

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 5: PARTON TO PORTPATRICK



With contributions from:

Kathryn Barr, Bianca Leder, Gabrielle Reynolds and Lisa Wilkinson

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GALLOWAY GLENS
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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.

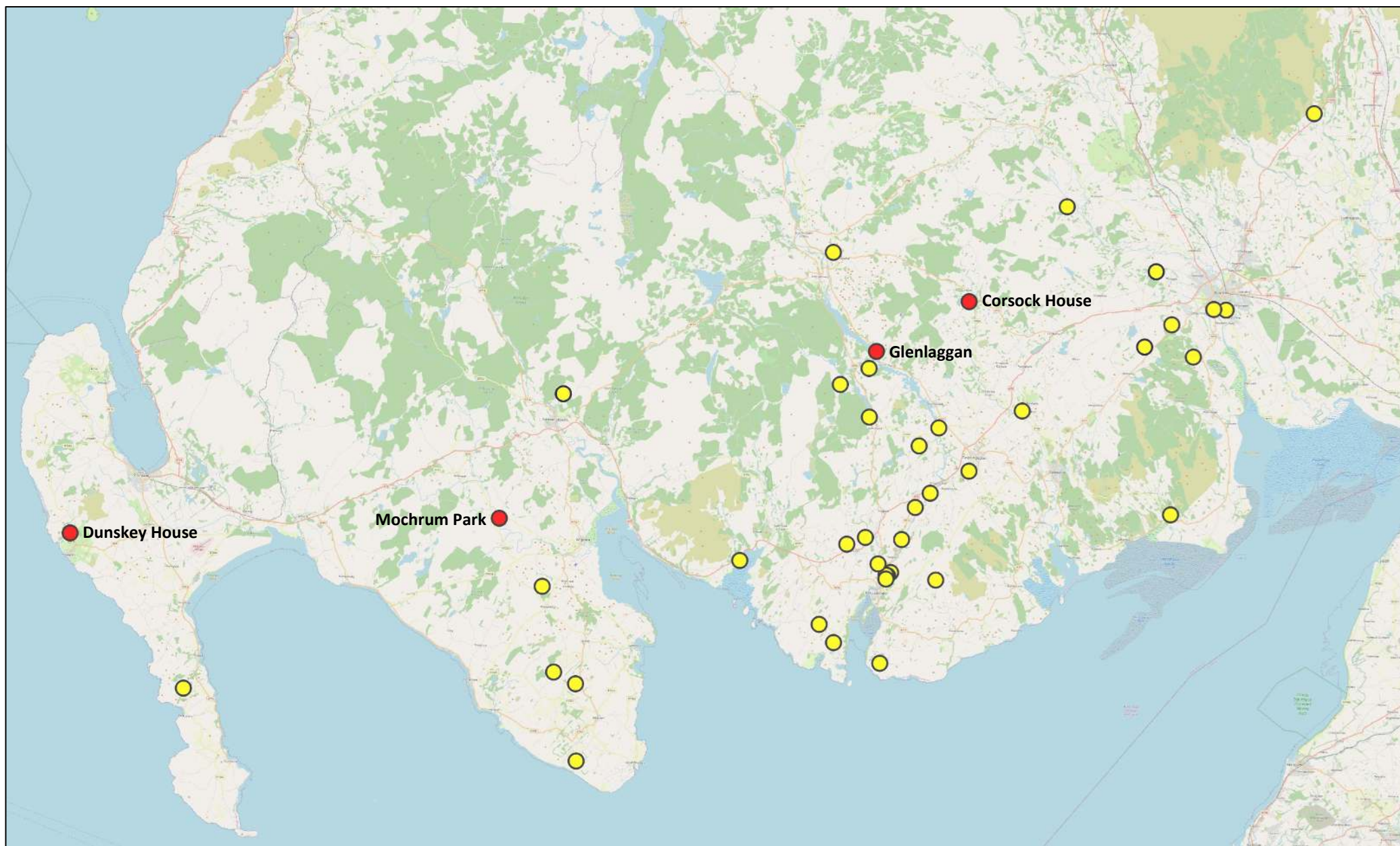
The volunteers' research has revealed the importance of recording these histories, and the origins of many bring to light a legacy that is not always acknowledged. After the abolition of slavery within the British Empire, the Slave Compensation Act of 1837 authorised a commission to manage the distribution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

Corsock House, Corsock, Parton

by Lisa Wilkinson



Corsock House is a grade B listed mansion property, of which the earliest visible part is late 18th century. It was later remodelled with additions in 1853 and 1910, however the history of its lands and owners goes back as early as the 14th century when the Lindsays of Fairgirth were in possession.

Taken from the book, *History of the Lands and their Owners in Galloway* [by P.H. M'Kerlie], it mentions that a precept was granted by James Lindsay of Fairgirth infesting the Lands of Corsock to John Neilson and his wife Isobel Gordon dated in the year 1439, so let us begin there.

The Neilson Family - 1439 to 1749

John Neilson and his wife Isobel had possession of Corsock Estate in 1439, their son named John, born in 1447, survived his father and inherited Corsock. This John is stated to have married firstly a daughter of John Cairns of Orcherton and secondly Janet Lindsay, daughter of Lindsay of Fairgirth. Their son John born 1514, inherited the estate upon his father's death, and when he died in 1610/11, the estate was passed onto his son John born 1549. It is this John who married Margaret Gordon (daughter of James Gordon of Macartney) who most likely built or rebuilt a Castle or tower house on the estate but not in the same location as the current house.



[View map: Pont, Timothy, 1560?-1614?; Blaeu, Joan, 1596-1673, Gallovidia, vernacule Galloway - Blaeu Atlas of Scotland, 1654 \(nls.uk\)](#)

Below taken from *The New Statistical Account of Scotland Vol IV 1845*³:

On the estate of Corsock, in the eastern part of the parish, are the remains of an old castle, the residence of Robert Nelson of Corsock, who is made honourable mention of in the “Scots Worthies,” as one who suffered severely in the cause of the covenant. It is now in a very dilapidated state, little indeed remaining but an old tower.

Although nothing remains of the tower today, there still exists a marriage plaque which was originally placed above the door of the tower, this bears the date 1589 with the initials and Arms of John Neilson and Margaret Gordon, this plaque has now been carefully incorporated into the current Corsock House.

In 1630 John died and was succeeded by his son Robert Neilson. Robert died in 1694 and the estate passed to his son John, also known as John “The Martyr” Neilson.

John “The Martyr” Neilson was born in 1617, his family were Presbyterians and John was the first Laird to join the Covenanters. In 1663 it was at Corsock, that one of the first Field-Meetings, or Conventicles, took place when Gabriel Semple, the ejected minister of Kirkpatrick-Durham, began his sermons in the house of Laird John Neilson of Corsock, and when the house became insufficient to contain all those who began flocking to hear him, he moved out into the garden which also became too small so he finally went into the field to preach. The Neilson family were cruelly persecuted for their beliefs and suffered greatly by way of fines and quartering of soldiers. When John Neilson could suffer no more he took part in the Pentland Risings where he was captured at Rullion Green and imprisoned in Edinburgh. He was tortured with “The Boot” and then hanged at The Mercat Cross on 14th December 1666. John left a wife, Mary Maclellan and 6 children, who were turned out of their home and their possessions and lands were forfeited.

Mary Maclellan died September 28th, 1697 and is buried in Kirkpatrick-Durham churchyard. The inscription on her gravestone reads:

*“HERE LYES THE EMINENTLY GODLY
MARY McLLAN LADY OF CORSOCK
WHO DIED SEP 28 1697 WHOSE
HUSBAND JOHN NEILSON LAIRD OF
CORSOCK FOR APPEARING FOR THE
COVENANTS AT PENTLAND SUFFERED
MARTYDOM AT EDR: DECR: 14: 1666
AND IS BURIED THERE IN GRAYFRIERS
AND JOHN NEILSON OF CORSOCK
SPOUSE TO ANNA GORDOUN WHO
DIED 24 DCMR 1706 WHO WAS
PIOUSLY DEVOTED WITH HEROICK
COURAGE TO MAINTAIN THE WORK
OF REFORMATION AS WAS HIS NOBLE
PROGENITOR”*

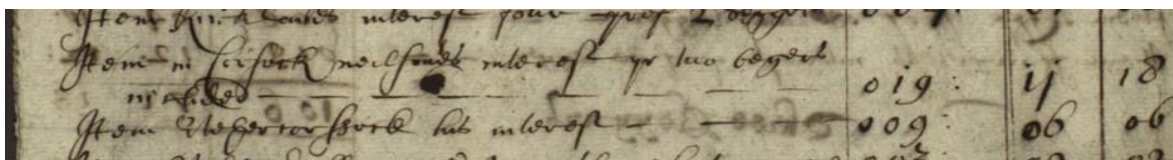


³ [online] available at: https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol4-Parish_record_for_Partou_in_the_county_of_Kirkcudbright_in_volume_4_of_account_2/nsa-vol4-p282-parish-kirkcudbright-parton?search=corsock [accessed 14 September 2023]

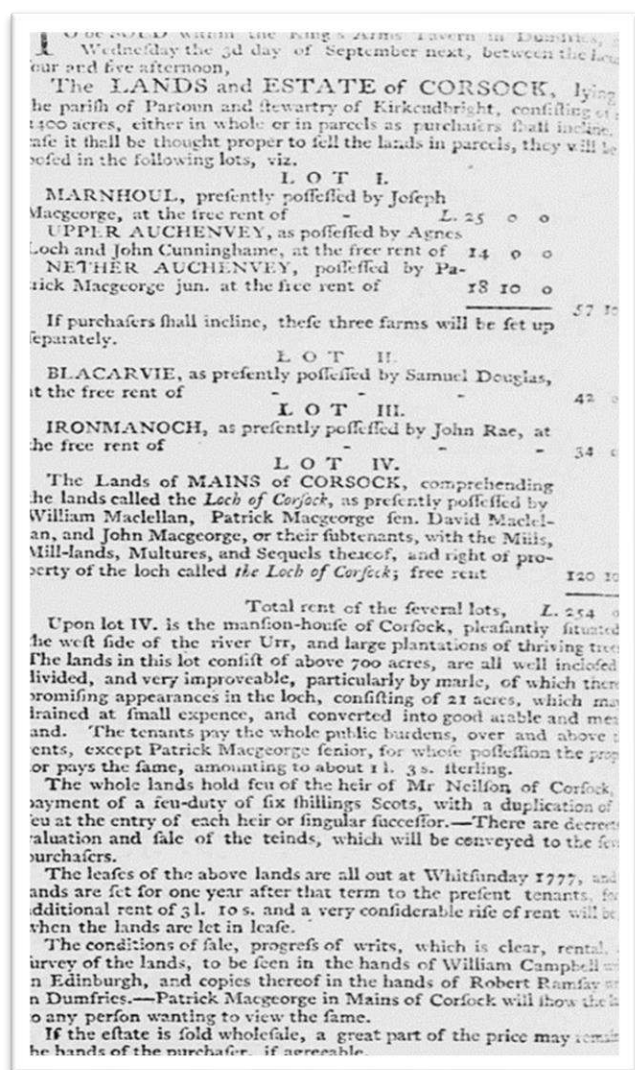
Hearth tax rolls list the people who were liable for tax on hearths (including kilns) in Scotland in the 1690s. They provide clues about the size of each building, place, estate or parish in the late 17th century. Heads of households of each building were liable for a tax of 14 shillings, payable at Candlemas 1691, and only hospitals and the poor were exempt. In 1694 the Neilson family, who were still in possession of Corsock estate, were taxed on a total of 19 fireplaces.

