lochtown/Ravenstone.

1654 John Kennedy and his son have sasaine of Ravenstone.

1655 Jean McDowall has sasaine of the rents of Dowallton and Ravenstone.

The last I can find on Josias is in 1639 when he regains control of Ravenstone.

Lands of Ravenstone:-

From what I can find, the early estate of Ravenstone comprised Killnog, Culkay, Grennans, Barlady [Barledzew] and Ravenstone.

When Josias Stewart assigned the estate to his heirs it comprised:-

Mill-town of Kirkiner [possibly Mildriggen mill], Skeich and Littlehills, Barony of Mertoun, Lochtown/Ravenstone, Drumrae, Grennan, Barledzew, Culcay et Drouganis, Culnog, Barmulling, Aries, Moure, Balcraig, Laroche, Barvennag and Drumnadie. [see



map appendix VIII]. Although Josias did little to the actual structure he did enhance the size of the estate.

Phase 4

Robert Stewart

He was the second son of the second Earl of Galloway, I have found no definite date for his acquisition of Ravenstone. The earliest mention of Robert in Ravenstone is 1679 when he is declared rebel by the Privy Council for harbouring 'Covenanters'. [According to McKerlie, Lord Queensbury interceded on his behalf. It could also possibly have helped that his mother was the daughter of Grierson of Lag].

It could be this Stewart, his brother William or William's descendants who next built onto the tower house. A small tower built in the return of the L to turn it into a square rather than an L-plan and a 2 bayed Georgian extension [see the pink area on appendix 4]. It is difficult to be sure who extended the original tower. Robert died fairly young in 1687 and in the approximate 10 years that he lived there he was very busy protecting Covenanters

and hiding from the Government troops. He was succeeded by his brother William who could also have built part or all of the extensions.

McKerlie states Robert had 8 daughters and 2 sons, James and William, and in the next paragraph says Robert died without a male heir so his brother inherited. From the research I have done, Robert had 3 or 4 daughters, with no church records surviving from this period I cannot confirm his offspring.

His brother William already had a large property outside Newton Stewart called Kilcruchie which he renamed Castle Stewart. Some books have him inheriting it from his wife, other say his father bought it with profits from his time as a mercenary for Gustavus Adolphus King of Sweden in the German wars, [Coincidentally the Parish of Kilcruchie was previously owned by some of the family of Josias Stewart]

Whatever the truth he inherited Ravenstone from his brother and changed the name of Ravenstone to Castle Stewart. This has caused some confusion as William's other property near Penningham is also called Castle Stewart, as are the lands in Ireland held by the brother and family of Josias Stewart [see appendix 8].

According to the Ordinance Survey Name Book there is a carving over the door, [see Appendix 8]

“Virescit Vulnare Virtus” and a ship.

The ship is, I think, a badly worn carving of a Pelican feeding her young in a nest. As this is the arms of the Earls of Galloway and Nigel Tranter says in his book ‘The Fortified House in Scotland, North and West Scotland’ that the Earl of Galloway crest is over the main entrance. As both Robert and William were sons of the Earl of Galloway it would be only natural that their crest would be over the new door. As the double bay is described as Georgian architecture which only began in 1714 it is unlikely they could be attributed to Robert, however he could have built the addition in the return of the L but I am doubtful.

Looking at the tax records, the earliest records in 1645 only show the Earl of Galloway returning the Land Tax for Glasserton, no mention of who paid what. In 1667, only Ravenstone is noted and not who lived there, but they Paid £246 4/-. The next tax in 1695



ARMS AND MOTTO OF STEWART OF GALLOWAY

again gives no names but Ravenstone [presumably the farm] paid for 1 hearth and a kiln. Castle Stewart paid tax on 15 hearths. Looking at the window tax record is fascinating.

1768-1770 Tax paid on 33 windows by John Stewart
 1770-1775 Tax paid by William Stewart
 1776-1782 Tax paid on 46 by William Stewart
 1782-1785 Empty
 1786-1787 tax paid on 60 windows by Robert Stewart.
 1788-1790 Tax paid by Commodore Keith Stewart
 1790-1795 Empty
 1796-1798 Tax paid on 10 windows by Robert Stewart

Retracing my step's Robert was followed by his brother William, who was followed by his son William in 1716, then grandson John in 1755, he died in 1769. McKerlie says John was followed by his

STEWART, William (1759-1797), of Castle Stewart, Wigtownshire

Published in *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1754-1790*, ed. L. Namier, J. Brooke, 1964
Available from [Ingham and Brewer](#)

PREVIOUS BIOGRAPHY

NEXT BIOGRAPHY

Constituency	Dates
WIGTOWN BURGHES	7 May 1770 - 1774
KIRKCUDBRIGHT STEWARTRY	1774 - 1780

Family and Education

b. 1737, 1st s. of John Stewart of Castle Stewart, M.P., and bro. of [Alexander Stewart](#).¹ educ. Glasgow Univ. 1749. m. 31 Mar. 1771, Euphemia, da. of [Kenneth Mackenzie](#), Lord Fortrose, gd.-da. of Alexander, 6th Earl of Galloway [S], 1 surv. s. 4da. suc. fa. 12 Jan. 1769.

Offices Held

Lt. 60 Ft. Feb. 1756, capt. May 1757; capt. 8 Drag. June 1764; ret. 1769.