Hearth taxes collected 1694 taken from *Scotland Places-hearth-tax-records-1691-1695*:

- Item in Corsock neilsons interest thr [there] tuo begers included -- 19 -- £11.18.0



[E69/14/1/4 | ScotlandsPlaces](#)



By the mid-18th century, Corsock Estate became burdened by debts, at that time it was in the possession of John Neilson (born 1701) and after incurring financial hardships, he took up a post in South Carolina in 1748 in the hope of gaining back some fortune, sadly he died there about one year later.

Between the years 1755 and 1786, Corsock Estate and Lands including a mansion house, were advertised for sale numerous times.

The Caledonian Mercury 16th April 1777



It is unclear if the Estate was sold between these dates but what we do know is that Alexander Wylie was in possession in 1799.

ALEX. WYLIE of Corsock,	Marnhowle,	-	-	Forty pounds,
	Two Auchenvays,	-	-	Fifty-five pounds,
	Arvie Nielson,	-	-	Sixty pounds,
	Nether Armanogh,	-	-	Fifty pounds,
	Upper Corsock,	-	-	One hundred and fifty pounds,

[E106/20/3/29 | ScotlandsPlaces](#)

In 1819 Corsock Estate was owned by Edward Fletcher.

The Fletcher Family 1819 – Abt 1850

Edward Fletcher Esq., of Alresford, was born 7th April 1763. A merchant in the East India Company, he married Dorothea Blunt, a daughter of Sir Charles William Blunt 3rd Baronet, in Bengal 1798.

Their eldest son, Major-General Edward Charles Fletcher, Magistrate of Kent and Deputy-Lieutenant, was born in 1799 in Calcutta. In 1830 he married his first wife; Hon Ellen Mary shore the daughter of John Shore 1st Baron Teignmouth in 1830, she died in 1835. He married his second wife in 1838, who was Lady Frances Marsham, daughter of Charles Marsham 2nd Earl of Romney.

Excerpt below shows that The Fletcher family most likely built part of the current Corsock House in 1839.

From *Scotland's Places* –

Corsock House, or Corsock as it appeared in 1854, is recorded in OS Name Book: 'A Large and well-built mansion house in good repair it was built in the year 1839 on the estate of Corsock by the proprietor Major Fletcher. [A]ttached to it is office houses and garden with about 12 acres of wooded and grass lands'
[OS1/20/61/58](https://scotlandspplaces.org.uk/OS1/20/61/58) | [ScotlandsPlaces](https://scotlandspplaces.org.uk/)



They also donated land so a Chapel of Ease could be built in Corsock on the east bank of the River Urr, map left showing location.

'Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland' <https://maps.nls.uk/view/228778900>

The 1841 Census for Scotland was taken on the night of 6 June 1841. The following information was requested:

Place
Name of each person that had spent the night in that household
Age⁴
Sex
Profession or occupation
Where born

In Corsock House there were just 2 people recorded staying there on the night of 6th June 1841:-

Name	Margaret Shaw	Name	Mary Mcewen
Age	50	Age	50
Estimated Birth Year	abt 1791	Estimated Birth Year	abt 1791
Gender	Female	Gender	Female
Where born	Kirkcudbrightshire	Where born	Kirkcudbrightshire
Civil parish	Parton	Civil parish	Parton
County	Kirkcudbrightshire	County	Kirkcudbrightshire
Address	Corsock-house	Address	Corsock-house
Occupation	Agricultural Labourer	Occupation	Female Servant

⁴ The ages of people over 15 years old were usually rounded down to the nearest 5 years. Therefore, someone who was actually 24 years would have their age listed as 20. Enumeration forms were distributed to all households before the census night. All responses were to reflect the individual's status as of 6/7 June 1841 for all individuals who had spent the night in the house. People who were traveling or living abroad were enumerated at the location where they spent the night on census night.

On the same evening and living in the Coach-House belonging to Corsock House was John Scott, Male Servant, along with his wife and 3 children.

MR. LEITCH has received instructions from the Proprietor to SUBMIT to PUBLIC AUCTION, at Garraway's Coffee-house, Change-alley, Cornhill, London, on THURSDAY, July 11, at Twelve for One, in One Lot, a very valuable and extensive PROPERTY, known as Corsock, in the parishes of Parton and Kirkpatrick Durham, in the stewartry of Kirkcudbright. It consists of an excellent modern residence, with suitable domestic offices, lawns, flower-gardens, walled kitchen-garden and gardener's house, capital stabling, kennels, and gamekeeper's house, standing on a fine eminence, and surrounded by handsome oak and fir plantations, which are intersected with winding paths crossing a beautiful burn. The extent of accommodation, and the judicious arrangements of Corsock House and its appendages, render it perfectly suitable to the requirements of a highly-respectable family. There are several large farms, now let to responsible tenants, a most excellent factor's house, offices, gardens, and paddocks, a saw-mill, a water-corn-mill, a small inn, with several shops and dwelling-houses and cottages, the rental of which, including the mansion and grounds, amounts to 1620*l.* per annum, after deducting the public burdens. The plantations comprise about 700 acres, varying in growth from 15 to 40 years; they are very thriving, and have been carefully thinned when necessary. The river Urr runs through the estate, and abounds in sea trout and salmon. There are also three lakes, plentifully stocked with trout, pike, and perch, on the larger of which are three pleasure boats, and they are all well frequented with wild fowl. The entire area of the estate, including the arable, meadow pasture, and moor land, the plantations, mansion, lakes, &c. according to a recent survey, is 6746 statute acres. The shooting includes a capital head of grouse, black game, pheasants, partridges, hares, and rabbits, woodcocks, and snipes, and extends over about 14,000 acres, of which 7000 acres are rented from year to year of an adjoining proprietor, with a certain prospect of a continued holding. The shooting grounds have been strictly preserved for 30 years, and they are immediately contiguous to the house, the most distant point not exceeding four miles. A church was erected a few years since on the estate, and a Post-office has been opened at the inn in the village. Corsock is remarkably healthy, its mountain and river scenery is bold and romantic, and contrasts admirably with the luxuriant growth of the plantations, and the ornamental character of the lawns, flower-gardens, and pleasure-grounds. The roads in every direction are most excellent. Corsock is 10 miles from Castle Douglas, 20 miles from Kirkcudbright, and 14 from Dumfries, from whence there is direct railway communication to London in 12 hours, and to Edinburgh and Glasgow in five hours.

In 1850 the Estate was advertised for sale. Reading the description on this 1850 advert, it seems that the Fletcher Family spent time and money on improving the house and surrounding lands of Corsock. The grounds around the house are described as pleasure grounds with boating on the Loch, ornamental lawns, flower gardens, a walled kitchen garden, stables and kennels. There are also cottages for the Gamekeeper and Gardener. A church has been built and the Inn now has a post office. Plantations of Oak and Firs surround the excellent modern mansion and the shooting grounds have been strictly preserved.

"The extent of accommodation, and the judicious arrangements of Corsock House and its appendages, render it perfectly suitable to the requirements of a highly-respectable family."

And that next highly respectable family are the Murray-Dunlops.



The Morning Herald 2nd July 1850

The Murray-Dunlop Family Abt 1850 – 1920

Alexander Dunlop, born 1798, was a Scottish Church Lawyer and Liberal Party politician. He was the Member of Parliament (MP) for Greenock from 1852 to 1868. He married Eliza Esther Murray in 1844. On the death of his father-in-law in 1849 he altered his name to Murray-Dunlop. Subsequently, in 1866, on succeeding to the estate of his cousin, William Colquhoun-Stirling of Law and Edinbarnet, he took the name of Colquhoun-Stirling-Murray-Dunlop.

Map showing part of The Corsock Estate as it was in 1850.



'Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland' <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74427638#zoom=5&lat=55.12&lon=70.22&layers=BT>

In 1851 there was an extensive sale at Corsock House of household furniture, farm equipment and livestock along with many other items. It does not list who the vendor is but given the date of the advert, it was likely to be Fletcher when the house was eventually sold or Murray-Dunlop when he purchased the Estate.

The description of the items for sale included many pieces of mahogany furniture from the bedrooms, dining room and drawing room. There were four poster beds and tent beds with curtains. Mahogany dining, breakfast and tea tables, pedestal sideboard, dining room and drawing room chairs, sofas and easy chairs. Rosewood loo and card tables, winged wardrobes and dressing tables. Soft furnishings, crystal and china along with hearth rugs, carpets, fenders and fire-irons. All these items show just how grand the house must have been.

The Murray-Dunlops were supporters of the Free Church and in 1851-52 built a new church on Corsock estate to a design by William McCandlish. They also donated land so burial grounds could be attached. Corsock Free church remained the property of the Murray-Dunlop family until 1875 when they passed it onto the congregation.

The 1851 Census for Scotland was taken on the night of 30/31 March 1851. Enumeration forms were distributed to all households before the census night and the complete forms were collected the next day. All responses were to reflect the individual's status as of 30/31 March 1851 who had spent the night in the house. People who were travelling or living abroad were enumerated at the location where they spent the night on census night.