Biography

Stewart belonged to a cadet branch of the Galloway family, owning estates in Wigtownshire and Kirkcudbright, extensive, but burdened with longstanding debts.¹ The family, although mainly dependent on their chief, were also connected with Argyll: he obtained for William Stewart a commission in the 60th Foot with which he served in the seven years' war.² Disappointed of a majority in 1768,³ Stewart, on succeeding to his encumbered estates, left the army, and in May 1770 was brought in by Lord Galloway for Wigtown Burghes. His marriage allied him still further with the Galloway family by whom his parliamentary vote was mainly directed. Normally an Administration supporter, he followed Keith Stewart in voting with Opposition on the naval captains' petition, 9 Feb. 1773; but voted with Government on the Middlesex election 26 Apr. 1773; and in September 1774 was counted 'hopeful' by Robinson.

At the general election the Galloway family sponsored the candidature of Henry Watkin Dashwood in the burghes, but gave their interest to Stewart in Kirkcudbright for which he was returned after a contest. In the new Parliament every known vote of his was given on the Government side. No speech of his is recorded. He did not stand again in 1780, his finances being desperate. Disappointed in his hopes of a lucrative post, he had to be content with a minor Custom House place.⁴ In 1783 he was obliged to sell his Wigtownshire estates and died 8 Oct. 1797.

Biography Detail

- [Constituency](#)
- [Family & Education](#)
- [Offices Held](#)
- [Biography](#)
- [End Notes](#)

Related Resources

- [1754-1790 Members](#)
- [1754-1790 Constituencies](#)
- [1754-1790 Parliaments](#)
- [1754-1790 Surveys](#)

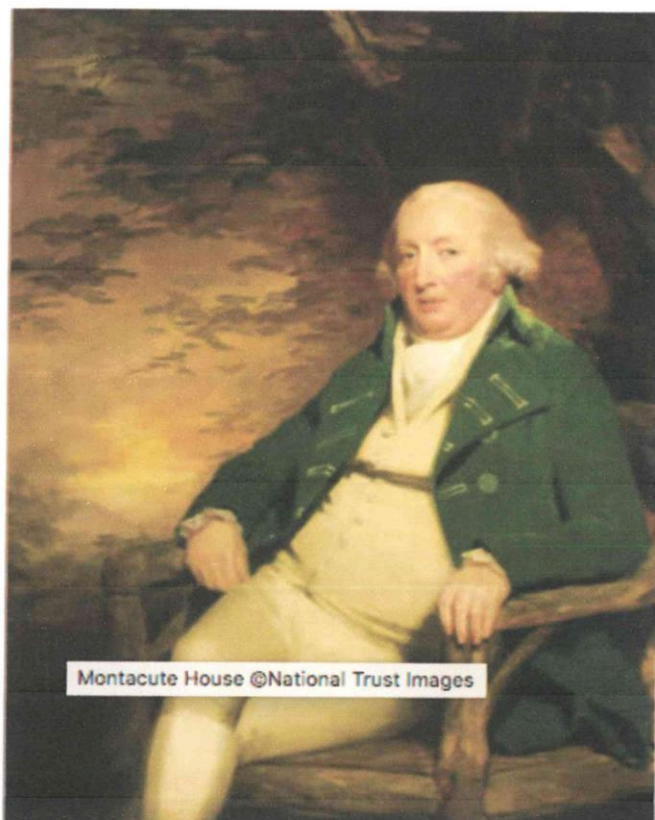
son William in 1759, but John did not die until 1769. Perhaps he was unable for some reason to run the estate.

Judging from the increase in the number of windows between 1775 and 1776 I would assume this is when the infill of the L-plan return was added. The empty period in 1782 to 85 could be when the Georgian extension was built by William, son of John Stewart MP for the constituency.

The Window tax paid by Commodore Keith Stewart 1788 to 1790 does not seem correct, also his record of paying the tax on male servants in 1789.

Several reasons this does not seem right:-

- 1 The Stewart of Galloway family sold the estate in 1785 to Robert Stewart of the Urrard family, who had no connection to them.
- 2 The only Keith Stewart I can find is the Vice Admiral Keith Stewart, brother to the Earl of Galloway and his son Commodore Keith Stewart, both of whom lived in Glasserton but not in Ravenstone.



SIR ROBERT STEWART OF CASTLE STEWART AND ST FORT

PHASE 5

Robert Stewart of the Urrarl Stewart family retired from the East India Company and bought Ravenstone about 1786 when he began to pay taxes due on Ravenstone, he also bought St Fort in Fife. He changed the name back to Ravenstone but appears to have done nothing else of note apart from reducing the number of windows taxable from 60 to 10, how I am not sure. I have been unable to find any blocked up windows, or a change in the regulations regarding the type of window

taxable. He also had his portrait painted by Sir Henry Raeburn. He was succeeded by his son in 1802 who sold the estate to John 6th Earl of Stair.

PHASE 6

It was probably the Earl of Stair who added the the first Victorian extension [single red line in appendix IV]. I have not been able to find who occupied the castle in the early years of ownership by Stair but by 1855 James Porteous and family were in the castle, prior to that they had been in Castle Stewart/Ravenstone Farm [see appendix 8]. According to McKerlie the property was eventually inherited by the Hon George Dalrymple of Stair. In 1874 the trustees sold it for £85,000 to Lord Borthwick.

PHASE 7

Occupation by Lord Borthwick and family.