In Corsock House there were just 2 people recorded staying there on the night of 30th March 1851:-

Name	Arabella Hetherington	Name	Jane Scott
Age	27	Age	17
Estimated Birth Year	abt 1824	Estimated Birth Year	abt 1834
Relationship	Servant	Relationship	Visitor
Gender	Female	Gender	Female
Where born	Durisdeer, Dumfries	Where born	Parton, kirkcudbt
Address	Corsock House	Address	Corsock House
Occupation	House Serv	Occupation	Ag Lab

On the same evening and living in the Coach-House belonging to Corsock House was John Scott age 55, Agricultural Labourer, along with his wife and 3 children, also staying in the same Coach-House were lodgers William Middleton age 24, Journeyman Gardener and John Erving age 24, Labourer.

In the Gardeners Cottage belonging to Corsock House were Peter Melville age 31, Gardener, with his wife Janet and 4-year-old son Peter.

The Murray-Dunlop Family continued to improve the Estate and through many acts of kindness were highly respected by the people of Corsock. They built a school and paid the teacher's salary. In Corsock church they gifted much of the communion plate and also the font, and Mrs Murray-Dunlop held annual tea parties on the front lawn at Corsock House for around 150 children who attended the nearby churches, and later a soup kitchen so that the children had a good meal. In 1852 Alexander Murray-Dunlop became the MP for Greenock, upon his return to Corsock House, a large crowd had gathered to celebrate his victory and as his carriage and horses arrived, a loud cheer erupted. The crowd moved up to the front of the house where Alexander Murray-Dunlop gave a speech thanking the crowd for their good wishes, he also mentioned enjoying the repose and peace of his happy home. He continued to say that he would apply himself to the improvements of Corsock House and Estate and to the welfare and happiness of its tenants and village residents.

In 1853 Alexander Murray-Dunlop commissioned the Scottish architect, David Bryce, to remodel the house's west end in the turreted Scottish Baronial style that he was well known for. This consisted of a taller 2-storey and attic addition, with asymmetrical crow-stepped front; corbelled angle tourelles with fish-scale roofs, attic dormers, projecting bay window, 8 pane glazing, canted to ground but corbelled to square at 1st. The interior included a scale-and-platt stair with barley-sugar twist timber balusters, simple strapwork plaster ceilings and heavy roll-moulded fireplace.

The 1861 Census for Scotland was taken on the night of 7/8 April 1861. The following records were collected on the people who were present that night -

Corsock House - Isabella Paton age 54, occupation Housekeeper To Head.

Corsock Coach-House - David Kinnell and his family, age 42, occupation Coachman.

Corsock Gardeners Cottage – John Croll and his family, age 43, occupation Gardener Employing Labourer.

The Murray-Dunlop Family were at their home in Edinburgh along with their 8 children and 6 servants.



After his resignation from parliament at the general election of 1868 on the grounds of ill health, Alexander Colquhoun-Stirling-Murray-Dunlop spent most of his time at Corsock House and was the one who planted most of the mature trees that surround the property today. He died there on 1st September 1870 and was buried in the Free Church graveyard in Corsock that he generously built and so passionately supported.

[Alexander-colquhoun-stirling-m-dunlop-1798-1870-ch - Alexander Colquhoun-Stirling-Murray-Dunlop - Wikipedia](#)



Left image is of the Memorial for Alexander Colquhoun-Stirling-Murray-Dunlop, which is built on Monument Hill overlooking Corsock House. The inscription reads:

ERECTED
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
A C STIRLING MURRAY DUNLOP
ESQUIRE, MP
BY THE INHABITANTS ON THE
ESTATES OF CORSOCK AND EDINBARNET
A.D.1871

Alexander Colquhoun-Stirling-Murray-Dunlop was survived by his wife Eliza Esther, 4 sons and 4 daughters. Sadly, three of his sons died within the next few years.

The 1901 Census for Scotland was taken on the night of 31 March/1 April 1901. The following records were collected on the people who were present that night –

In Corsock House – Mrs Murray-Dunlop age 83, along with her daughter Mary Janet age 45. Also in the house were 6 servants:-

Mary Duff	Age 32 (Servant) Cook.	Mary Bell	Age 18 (Servant) House Maid.
Elizabeth Dickson	Age 51 (Servant) Table Maid.	Helen Hawthorne	Age 14 (Servant) Kitchen Maid.
Catherine Brown	Age 28 (Servant) Ladies Maid.	Agnes Brown	Age 21 (Servant) House Maid.

In Corsock Coach-House – Andrew Ritchie and family, age 44, occupation Coachman (domestic).

In Corsock House Gardens – Robert Henderson and his family, age 54, occupation Gardener (domestic)

On the 14th July 1902, at Corsock House, Mrs Murray-Dunlop passed away, she was 84 years old. She is buried with her husband in the graveyard at Corsock Church. Placed inside the church is a stained-glass window of the Good Shepherd in memory of them both.



The eldest surviving and only son, Captain Henry Liston Murray-Dunlop inherited The Estate. He made further improvements to Corsock Estate and also created his own hydroelectric scheme to bring electricity to the house.

He was the first man to own a motor car in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright and his number plate was SW1.

Henry Murray-Dunlop and his wife, Mary Hutchison Jennings. *Ancestry.co.uk*

In 1910 Henry commissioned Charles Stuart Still Johnston, a pupil of Bryce, to add to the east in a similar Baronial style with some Arts and Crafts elements and to the south, full-height round tower door grouped with corbelled projecting flue rising to tall stack at gable. All windows are sash and case, most are 20th century with 12-pane upper sashes, and 2-pane lower. Gables are crowstepped.

Little survives of the original earlier house which is located in the central part and the 1910 single storey gabled entrance porch obscures most of 18th-century south elevation.



Corsock House 1910

In 1919, at Corsock House, Henry Liston Murray-Dunlop passed away. He was 62 years old and is buried in Corsock Church graveyard.

Corsock House and Estate were put up for sale in 1920. The listing states that the entire Estate extends to 13,101 acres which includes 980 acres of woodland. There are 24 farms and other holdings. The mansion house is modern and convenient with 4 public rooms and 22 bedrooms and dressing rooms and other rooms. Gravitational water supply and electric lighting.

In 1921, Douglas Lilburn MacEwen bought around 5800 acres which included Corsock House, buildings in the village and some of the farms, the rest of the estate and farms were to be sold separately.

Douglas MacEwen, born 19th November 1867 in Glasgow, had a long and illustrious military career. As a young Captain he served with the Cameron Highlanders in the South Africa War in 1899 to 1902, worked as General Staff Officer (GSO) 1910-12 in the War Office, then active duty in the First World War. He was severely wounded in action in 1916 and the same year was promoted to Brigadier-General. He became a C.B in 1915 and C.M.G in 1918.

His daughter Veronica was the granddaughter of Sir John Everett Millais the famous painter. Veronica may have inherited some of her Grandfather's artistic talent, as both her and her Father were responsible for designing and planting the original rhododendron and water gardens that can still be seen at Corsock House today.



The MacEwen Family were well travelled, visiting places such as America, Algeria and the West Indies, always sailing 1st class and sometimes accompanied with a maid.

Douglas took a keen interest in the affairs of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of the County in 1934 and Justice of the Peace.

Brigadier-General Douglas MacEwen died 3rd January 1941 at Corsock, he was 73 years old. His memorial is placed on Monument Hill, alongside that of Alexander Colquhoun-Stirling-Murray-Dunlop.

Our next and final Family of Corsock House are The Ingalls.

The Ingall Family 1951 – present day

Peter Ingall bought Corsock House and the gardens in 1951, it was currently in the possession of a timber merchant who had felled a lot of the trees and was about to demolish the mansion.

The Ingall Family took on a typical post-war ruin of a garden. As already mentioned, many of the great trees had been felled and others were threatened. Rhododendron Ponticum had also become massively overgrown. The water garden that was designed by Veronica MacEwen had become so neglected that it took 2 years to dig out and re-shape to their original plans. Then fifteen years after buying the house they managed to purchase the remaining trees from the timber merchant.

With Peter's care, and also that of his son Micky, who tragically died in 2009 and who is buried at Corsock Church, the garden has been restored, extended and embellished with wonderful architectural features. The Trellis Temple in the restored Water garden was the first of Micky's creations.



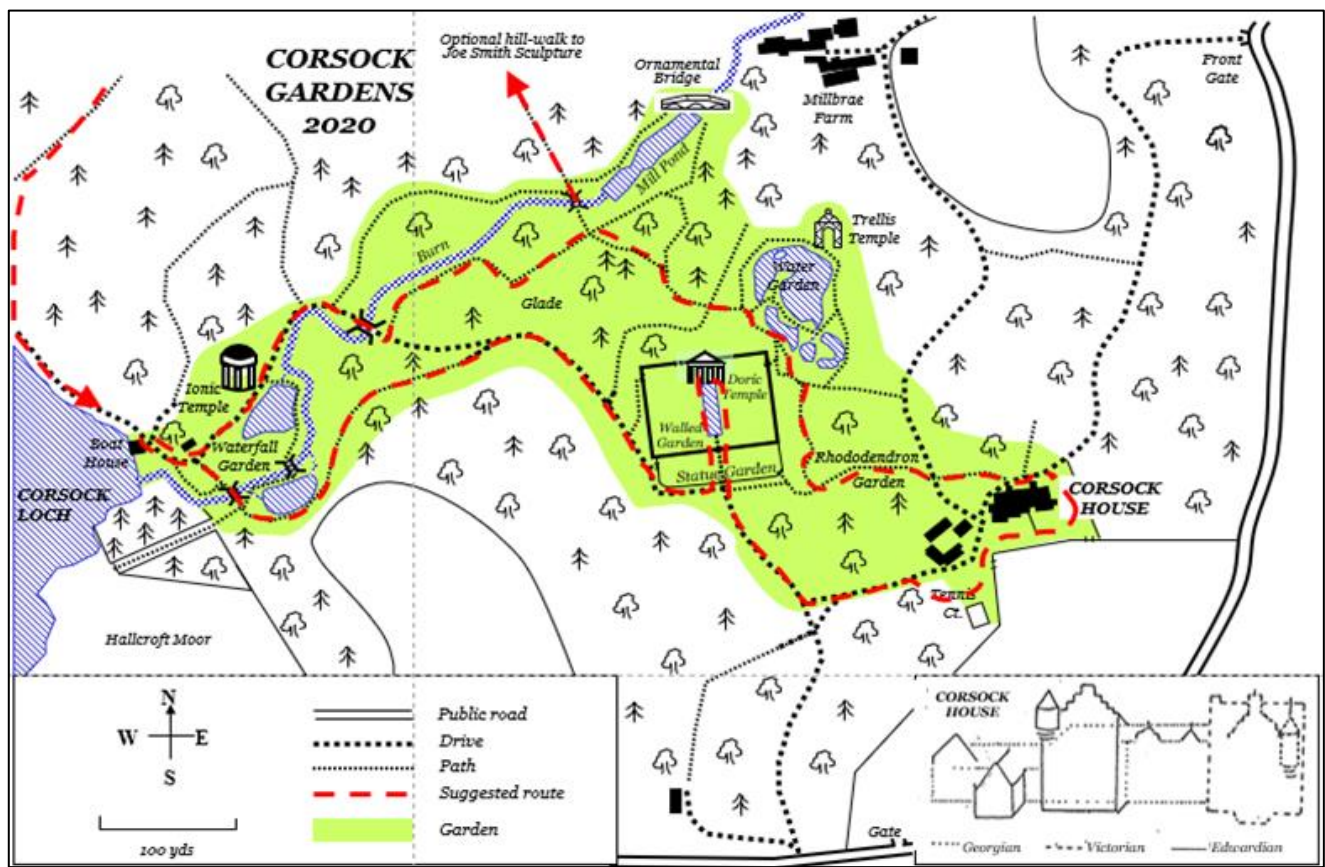
This was soon followed by the Ornamental Bridge over the spillway of the Mill Pond inspired by that at Kenwood House in London.



Across the burn is the Ionic Temple where a door below its base leads to an old Ice House. The latest 21st century creation in the old walled garden and the last Micky Ingall built himself, is a Doric Temple with cast iron pillars reflected in a canal leading up to it.



The gardens at Corsock House open for Scotland's Garden Scheme on one Sunday each summer, they are known for the collection of specie rhododendrons, in particular *R. Lacteum* and *R. Sutchuenense*. The woodland walk up to the loch takes you past temples, ponds, beside the burn, across bridges and through glades of fine trees. The terraced lawns afford a magnificent view down the valley of the River Urr.



CORSOCK GATES B Group

Mid-19th century.

Exceptionally large and fine pair of ornamental Gothic cast-iron gates and gate piers with a smaller turnstile pedestrian gate. Gate piers are on an octagonal plan with open upright members and traceried detail, caps in form of crown steeple with crocket finial.

Statement of Special Interest:

It is unusual to find gate piers of this scale in cast-iron, they are of outstanding quality.

cc-by-sa/2.0 - Corsock House; main gates by Ruth Madigan - geograph.org.uk/p/432038

CORSOCK HOUSE STABLES B Group



Two, 2-storey ranges with shorter single storey ranges to E and W enclosing square stable yard. S range probably early 19th century, N range most probably the work of David Bryce circa 1853, at the time of his additions to Corsock House. All painted rubble, red sandstone margins, slate roofs.



N range piend-roofed, cart-arch to left, enlarged door to extreme left. Bothy above with variety of glazing, some sash and case 9-pane, some metal framed lying-pane. Swept slate roofs, axial sandstone stacks, wall head tall octagonal cans to right.

S range with round tower to left angle, vehicle entrances to ground with glazed cast-iron cantilevered canopy. To right, stables at ground with original timber stalls. Loft and bothy accommodation above. Crowstepped gables, slate roofs, fish scale slates to conical tower roof.

Single storey ranges rubble with slate roofs.



In 2012 a further turret with an Adam Booth finial was added at the West end of the house when the Old Laundry was converted into an annex by Mrs Ingall. The finial combines a three-dimensional interpretation of the Ingall family crest with a cross. This represents the fact that the Ingall family, like the Neilsons and Murray-Dunlops before them are followers of Jesus and believe they are stewards for God in this lovely corner of His creation.

The Ingall family, like their predecessors, continue with the care and evolution of Corsock House and Gardens.





Above and below, the marriage plaque of John Neilson and Margaret Gordon dated 1589, taken from the old ruins of "Corsock Castle"



Glenlaggan, Parton

by Bianca Leder

Easting/Northing: 268187, 571273

Parish: Parton

County: Kirkudbrightshire

Council: Dumfries & Galloway

Glenlaggan Mansion House – A lost Treasure

We must start its journey in the mid 19th century. The land it was eventually built on was purchased by Archibald Christie Sanderson in 1840, a military man of the Royal Scots Regiment of Foot.

Some mystery remains around the date of the build: no house in 1843 on a map of the area; being in the army Mr Sanderson seems to be moving a lot – in 1842 he married Jane Eliza in Edinburgh, in 1843 they were in Ireland where his daughter was born, in 1843 he was in Keir, Dumfriesshire, where his son was born; in 1851 we can find Archibald C Sanderson, the landowner, living at Glenlochar Lodge, Parish of Crossmichael, with his wife, children and servants. Did they stay there to oversee the build of the house?

In 1860 he was a member of the Stewartry County Prison Board named as “of Glenlaggan” suggesting he now lived there. The sales catalogue from 1953 speaks of the time of the build of the house of “just over 100 years ago” suggesting Glenlaggan Mansion was built around the beginning of the 1850s and commissioned by its owner Archibald Christie Sanderson. No mention of an architect, yet the catalogue speaks of a builder with a “dominating idea ... to allow as many as possible of the main rooms to enjoy the entrancing view over Loch Ken”.

Archibald Christie Sanderson was not able to enjoy his estate for very long as he passed away in 1873 at Glenlaggan, it is not clear if the house was intended to be a country estate or a retirement place for him and his wife. He is buried at Parton Kirk.

The estate was passed on to his son Patrick Sanderson, another successful military man, but like his father Glenlaggan was not his main residence until later in life. The house was advertised to let for many years; 1877/1879.

In 1879 it was taken up by Robert Stewart and his wife until the start of 1881 after which it was advertised again to let for £250 per year for many years.

In 1891 we can find the owner Patrick Sanderson aged 46 and his family resident at Glenlaggan House, like his father he retired from his career in 1893 and stayed permanently at Glenlaggan. He and his wife took a great interest in local affairs and were involved in many community and council engagements. Both are buried at Parton Kirk.

After his death in 1902 the house and grounds were advertised again to let. George R Davies took up the tenancy next and eventually purchased the property sometime before 1915 when he was named as the proprietor of Glenlaggan. He was connected to several businesses in Manchester, but also took deep interest in local community efforts. At his funeral memorial service in 1918, he was named as ‘a true friend’.

His wife carried on living at Glenlaggan mansion house until she died in 1925. Their son Major Reginald GR Davies inherited the estate but died early in 1931. The value of the estate then was around £96,000. He left behind a wife, Heather Hannay Davies, from Glenlair, Kirkudbrightshire, who he had only just married the year before. Heather Davies remarried in 1946, in 1953 her daughter put the house up for sale.

The sales catalogue luckily gives huge insights into the grandeur of this house and grounds and provides some photos of its interior as well as surrounding buildings and servant areas. To the locals, Glennlaggan is still to this day called The Davies Estate.

If the house was sold we do not know, but around 1962 local families picked up doors from the house which was being emptied. Previously a timber company from Carlisle cut down the woods/trees. The house then was demolished.

A tragic end to a country house in Galloway.

Timeline	Activities	People who lived here	Additional information	Source
?	Old name of this land is KILCRUICHIE /		Pont spells Barend as Baren, and Cruchie as Krachy. The derivation of Laggan is lagan in Gaelic, and means a little hollow, a dell. Glenlaggan is from glean-agan, the valley of the hollow. Cruchie or Cruchy seems to be a corruption of the Gaelic croiceach, meadowy; and Barend or Baren seems to be a corruption of the Gaelic barran, the top of a rock or hill, etc. upper dullarg, &c	History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway (mckeefamilyfromdonegal.com) View map: Pont, Timothy, 1560?-1614?; Blaeu, Joan, 1596-1673, Gallovidiae pars media quae Deam et Cream fluvios interjacet, [vulgo], The Middl... - Blaeu Atlas of Scotland, 1654 (nls.uk)
1560-1614	COULCREACHIE			
1645-46 01.02.1645- 21.04.1646	Kilcrewchie	John Logane/Logan	Charter by Robert, viscount Kenmore, to John Logane [Logan] in Kilcrewchie [Kilcrouchie, Glenlaggan], and instrument of sasine following thereon. [PRS Dumfries 28 April 1646]	NAS Catalogue - catalogue record (nrscotland.gov.uk)
1662	Over Laggan (area which is now Glenlaggan)	Landowner Roger Gordon		History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway

				 (mckeefamilyfromdonegal.com)
1704 21.09.1704	Sasine of the land of Over Laggan	Landowners John McMillan of Brockloch and son William		History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway (mckeefamilyfromdonegal.com)
1750 Jan 1750		John McMillan	1750 Jan. 12 Petition of John McMillan in Glenlaggan	NAS Catalogue - catalogue record (nrscotland.gov.uk) #'' }
1758 29.05.1758		Resident Preacher James Tweddale	Assignment by Mr. James Tweddale of Glenlaggan , preacher, to Sir Thomas Hay of Park, bart., of bills	NAS Catalogue - catalogue record (nrscotland.gov.uk)
1799 1807	Land purchased by	Landowner James Tweddale	James Tweddale shared with other relatives the fortune acquired by his uncle, Surgeon-General Adair, who, we believe, was in the East India Company's Service. Besides the land of Over Laggan, now Glenlaggan, he also purchased the farm called Caldons, part of the Garthland estate, parish of Stoneykirk. He was collector of customs for Wigtown;	History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway (mckeefamilyfromdonegal.com)

			James Tweddale does not appear to have held the lands purchased by him in the Shire and Stewartry very long. We find him the owner of Laggan, etc., in 1799, and also in 1807. The property was Upper Laggan, and Glenfoot, but called Glenlaggan ; the rateable value in the first named year was £118.	
1810	Plan of the farm of Glenlaggan			View map: McKinlay, John, fl. ca 1805-1820, Plan of the farm of Glenlaggan - Estate Maps, 1730s-1950s (nls.uk)
1815	In possession of land of Glenlaggan	Landowner Dr. A. Wylie		History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway (mckeefamilyfromdonegal.com)
1819		Landowner John Hannay and son David Hannay	From him it passed to John Hannay, writer to the signet. He was succeeded by David Hannay, who was the owner of Kilcrouchie in 1819.	History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway (mckeefamilyfromdonegal.com)