Lord Borthwick did not enjoy his property for long he died in 1888 being succeeded by his wife



LADY BORTHWICK AND FAMILY OUTSIDE RAVENSTONE

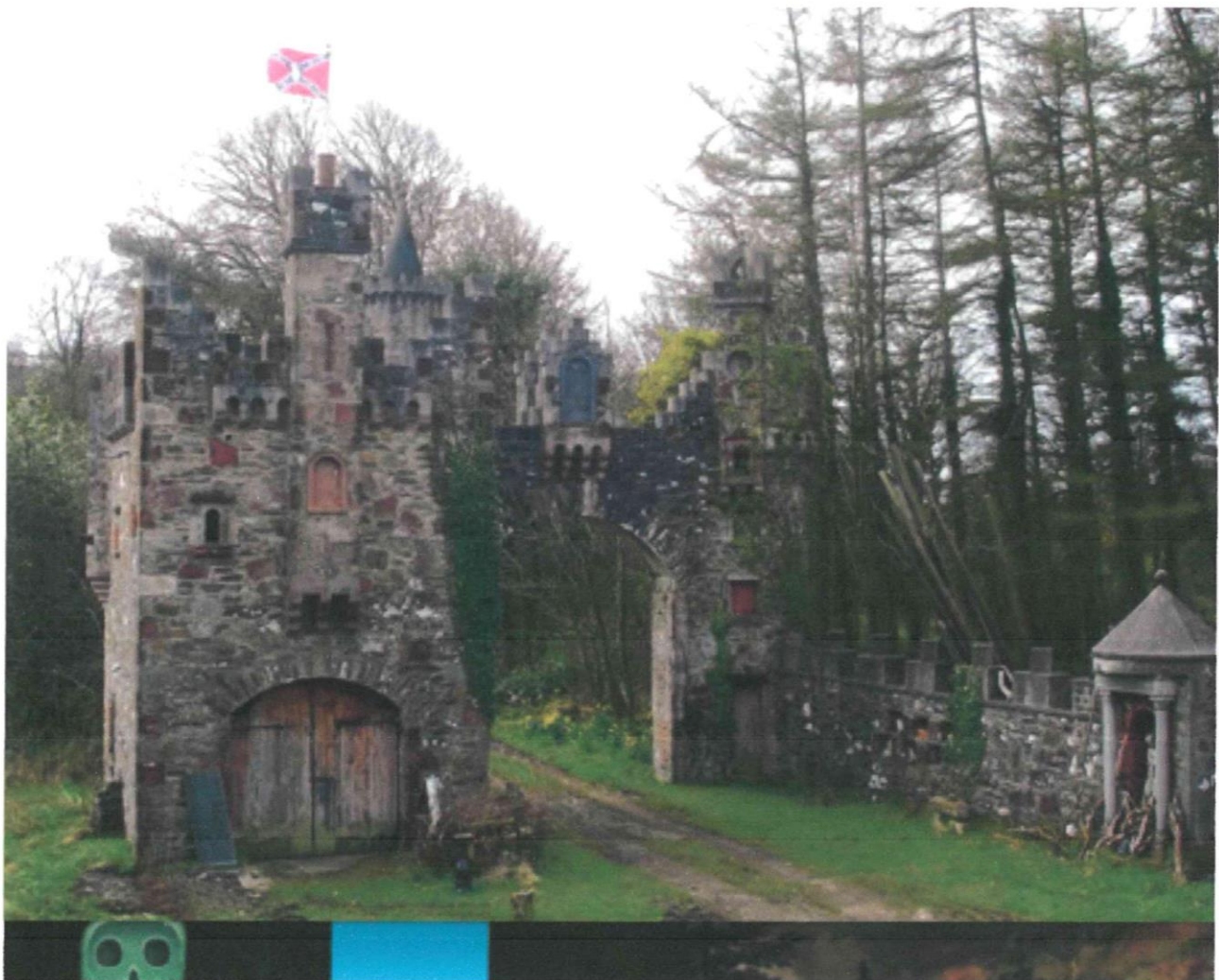
In appendix 8 I have included the 1891 valuation report.

Lord Cunningham Borthwick, as a peer of the realm, was heavily involved with the House of Lords. He still found time to investigate the crannog on the white loch [See appendix 2]. The period between the death of Lord Borthwick and the family leaving the castle was very uneventful, apart from his daughter Gabrielle being initiated into the order of the 'Golden Dawn'.

Gabrielle Margaret Ariana Borthwick was initiated into the Order of the Golden Dawn at its Isis-Urania temple in London, in July 1891. She chose the Latin motto 'Sine metu'. Although she worked only slowly at the required reading (for reasons I'll guess at below) she eventually passed the exams and was initiated into the GD's inner order, the 2nd Order, on 8 July 1897. As a member of the 2nd Order she will have been able to begin doing practical magic; but she wasn't able to be as active as she might have liked as she lived abroad for most of the year at this time.

UPDATE MAY 2017

In the 1916 valuation Lady Borthwick was still in residence but by the 1919 valuation the property had a tenant and by 1924 the property was unoccupied [relevant valuations attached appendix 8] The castle remained unoccupied until WWII when troops waiting



GATE-HOUSE AT RAVENSTONE.

for embarkation orders were billeted in it. The story goes that the soldiers shot up the castle and left it in an almost ruinous state [See appendix 8] the castle was bought by a demolition company shortly after and the roof removed before 1949. [See appendix 8]

LATEST PHASE

The Castle was threatened with demolition by the forestry commission in 1978. [see appendix 8, 'buildings at risk']. In 1980 it was bought by Mr Renwick. He began to renovate the castle starting with the original Tower-house. He also took apart some of the Victorian wing for materials to construct a fancy gate-house. Dedicated to the memory of Princess Diana. He also wrote A humorous book "Scotland Bloody Scotland" According to the 'buildings at risk' register Renwick put the castle up for sale again in May 1999 although he has kept the title of Baron Ravenstone.

The current occupants of the Castle, Mr and Mrs Atterton are continuing to restore the building. Mr Atterton, who was a monumental sculptor, has reinstated some of the massive stone fireplaces and decoration on the ceiling or caissons.

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Scotlands Places Tax records 1851 OS name books, Hearth tax.

National Library of Scotland Old maps, Estate maps.

National Archive of Scotland any archived records, list of property and land transactions relating to Ravenstone in appendix.

Privy Council Records Series 1 2, & 3 any referring to Ravenstone in appendix

Heraldry of the Stewarts

McDowall Family genealogy.

Agnew:- Hereditary Sheriffs of Galloway

McKerlie:- Lands and their owners in Galloway

Symson's:- Large description of Galloway

Parish List 1684

Wigtownshire Charters.

Charter Chest of the Earldom of Wigtown.

First and Second Statistical accounts

Statement of Special Interest.

John MacQueen:- Place-names of the Wigtownshire Moors and Machars

Newspaper Archive

Registrum Magni Sigilli Regum Scotorum.

Canmore.

Scran.

Scots Peerage founded on Wood.

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On-line Latin Dictionary.

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South-west Crannog Survey. Transactions of Antiquarian .

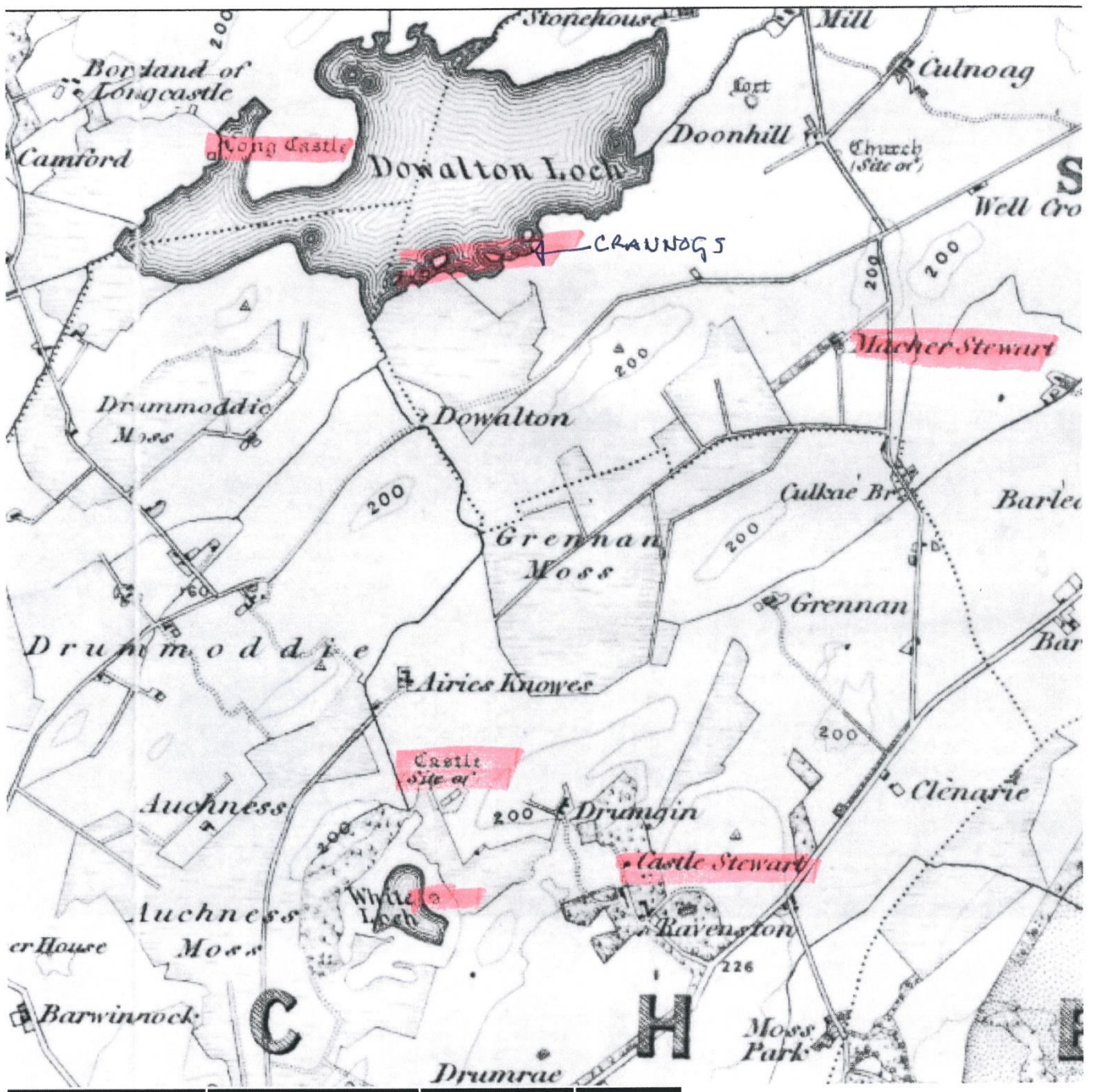
History of the Kennedies.