1840	Property purchased by	Owner Archibald Christie Sanderson (b1813) died 21/06/1873 at Glenlaggan Wife Jane Eliza (m 1842 in Edinburgh) Daughter Helen (b 1843 Ireland) Son Patrick (b 1844 in Keir, Dumfriesshire)	Subsequent to the year 1840, the property was purchased by Archibald Christie Sanderson, late captain, first or Royal Scots Regiment of Foot. He was the son of Patrick Sanderson, of Sir William Forbes and Co.'s bank, Edinburgh, by his second marriage with Helen, daughter of Archibald Christie of Ratho, near Edinburgh. He married Jane Eliza, daughter of Lorimer, and had issue—Patrick, captain, Scots Greys. Helen. He died in 187—, and was succeeded by his son Patrick. The farms at present possessed are Over Laggan, Cruchie, Barend, and Pattiesthorn, some of which are small.	History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway (mckeefamilyfromdonegal.com)
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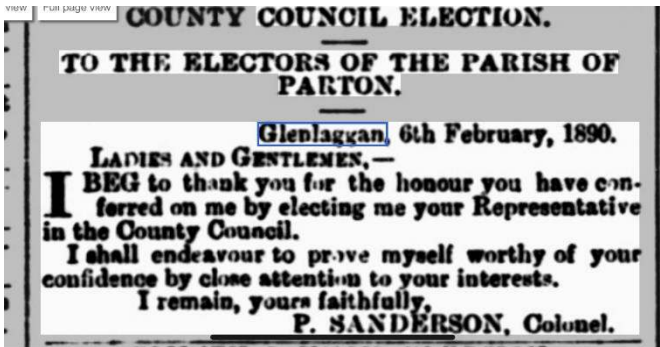
1843			No house on the map	Pastmap Pastmap
1851	Census		Archibald C Sanderson and wife plus 2 children and 3 servants were residing at the Parish of Crossmichael at Glenlochar Lodge	1851 Scotland Census - Ancestry.co.uk
1860 04.05.1860		Archibald Christie Sanderson	Has been appointed as a member of the County Prison Board/Stewartry	Aotioe. Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser Friday 04 May 1860 British Newspaper Archive
1873		Owner/Resident Archibald Christie Sanderson died 21/06/1873 at Glenlaggan	Buried at Parton Kirk	UK and Ireland, Find a Grave® Index, 1300s-Current - Ancestry.co.uk
1873	Inherited land/property	Owner	1863 Joined Scots Grey 1866 Lieutenant	Web: Ireland, Calendar of Wills

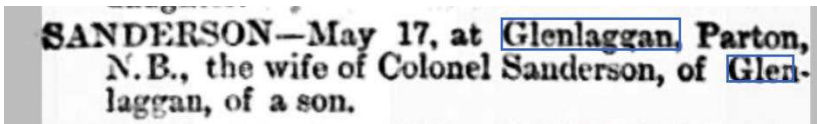
21/06/1873		Colonel Patrick Sanderson (born 29/08/1844 - died 21/02/1902 - see below) Wife Mary M.R. Spens (born 21/08/1856 - died 15/03/1953)	1871 Captain 1881 Major 1892 Lieutenant-Colonel 1893 Retired He was a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for Kirkudbright Buried at Parton Kirk Buried at Parton Kirk	and Administrations, 1858-1920 - Ancestry.co.uk History of the Lands and Their Owners in Galloway (mckeefamilyfromdonegal.com) La W Intelligence. Morning Post Wednesday 25 June 1873 British Newspaper Archive https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000452/19020222/004/0002
1877	Advert to Let Mansion House			Apply To Alex. Y. Macminn, 27, High Street. Dumfries and Galloway Standard Wednesday 07 February 1877

				British Newspaper Archive
1879	Advert to Let 		The Mansion House is well furnished and contains - Dining room - Double Drawing room - Business room 5 Bedrooms and dressing rooms - Servants' apartments - Laundry - Kitchens - Larder - Pantry Entrance Lodge Offices consist of 2 Stables - Harness Room - Coach house - Wash House - Hay Houses and Hay shed - Byres - Dog Kennels Dwelling House for the coach man at the Stables	Kircsvdp . Rjostsbirk . D Esieable Residencf : To Be Let . Furnis Hed and Small Farm Adjoining , The Scotsman Wednesday 08 October 1879 British Newspaper Archive
1979 10.06.1879		Resident/Tenant Robert Stewart	Robert Stewart withdrew is candidacy for the	The Irish Noversitr Bill. Bristol Mercury Tuesday

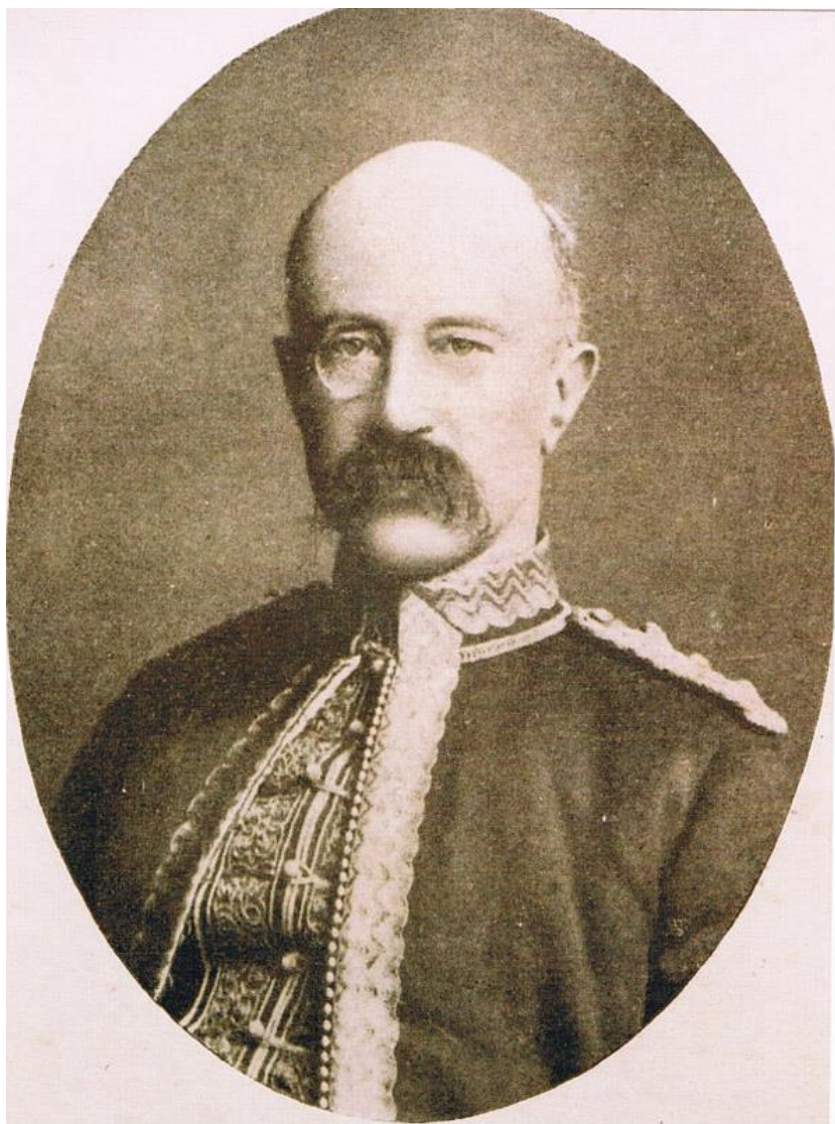
			representation of the Stewartry	10 June 1879 British Newspaper Archive
1881	PARTON.—SUNDAY SCHOOL TREAT.—The Sunday School in Parton has been well attended for some time. Mrs Stewart, lately in Glenlaggan, now of Culgruff, took much interest in it, and, as each Christmas came round, she invited the children to Glenlaggan, where the young people were always highly delighted with the entertainment provided for them. Mrs Stewart having now removed to the neighbouring parish, her place as an entertainer has been taken up this year by Mr Imrie, wood mer-	Lately resident/tenant Mrs Stewart	Took much interest in Parton Sunday School Treat. Each Christmas, she invited the children to Glenlaggan, where the young people were always highly delighted with the entertainment provided for them.	Giatitvds's Mr Peter White, Mariner, Dalbeattie, Has Promoted To Mrs Fotheringham, Craignair Road, A Handsome Hearth-Rug, Worked By Himself While Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser Friday 14 January 1881 British Newspaper Archive
1884	House and Land to Let			Kirkcudbrightshire. Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser Friday 21 November 1884 British Newspaper Archive
1886		Lieutenant-Colonel Sanderson	Patron of Castle Douglas Cricket Club	Army Service. Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser Friday 12 November 1886

				 British Newspaper Archive
1887 20.04.1887	Advert to let the house and shooting rights KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE. DESIRABLE FURNISHED RESIDENCE AND SHOOTINGS TO LET. For One Year, from Whitsunday next, or for the Summer Season of 1887, THE MANSION-HOUSE of <u>GLENLAGGAN.</u> One Mile from Parton Station on the Portpatrick Railway, and Eight Miles from Castle-Douglas, romantically situated with magnificent views of Loch Ken and the Galloway Hills. House contains Dining-room, Double Drawing-room, Business Room, Five Bedrooms, and Dressing-rooms, Servants' Rooms, Kitchen, Laundry, Larder, Pantry, ; Drainage put in perfect order last year by Sanitary Association, Edinburgh ; Two Stables, Harness-room, and Coachman's House. Shooting extends over 1400 Acres of Moor and Arable Land. Boating and Fishing in Loch Ken. Rent for the year, £250. For further particulars apply to HENRY D. GLOVER, Solicitor, Bank of Scotland, Gatehouse.		Rent £250 per year The mansion house of Glenlaggan contains Dining room Double Drawing room Business room 5 Bedrooms and Dressing rooms Servants' rooms Kitchen Laundry Larder Pantry Drainage put in perfect order last year by sanitary association 2 Stables, Harness room and Coachman's house Shooting extends over 1400 acres of moor and arable land. Boating & Fishing in Loch Ken	Robert Barbour 141.14 Announce He Taw 10-4 Zip New In Mantles. Jackets. Dresses, Ili Righ li Joiiiiiton 1 8 Inopeator Dumfries & Galloway Courier and Herald Wednesday 20 April 1887 British Newspaper Archive