APPENDIX FOR RAVENSTONE CASTLE¹⁵

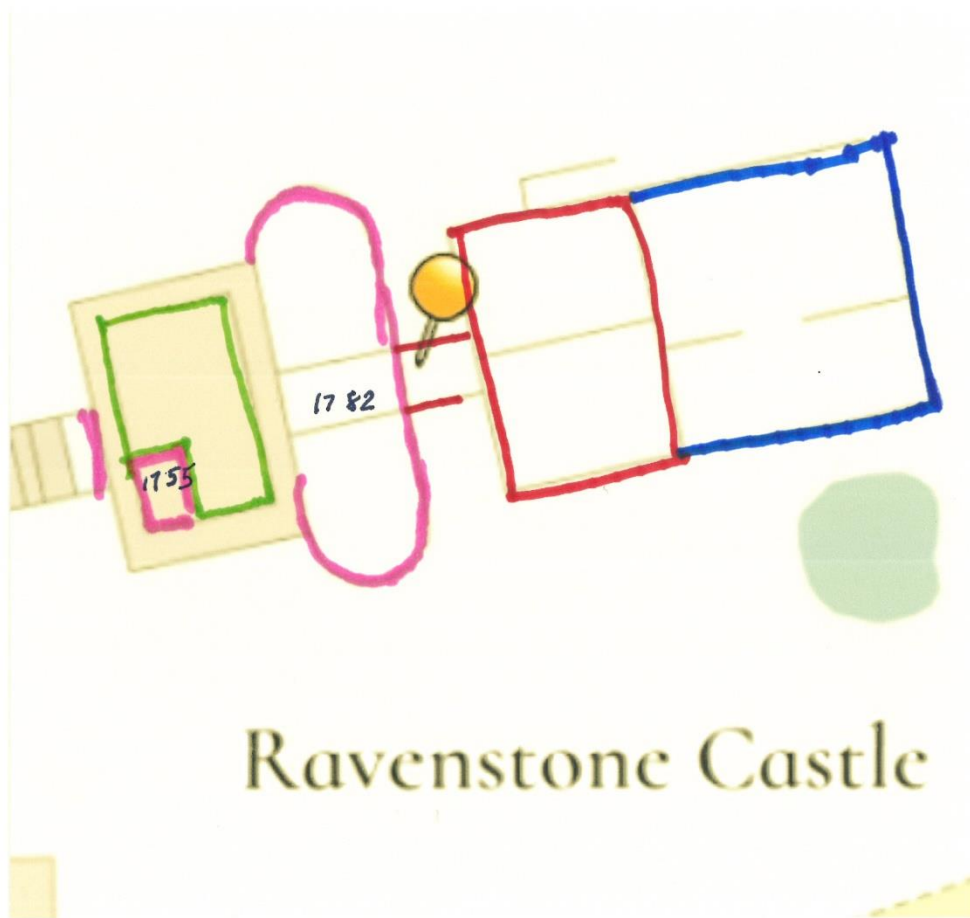
- 1 Professor John McQueen's interpretation of the meaning of the name Ravenstone.
2. Summary of White Loch excavation by Robert Monroe.
3. Wigtown Charters, the fight between the McDowall's and the McClellan's over the ownership of Ravenstone.
4. Plan of Ravenstone Castle.
5. Ancestry of Robert Stewart of Blairwhan and a photograph of the Tomb of the Bargany's built by Josais.
- 6 An account of the murder of Lord Bargany and the death of his wife.
7. Records from Great Seal of Scotland and the Privy Council relating to Josais Stewart of Blairwhan/Bonington/Ravenstone.
8.
 - A Map - The lands of Ravenstone according to "The Great Seal of Scotland" in 1617.
 - B The Irish Connection.
 - C Robert and William of Galloway.
 - D. Valuations of Ravenstone 1892 - 1924.
 - E Robert Stewart of Urral.
 - F Lord Borthwick.
 - G. War and purchase of Castle.
 - H. Adverts for the sale of the castle over the years.
 - I Purchase by Mr Renwick.
 - J Estate plan drawn up 1780.
 - K Canmore and Dumfries and Galloway archaeology department reports.
 - L. Buildings at risk report.
 - M Photos from this century.

¹⁵ A selection has been included within this document but the full report, with appendix attached, will be submitted to the Dumfries & Galloway Heritage Service

Map of Possible sites of St Donall Tower House



APPENDIX 4.



- McClellan Tower House (1560)
- GEORGIAN ADDITIONS BUILT BY STEWART FAMILIES
Probably in 2 Periods 1775/6 + 1782/5
- VICTORIAN WING PROBABLY BUILT BY EARL OF STAIR
1802/1874
- LATER PART OF VICTORIAN EXTENSION PROBABLY BUILT
By LORD BORTHWICK Some time after 1874.

Pont/Blau's Map of Wigtonshire 1662

Places marked in **Blue** are the lands granted To Jacob Engles
those in **Pink** are other properties mentioned as being
part of the Ravenstone lands.





Ravenstone Castle Wigtown

Ravenstone as it appeared around 1904

Situated in the Machars, Ravenstone is late 16th century L-plan tower house extended in the 17th, again in 18th with a full height, double bowed front and finally with large Victorian wing.



During the war Ravenstone was occupied by the army who left it in a poor state. Indeed this was so bad that it was unroofed in the 1950s and left derelict.