1890 06.02.1890		Colonel P Sanderson	Elected as Representative for the Parish of Parton in the County Council	Council Election. To The Electors Of The Parish Of Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser Friday 07 February 1890 British Newspaper Archive
1891 11.02.1891	Larch trees for sale 	Thomas Robertson	Gamekeeper	Lailci Trims Toil Sall Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser Friday 13 February 1891 British Newspaper Archive
	census	Residents Patrick Sanderson 46 Wife Mary Sanderson 35 Daughter Beatrice 7 Son Archibald 5 Harriet Spenser Governess 25 Isabella Richardson Servant 31 Marion Armour Servant 30 Elizabeth Bryce Servant 47 Jessie Beattie Servant 16		1891 Scotland Census - Ancestry.co.uk

		Johnny Gill	Servant 15	
1891 17.05.1891		Son Archibald James Sanderson Born (died 02/05/1915)	Captain, First King's Own Scottish Borderers Wounded 26/04/1915 at the landing of the Gallipoli Peninsula, Died on board hospital ship 'Sicilia' 02/05/1915 Buried at sea Memorial at Parton Kirk	Births. Northern Whig Thursday 21 May 1891 British Newspaper Archive See picture above of tombstone
1889		Mrs Sanderson	Patron of Kirkpatrick- Durham Hall Bazaar (To raise money to free hall of debt and for decorating the interior)	Oonservative Hall. Galloway News and Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser Friday 02 August 1889 British Newspaper Archive
1893		Resident Patrick Sanderson	At his retirement he went to live on his estate at Glenlaggan, a beautiful country seat on the banks of Loch Ken. Took an active interest in parish and country affairs. For many years a member of the Stewartry County Council and chairman of	The King , Attended By An Equerry , Left London Yesterday Afternoon , On A Visit To Lord Burton Till The Scotsman Saturday 22 February 1902 British Newspaper Archive

			the road board, but due to failing health, he did not seek re-election last December. Chairman of Parton School Board. He was a Conservative in Politics.	
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Colonel Sanderson wears the regimental mess dress: a scarlet jacket with field officer's wide gold lace and a glimpse of blue collar. The waistcoat is also red, with gold braid down the front. He was born on 29 Aug 1844, and commissioned on 17 Nov 1863. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the Greys for 4 years from 5 July 1882. he was married to Mary Spens and lived at Glenlaggan. He died on 21 Feb 1902 and was buried at Parton Churchyard.

[Scots Greys: The 2nd Dragoons \(britishempire.co.uk\)](http://britishempire.co.uk)

1901

Census

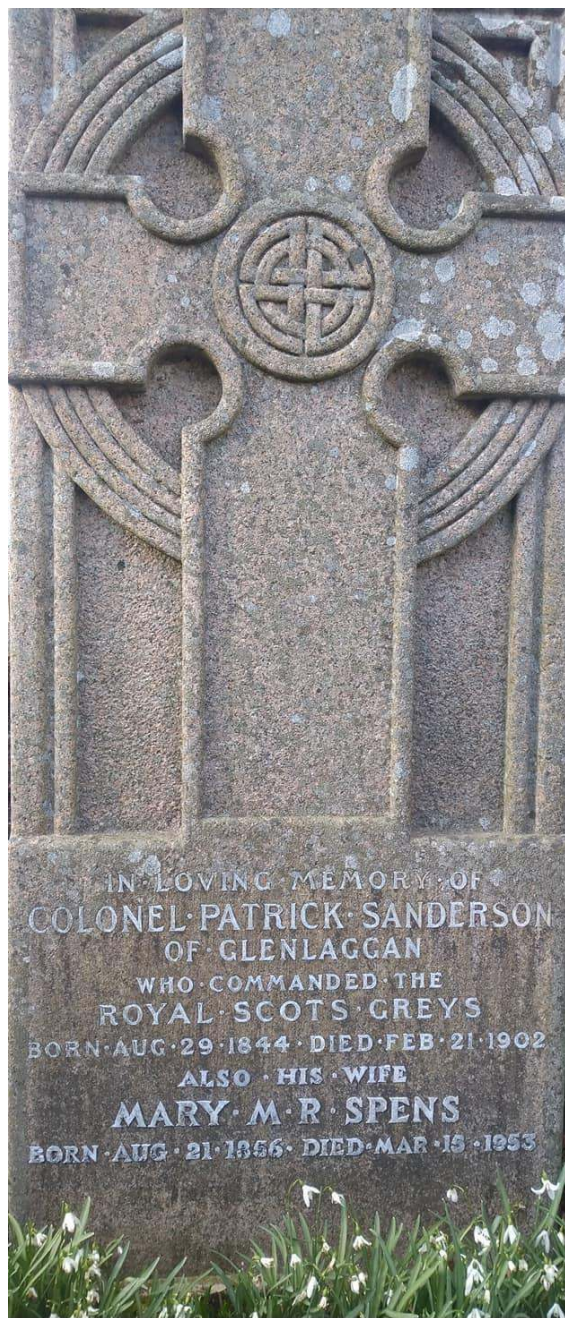
Residents
Patrick Sanderson
Wife Mary Sanderson

56

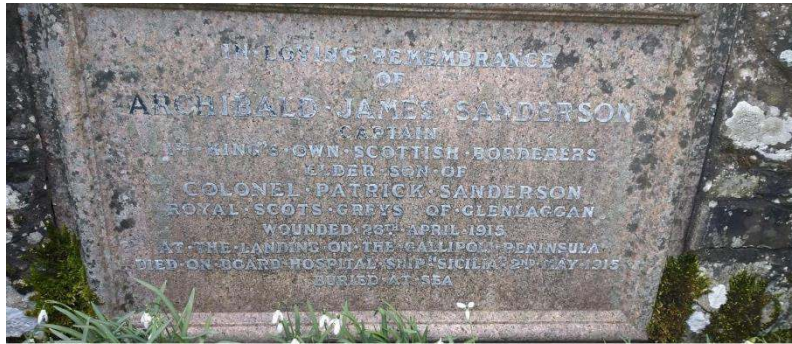
[1901 Scotland Census - Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk)

		Daughter Helen	45	
		Sister Helen	5	
		Elizabeth Campbell Murray	58 visitor	
		Isabella Johnstone	Servant 23	
		Annie Stedmondt	Servant 37	
		Alison Douglas Dewar	Servant 30	
		Barbara Ross	Servant 29	
		Louisa Yarroll	Servant 28	
		Jane Glover	Servant 20	
			Servant 17	

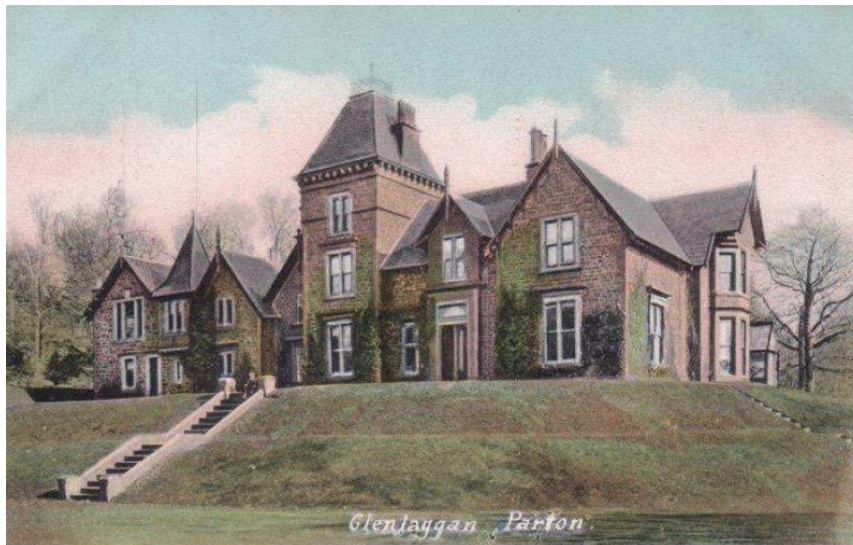
1902 22.02.1902	The death occurred suddenly yesterday at 5 Belgrave Crescent, Edinburgh, of Colonel Patrick Sanderson of Glenlaggan, Kirkcudbrightshire, formerly of the 2d Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys.) Deceased, who was born on 29th August 1844, joined that regiment in 1863, was promoted Lieutenant in 1866, became Captain in 1871, and secured his majority ten years later. He became Lieutenant-Colonel in July 1882 and Colonel commanding the regiment in 1886, retiring two years later on half-pay, and in 1893 on retired pay. Deceased was the only son of the late Archibald Christie Sanderson of Glenlaggan, Captain of the Royal Scots, and succeeded him in the possession of the estates in 1873. He was a Justice of the Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant for Kirkcudbright. He married in 1883 Mary, youngest daughter of the late Nathaniel Spens of Craigsanquhar, and is survived by a widow and family. Colonel Sanderson was a well-known officer, although he has been for some time retired. At his retirement he went to live on his estate at Glenlaggan, in the parish of Parton, Kirkcudbrightshire, a beautiful country seat on the banks of Lochken. Colonel Sanderson took an active interest in parish and county affairs. He was for many years a member of the Stewartry County Council and chairman of the Road Board, but owing to failing health, he did not seek re-election in December last. He was also chairman of Parton School Board. Colonel Sanderson was a Conservative in politics.	Owner and resident Patrick Sanderson 57 died	Died in Edinburgh Buried at Parton Kirk Conservative in politics	The King , Attended By An Equerry , Left London Yesterday Afternoon , On A Visit To Lord Burton Till The Scotsman Saturday 22 February 1902 British Newspaper Archive
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Pictures from MOP
Rosie Porteous of
tombstones at
Parton Kirk 2021



Early 1900s



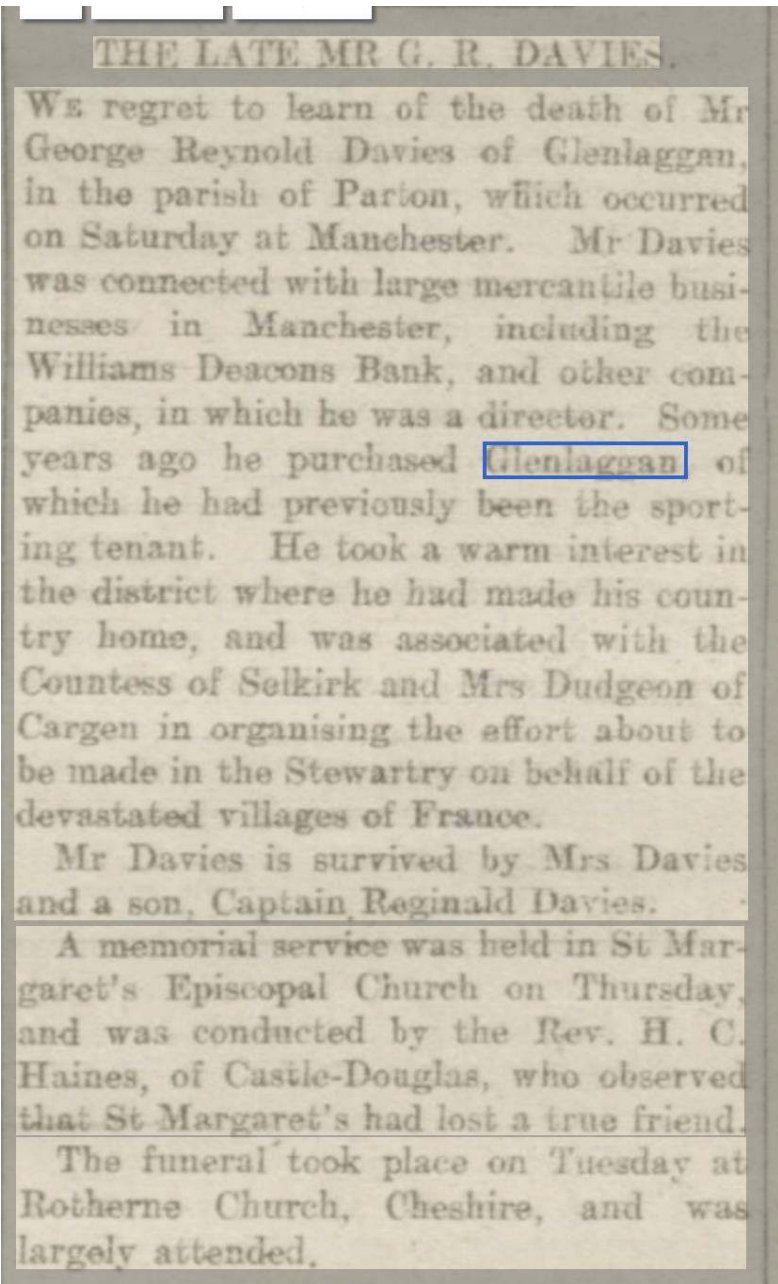
			Map showing the house and gardens with outbuildings; these are used today as main residences	Pastmap Pastmap
1903				Facebook – member of public (posted 2014)

1903				Photograph registered 18. August 1926 source Glenlaggan, Parton Collections University of St Andrews (st-andrews.ac.uk)
1909 24/04/1909	Available to let for the season or as arranged: Furnished Mansion House with shooting over Glenlaggan and Gelswinton estates, shooting over 3800 acres, beautifully situated on the banks of Loch Ken and 1 mile from station, good boating & fishing			Qkyb-Uig .-Fnrrn . Cottage 5 Apatla . ; Coif ; Fifle View ; 30 A . 0 Weekly . 18 The Scotsman Saturday 24 April 1909 British Newspaper Archive
		Sporting Tenant George R Davies	1911 census Forest Hill, Hartford George R Davies 67 Wife Katherine Helen 59 Son Reginald George Reynolds Davies 20	The Late Mr G. R. Davies Dumfries and Galloway Standard Saturday 23 March 1918 British Newspaper Archive

1913 19.06.1913	Miss Helen Christie Sanderson, 3 Lypiatt Terrace, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, formerly of Glenlaggan, Kirkcudbright, who died on the 26th April last, daughter of the late Mr Archibald Christie Sanderson of Glenlaggan, left personal estate in the United Kingdom valued at £12,475, of which £9052 is in Scotland.	Part owner ? Helen Christie Sanderson dies		Sfiottish and Other . Wills The Scotsman Monday 30 June 1913 British Newspaper Archive
1912-1933			River Salmon Fishing Rights	NAS Catalogue - catalogue record (nrscotland.gov.uk)
1914		Residents Mr & Mrs GP (R? misspelled) Davies	Of Glenlaggan Son Lieutenant Reginald GR Davies got wounded	Died Of Wounds, Dumfries and Galloway Standard Wednesday 11 November 1914 British Newspaper Archive
1915		Butler Walter Windsor 16 yrs		On Service. Dumfries and Galloway Standard Saturday 11 May 1918 British Newspaper Archive

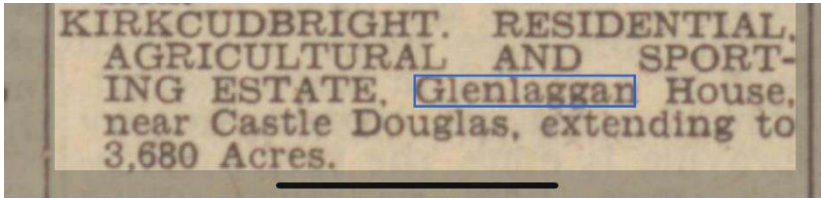
1915 17.07.1915	A STEWARTRY REFERENCE. Mr John M Taggart, Culnaughtrie, the mutually appointed arbiter in the reference between Mr R. Hannab, outgoing tenant of the farm of Barend, and Mr George R. Davies of Glenlaggan, the proprietor, has issued his findings, which have been accepted by the parties. In respect of manures, feeding stuffs, oats, and temporary pasture the tenant claimed £91, 15s. 1d., and was awarded £68, 4s. The proprietor counter-claimed for £7, 10s. for dilapidation of fences, ditches, and drains, and Mr M Taggart has awarded £3, 10s. The proprietor was represented by Mr W. Gillespie, solicitor, Castle-Douglas, and the tenant by Mr James Cannan, Castle-Douglas.	George R Davies	Issue between proprietor G R Davies and tenant	A Stewartby Reference The Scotsman Saturday 17 July 1915 British Newspaper Archive
1916		Butler William Spowage	Son Lieutenant 16 LRS	Australian! Killed Dumfries and Galloway Standard Saturday 12 October 1918 British Newspaper Archive UK, British Army Records and Lists, 1882-1962 - Ancestry.co.uk
1917	Advert for Chauffeur-Electrician CHAUFFEUR-Electrician (ineligible) wanted. Apply G. R. Davies, Esq., Glenlaggan, Parton, / Kirkcudbright-shire.	G R Davies		Tuneb , For Section Of Dobcross Looms ; Ineligible 'Lor Mili Tary Service ; Zood Wages To Suitable Appli ^ The Scotsman

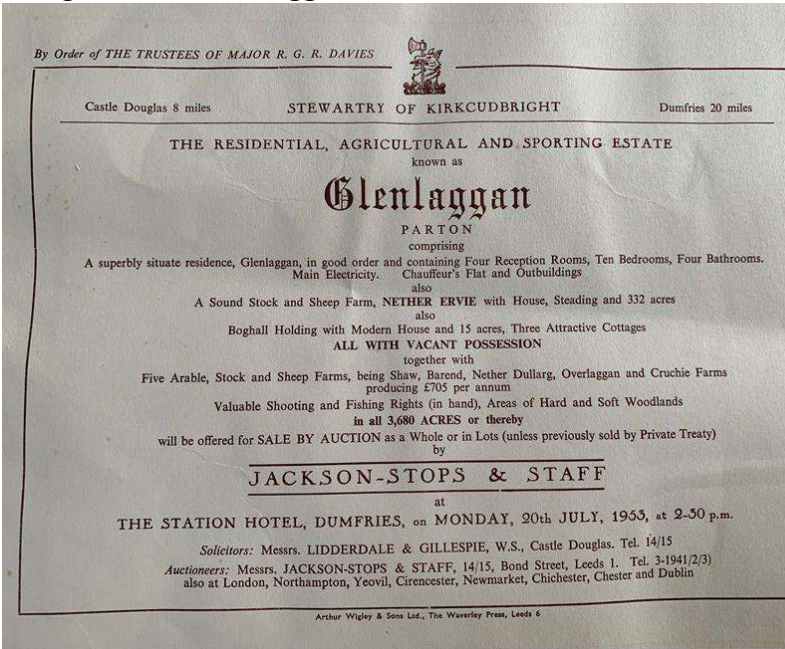
				Saturday 24 February 1917 British Newspaper Archive
		Owner & Resident George R Davies	Previously resided at Forest Hill, Hartford He was connected with various business enterprises in Manchester	Glasgow and West The Scotsman Wednesday 13 May 1931 British Newspaper Archive

1918 23.03.1918		Owner and Resident (Country home) George Reynold Davies Died	He was connected with large mercantile businesses in Manchester, including the Williams Deacons Bank, and other companies, in which he was a director. Some years ago he purchased Glenlaggan of which he had previously been a sporting tenant. Took warm interest in the district where he had made his country home, and was associated with the Countess of Selkirk and Mrs Dudgeon of Cargen in organising the effort about to be made in the Stewartry on behalf of the devastated villages in France. A memorial service was made in St Margaret's Episcopa; Church, Castle Douglas "St Margaret's had lost a true friend".	The Late Mr G. R. Davies Dumfries and Galloway Standard Saturday 23 March 1918 British Newspaper Archive
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	The following wills have also been proved: Mr. Arthur William Atkinson, of , St. Neots, Hunts—£73,356. Mr. George Reynolds Davies, of Glenlaggan, Parton, Kirkcudbright, and of Manchester—£62,588.		Will of £62.588	Blackberry Picking. "the Sunny Side Oir The Hedge"—and Other Hints. Daily News (London) Wednesday 28 August 1918 British Newspaper Archive
1922 31.05.1922	MRS Davies, Glenlaggan, suited with young footman and oddman; thanks to applicants; regrets too numerous to answer individually.	Mrs Davies	Filled position for young footman and oddman	Riobple Wantedchauffeur and Wile , To Livo In Lurnished V / Basement In West End ; Man To Drive Car The Scotsman Wednesday 31 May 1922 British Newspaper Archive
1925		Owner Katherine Helen Davies dies in London	Son Reginald inherits	Scotland, National Probate Index (Calendar of Confirmations and Inventories), 1876-1936 - Ancestry.co.uk
May 1931		Owner Son Major Reginald G Reynolds Davies	Had a distinguished war career. He was awarded the military cross & was mentioned 4x in dispatches.	Glasgow and West The Scotsman Wednesday 13 May 1931 British Newspaper Archive