In the 1990s some work was done but the building remained a shell until taken over by the present owners. The latter have embarked upon an extensive and sympathetic restoration of the old tower house which is now, once more, roofed and floored.

Ravenstone provides an excellent example of a ruin brought back into use as a home.

APPENDIX 8
9

MR RENWICK OWES £1

title

A CAITHNESS headmaster, who owns Ravenstone Castle in Galloway, has claimed the title of the Baron of Ravenstone. Lord Lyon, King of Arms has given permission for the title to be revived.

Mr Frank Renwick, who spent 10 years in Shetland and is now headmaster at Lybster School, intends to carry out major renovations at the castle which has been lying dormant since the beginning of the century.

Mr Renwick intends to move into the castle at Wigtown, but he said yesterday there was a great deal of work to be done on the structure, which has been reduced to a virtual shell.

Married with one child, Mr Renwick has written a Shetland novel, entitled "Noost".

Ravenstone for
a short period

1981 -

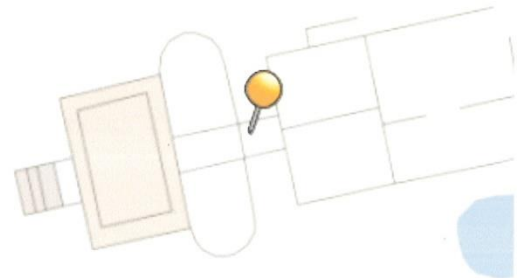
1994 - 1999



On the gatehouse there's a coat of arms, a latin (I assume) inscription "Lat-Be-For-Lat-Be" and a very interesting inscribed square, 'B.off'

APPENDIX
8 L

Ravenstone Castle, Glasserton



Ravenstone Castle



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General Details and Location

Category RESTORATION IN PROGRESS

Name of Building Ravenstone Castle

Other Name(s) Castle Stewart

Address Glasserton

Locality

Postcode DG8 8DS

Planning Authority Dumfries and Galloway

Divisional Area Wigtown

Reference No 1104

Listing Category A

OS Grid Ref NX 40920 44181

Location Type Rural

HS Reference No 10133

Description

Category of Risk and Development History

Condition Fair

Category of Risk Low

Exemptions to State of Risk Victorian section to the rear is still ruinous.

Field Visits September 1992, 27/08/2008, 27/07/2011, 12/3/2014

Development History

October 1978: The Forestry Commission seeks permission to demolish the house, which is now ruinous and without its roof or floors, though it remains essentially intact to the wallhead. SCT objects and advances consolidation as a ruin instead. 1981: The house is sold to a private individual. November 1994: SCT understands that the owner resides in the towerhouse section. Local planners report that some stabilisation and restoration works have been undertaken without Listed Building Consent. The owner discourages visitors to the site. 6 May 1999: The Scotsman reports that the house is once more for sale. The walls have been repointed and capped, ready for the reinstatement of floors and roofs. September 2000: SCT receives reports that the house has been sold. January 2002: Local planners report that a new roof is to be constructed later this year and confirm the change in ownership.

August 2008: External inspection reveals that the front section (3 bays to front, 2 to side, 3 storey and basement) are partly restored. The roof has been rebuilt and new sash windows and a door installed. Work is ongoing on the interior. The rear half of the building remains ruinous.

July 2011: External inspection, and discussion with the owner, finds the exterior to be largely unchanged while restoration of the interior continues on a room by room basis.

12 March 2014: External inspection finds the restoration work ongoing.

Guides to Development

Conservation Area

Planning Authority Contact Robert Duncan

PAC Telephone Number 01387 260199

Availability

Current Availability Not Available

Appointed Agents

Price

Occupancy Part

Occupancy Type Owner

Present/Formal Uses Building Uses Information:

Present Use 1: N/A Former Use 1: Residential

Present Use 2: N/A Former Use 2: N/A

Name of Owners

Type of Ownership Private

Information Services

08/04/2023, 19:08



APPENDIX 8 11.

This Small World of Mine "deals with one of the few parts of Great Britain, lying outside of the ordinary tourist tracks, which still retain much of the character and traditions of the past age, and described everyday life in one of those queer old castles of which so few are now inhabited, and the like of which, once they have fallen into ruins, will never be seen again". Ravenstone Castle near Whithorn in Galloway is now a ruin, but there is a Bed and Breakfast of the same name in Harvard, Illinois in which "Sir Peter the Cat reigns supreme".



Ravenstone Today <2020



Aerial view of Ravenshoe
Early 21st century

Dildawn House, Kelton

by Lyn Walby

Dildawn is a fine-looking house and estate, seen across the River Dee from the A75, on the edge of the village of Rhonehouse, Castle Douglas. Its walled garden is a listed feature.



Dildawn across the fields from the A75



Current owner's requirement

The current owner, who inherited Dildawn from his grandfather, wishes the property to be a very private family home, and has several signs indicating this. He was reluctant to be involved in any research as he didn't want people coming on his property – on the land there are nesting birds and livestock, and he spoke of people in the past letting their dogs run off the lead on his fields.



Dildawn modern house



Front door handles –
as close as the author got to the interior

The estate has the main house, Dildawn, and several of the outbuildings have been converted as Orchard House, Coach House and Garden Cottage. In recent times (2004) these properties have been available as self-catering accommodation with 10 bedrooms, sleeping 18-20. The website seems to suggest that this is still available (2023) but that is clearly not the case. There seem to have been some sales, or rentals.



Two images of Dildawn House from early postcards
(*Old Postcard views in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright -Parish of Kelton*)

A substantial reference to the history of Dildawn's ownership is to be found in *Parish of Kelton – History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway* by P.H. McKerlie, which was published in 5 volumes in 1878

The land of Dildawn ... appears to have formed a portion of the old Kelton barony. The name may be derived from the Gaelic dail, or Norse dalr or dale, and the Gaelic dun or duin, a fort, etc.

The earliest reference to Dildawn is from the 16th century when the **Maxwells** were in possession. On 17 March 1635 **John, Viscount Kenmure** *had retour* (legal term for mortgage/rental?).

Mary, Countess of Buccleuch *had retour* in 1653, and her sister, **Anne** in 1661.

In 1665, **Margaret Gordon**, *had sasine* (another legal term referring to conferring of possession of feudal property) *in liferent of the four merk land of Dildowand*.

In 1667 **Margaret Browne** *had sasine of the lands of Dilldawand*.

In December 1668 **Alexander** son of **Thomas Hutton**, *styled younger of Dildawn.... had sasine of Dildawn*.

Whoever the Huttons were, they did not hold the land long. The superiority appears to have been retained by the Nithsdale family who had retour in 1670 and 1696.

In 1698, **John, son of Alexander, Viscount Kenmure** *had retour*.

In 1672, **Alexander M'Ghie** of Balmaghie, *had principal sasine*. This, however, may have only been a wadset (mortgage or pledge), as in 1702 **Alexander Gordon** ... *conveyed Dildawn to William M'Ghie of Balmaghie*.

In 1729, *the son of Balmaghie sold Dildawn to Robert Muir*

In 1749 Robert Muir sold the land to **William Muir**, late schoolmaster in Borgue.

In 1770 he again sold the land to **Alexander Carson** who in 1789 *parted with them to William Sturgeon*.

In 1801 William Sturgeon conveyed, *by disposition and settlement, the property to his eldest son, Robert Sturgeon*.

In 1808, *by trust disposition, Robert Sturgeon conveyed Dildawn to James Hannay ...and James Barbour ... as trustees for his creditors*.

In 1811 *they sold Dildawn to Captain Archibald M'Dougall who built the present residence*.

When Archibald M'Dougall died (1823 or 1824), *by deed or settlement [he] conveyed Dildawn to Mrs Frances M'Dougall and Alexander Forsyth, George M'Dougall and James Adam, writers in Edinburgh, as his trustees*.

In 1843, *they sold the property to James Cowan LL.D. ... He died ... in 1870 ... and in 1872 Anna Cowan died at Dildawn*.

The present owners are John Cowan and Janet Cowan.

In the *OS Name Books 1848-1851* there is a reference to Dildawn Pool, in which “the fish are the property of the proprietor of Dildawn Estate.” Another referring to the Island, “planted with oak, ash and fir, that belonging to the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge”.

In *A Topographical Dictionary of Scotland* by Samuel Lewis, 1846, he makes reference to the “handsome mansion” of *Daldawn, ... built by Captain McDougall*.

In *Maxwell's Guide book to the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, 1878*, there is a reference to “the mansion-house of Dildawn, the residence of John Cowan, Esq.”

Dildawn is described in the Historic Environment Scotland account of it as a listed building, with much technical detail:

“Dated 1813 on rainwater head; probably incorporating 18th century house in NE.

(Kitchen) wing, with additions and alterations of 1852 by John Dobson, architect, 2-storey and basement.

Rubble walling with 4-bay main elevation with central bays shallow advanced; mid 19th century projecting single-storey porch with pilasters at angles, projecting Roman Doric porch to centre with balustrading.

All windows single light sashes mostly with 12-pane glazing pattern; some ground floor windows with lower sash of plate glass. Moulded eaves cornice, blocking course raised over centre bay.

Garden front with central projecting 3-window bow. Single storey projecting bay (later 19th century) to left with tripartite window. All other windows single light, glazing as above.

To SW flank, full-height canted bay window (1852) with cornice and blocking course.

2-storey L-plan wing to NE now containing kitchens, but possibly part of earlier house.

INTERIOR: good later 19th century glazed vestibule door. Mainly earlier-mid 19th century plasterwork and door cases. One good late 19th century chimneypiece.

Coped rubble wall surrounds rectangular garden. Pair of round-arched gateways with decorative corbelled castellated parapet above.”

The architect of Dildawn is an interesting man, **John Dobson**.



John Dobson (1787 – 1865) was a 19th-century English neoclassical architect. During his life, he was the most noted architect in Northern England. He designed more than 50 churches and 100 private houses, but he is best known for designing Newcastle Railway Station and for his work with Richard Grainger, developing the centre of Newcastle in a neoclassical style.

His country houses are too little known, mainly because they are not so large that they are open to the public, and are often still in private hands, hidden away behind parkland and trees. The outstanding characteristics of his houses are his use of beautiful golden sandstone, and Corinthian or Ionic pillared entrance porticos.

Inside there are elegant staircases with beautiful ironwork balustrades leading to an upper gallery ... and the hall's having a domed ceiling and glass centrepiece.

(Wikipedia article)

Lochbank, Kelton

by George Currie

Situated one mile from Castle Douglas town centre lies Lochbank House in its own extensive grounds on the west bank of Carlingwark Loch.

Built in 1784 for a Mr Hannay, on land acquired from William Douglas, who took residence there one year later. There have been several occupiers and alterations made over the many years of this beautiful family home.



Description:

It is a two storey, attic and cellar house with a decorative regency porch. Originally a three bay, with a two-storey service wing and a two-storey drawing room added. It has a stair tower and a water tower with out-buildings to the rear. There is a hand operated water pump which is still in place in the centre of the house. Water was raised from the well below the house to a tank in the purpose-built tower within the house. The outside walls were of painted harl with painted ashlar dressings and quoin strips with a base course and eaves course, with the loch on one side the property and a fine curving high wall on the other.

Principal (SE) Elevation:

Slightly advanced centre bay to a 3-bay 18th-century house. Early 19th-century segmental bowed porch to centre with flagstoned segmental plinth, stone steps, plain iron railings and latticed iron pilasters and pelmet, swept lead roof. Tripartite doorway within, dividing colonettes, panelled aprons to sidelights, panelled door, sunburst fanlight with metope and triglyph surround. Single window above and later stone mullioned bipartite flanking. Drawing room extension slightly recessed to outer left with projecting 4-light corniced window and two single windows above. Recessed service wing to outer right with 2-bay windowed gable breaking eaves.

Rear (NW) Elevation:

Pined-roof elevation stair tower to original centre with lean-to addition in re-entrant formed with pined-roof former water tower, projecting service gable and further ancillary range to North. Timber sash and case windows predominantly with 4-pane glazing patterns (with horns, many good quality replacements). Broad coped stone wallhead stack to original SW side elevation; more slender stacks to gablehead of later additions. Graded grey slates, Lancashire to rear. Piended roof to original house, gabled to 19th-century additions. Cast-iron guttering with some funnel water hoppers.

Interior:

Excellent decorative detailing to interior, much 19th century. Plan single pile with corridor to rear to both floors. Suggestion that focus of house has been turned around to face loch, stair tower introduced and presumably plan form changed to accommodate, causing much decorative work to date to 19th-century alterations. Fine plasterwork to cornicing, shouldered, decorative archways and ceiling rose. Notable chimneypieces including one from Lion's Club, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, 1800s, and further 'Adam' and classical timber and marble chimneypieces throughout, one with table depicting stone masons at work. Carved timber stair. Round archways into corridor off 1st floor landing. Fine run of linen cupboards at 1st floor. Panelled shutters. Cellarage.

Boundary Walls, Gatepiers:

Long run of curling harl pointed rubble whinstone walls, sandstone coped, lining roadside to North, dating to late 18th century or early 19th century with some later minor realignment, running from North East of house to South West continuing around former lodge Littlebank (now a private home) and along road toward Threave Gardens bordering Gallows Slot (noted below) and the shore of the loch to North. Fine pair of sandstone gatepiers, corniced with ball finials to head of drive (re-sited). Other plain sandstone piers and pedestrian vehicular gateways.

The house has had two major transformations in its lifetime, the first by James and Jane Lidderdale the second owners, who turned the house around so the front door would now face the loch; a drawing room with fine cornices was added, kitchens and outhouses were extended and a water pump installed.

The second major change took place in the 1960's by Colonel and Ruby Smith. Many of the features are still present today including the Regency porch. Ruby also brought fireplaces from her old home in Ayrshire, one in the style of William Kent which is in the drawing room, a very interesting marble one in the hall which shows stone masons at work. This fireplace originally came from the Lions Club in Glasgow. The Smiths also converted the stables/lodge at this time into a house in its own right, now known as Littlebank.

It was not unusual for servants to be employed here sometimes staying in the house. Cooks, cleaners and gardeners were required to look after this sizeable property. A chaffeur/gardener was working here in the 1950s to drive and look after the newly acquired automobile. Previously horse and cart had been used. The chaffeur/gardener was a Mr David McVittie whose family still live in Castle Douglas.

Lochbank at one time owned cottages known as the Buchan but were all sold privately.

Lochbank was used by the army during WW2 as a command post for troops stationed in Castle Douglas. The Raid on St Nazaire was planned and executed from here. The attack was later made into a full-length feature film.

The Gallows Slot, marked on maps adjacent to Lochbank was thought to be where victims of feudal tyranny were tortured and executed but there are various opinions to this story, also the bodies of executed (hanged) prisoners were allegedly disposed of here. A pit containing bodies may have been found here in 1800 (Sourced from the book Y Tref by Alistair Livingston).

Listed by Historic Environment Scotland:

Lochbank with Gatepiers and Boundary Walls

Cat B Listed Building – Listed May 2005

Building Class – Cultural

Source ID: 39800550

Historic Scotland Designation Reference: LB

Parish – Kelton

Town – Castle Douglas

County – Kirkcudbrightshire

Canmore ID: 64659 Site No: NX76SE

Owners and Occupiers:

Mr and Mrs Hannay	1784 - 1820
Mr and Mrs Lidderdale	1820 - 1905 Writer, Bank Agent and partner in local Solicitors
Mr and Mrs Skirving	1905 - 1935
Miss McKenzie	1936 - ????
Colonel and Mrs Smith	???? - 1962
Mr J Miller	1962 - 1989
Dr and Mrs Wilkinson	1989 - 2006 Local GP
Ter Spitte	2006 - 2011
Mr and R Mrs Andrews	2011 -

Sources:

Historic Environment Scotland

Mr R Andrews

Mr D McVittie

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