		Wife Heather Davies	Took ill a few days ago and died 13/05/1931 in nursing home aged 40 in Edinburgh. Married just over from 1 year ago Heather Hannay, Glenlair, KBS	
13/05/1931	Inherited estate	Resident & Owner Wife Heather Davies	Value of estate £96.287:9:10	Scotland, National Probate Index (Calendar of Confirmations and Inventories), 1876-1936 - Ancestry.co.uk
1942	Advert for housekeeper in newspaper	Davies	Single-handed housemaid required, contact Mrs Davies, Glenlaggan, Parton	Middle-Aged Woman Wanted Immediately, Reliable and Kindly, To Assist With Household Duties Farm.— Apply 336 Standard Office. Elderly Woman Dumfries and Galloway Standard Wednesday 06 May 1942 British Newspaper Archive
1946		Heather Hannay Davies	Marries William A L Watson in Middlesex	England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index,

				1916-2005 - Ancestry.co.uk
1950s			Glenlaggan, home of the Sanderson family, stood on an elevated spot overlooking Loch Ken, demolished 1950s	Parton, Dumfries and Galloway - Wikipedia
1953-1958	Tree preservation order			NAS Catalogue - catalogue record (nrscotland.gov.uk)
1953	House and Estate for Sale 			July 20th Northampton Mercury Friday 03 July 1953 British Newspaper Archive

1953	Sales Catalogue of The Glenlaggan Estate 	Owner Daughter? Mrs Lindsey Watson (Tel Parton 4)	By order of the trustees of Major RGR Davies	Sales Catalogue Jackson-Stops & Staff Owner Rosie Porteous, Cruichie, Parton
	View of Loch Ken from the house		Glenlaggan House & Policies 49.334 acres Estate held incorporated Shaw & Upper Dullarg Farm Sporting: Shooting – although the estate was kept throughout the war, efforts are being made to regain what was lost. Grouse, pheasants, partridges	



View of Loch Ken from the House

Fishing



Drawing room



Inner hall

The house is approached over a carriage drive which, flanked with rhododendrons and azaleas and shaded by stately beeches, winds and climbs to terminate in a carriage sweep at the front of the house.

The house was mainly built just over 100 years ago of mellow local stone with a slated roof.

The dominating idea of the builder was to allow as many as possible of the main rooms to enjoy the entrancing view over Loch Ken. He was successful in no small measure.

The accommodation is on 2 floors. The rooms are well proportioned with generously sized windows.

The standard of workmanship is of the highest order and the installation of modern amenities has been done throughout in a similar standard.

Ground Floor:

			Small entrance porch leads to the entrance hall, panelled in oak with a range of fitted wardrobe cupboards Inner hall to the full height of the house and glazed roof, the gallery landing is one of many attractive features; fireplace with 18th century carved wood mantelpiece Drawing room, large attractive room with folding doors to form 2 apartments 22x16 ft and 18x14 ft each with a fireplace Back lobby with door to glazed veranda Billiards room 13 ft 9 in x 26 ft 4 in, panelled to 3 ft 6 in with beamed ceilings, brick fireplace. Dining room 30 ft x 20 ft with fine Adam fireplace and door to domestic quarters Cloakroom fitted basin (h&c) wc Small study 17 ft 6 in x 10 ft 3 in, fitted brick fireplace with Mahagony surround All aforementioned rooms are fitted with radiators	
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			and with the exception of the dining room command a magnificent view of the Loch. First Floor: A pleasant easy staircase leads to Landing and Gallery Main suite comprising: Large bedroom with freestone fireplace with attractive tiled back Dressing Room and Bathroom fitted bath (h&c) and WC Bathroom 2 fitted bath (h&c), basin (h&c) Bedroom 2 tiled fireplace Dress cupboard, WC, Stairs to Boxroom On this side of the house are 3 more bedrooms all with fireplaces and 2 with fitted cupboards. In the East/Nursery Wing are: Entrance Passage fitted cupboards Wing bedroom 1 with fireplace Bathroom 3 bath (h&c), basin (h&c), WC, Housemaid's cupboard	
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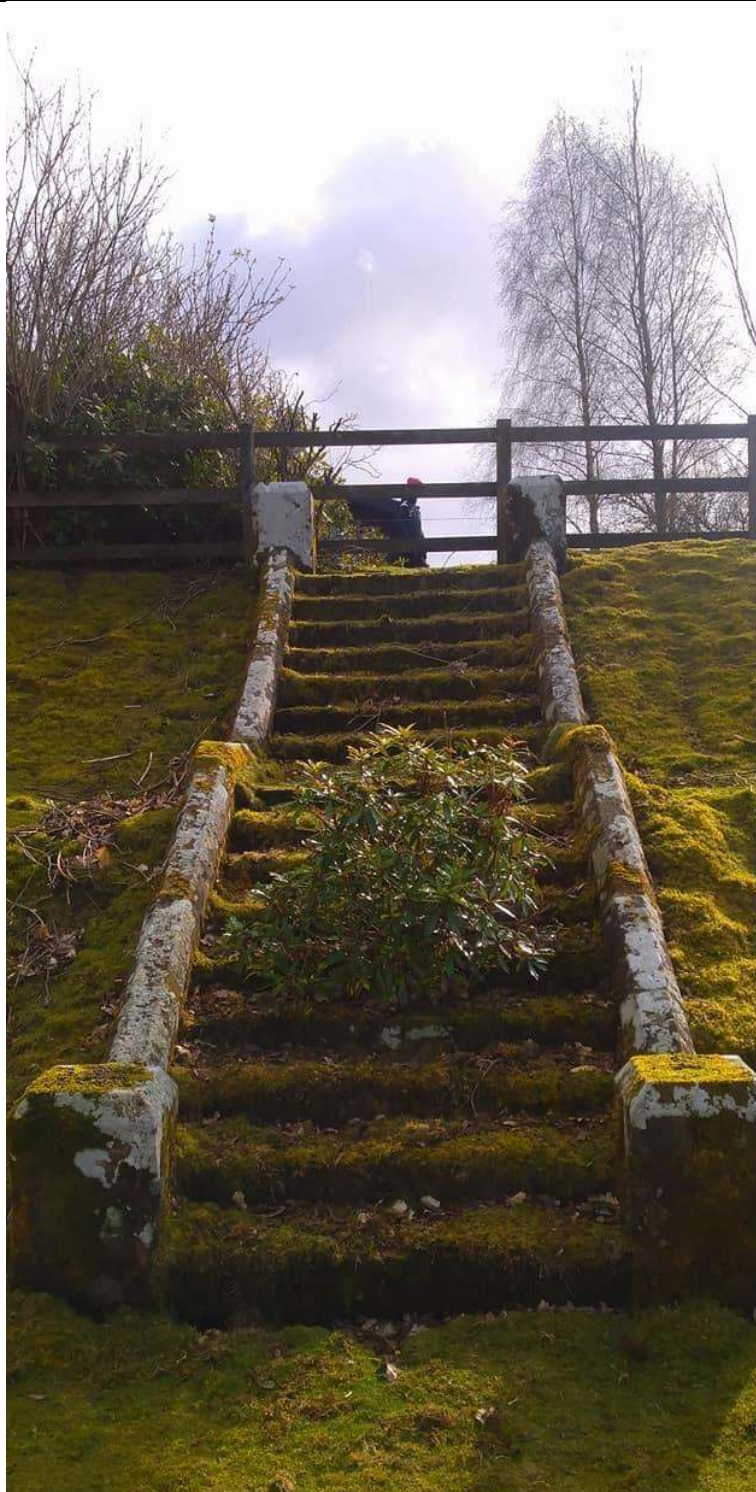
			Staircase to room in tower 2 small bedrooms with fireplaces Day & Night Nurseries Bathroom 4, bath (h&c), basin (h&c), WC, Housemaid's cupboard	
			Domestic Quarters: Back door to Hall Place with the following rooms off: Servants' Hall 2 Larders WC Door to Gun Room and WC with own outside door Boot Hole Vegetable Room with sink (h&c) and heated cupboard Kitchen with large size "Esse" with water heating boiler, sink (h&c), built in cupboards Scullery, sink (h&c)fitted cupboards and hatch to serving Pantry with sink (h&c), extensive fitted cupboards and drawers 2 staff rooms or storerooms The back staircase in the Hall Place gives access to 5 good staff rooms,	

			bathroom and heated linen room	
			Outside: 2 fuel bunkers Boiler House with central heating and hot water boilers (Britannia) and fuel bunkers Services – electricity, own water supply by gravity to house and cottages, drainage to efficient Cesspool, central heating with radiators in the principal rooms and hot pipes in the staff quarters Domestic hot water (2 systems, 3 bathrooms and water used in the kitchen are heated by the boiler in the “Esse”: the whole system can be heated by a recently installed boiler in the boiler house Telephone Outbuildings: Squash Court with Spectators Gallery WC	

			Small range of old electric engine house Battery house Store 2 Kennels Garages for 3 cars with Loft, Hay Store, Harness Room, Coach House Chauffeurs Flat Estate workshop Sawing shed Hard tennis court which requires attention Gardens: productive and extremely decorative yet they are maintained by only 1 man Pleasure Gardens Lawns & grassy slopes planted with a profusion of daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops, many varieties of rhododendrons, azaleas and cherry, completed by beautiful stately beeches Kitchen Garden stone wall on 3 sides, 2 greenhouses, 1 lean-to containing peaches & nectarines, 1 span-roof seedling house – both heated by a sawdust burning boiler Walls lined with plums, pears and blackcurrants,	
--	--	--	---	--

			apples, raspberries, strawberries and gooseberries Woodland and Lands – delightful beech and oak woodland incl. 2 productive paddocks	
After 1953 1962	House got knocked down/demolished		Wards Timber Ltd (Carlisle/Brampton) cut the woods down pre-1962. Possible Dry Rot in the house. His parents went to collect some doors from Glenlaggan House pre D A Porteous & M W Kennedy (parents of JH Porteous) wedding in 1962.	Memories of J. H. Porteous (tenants of Overlaggan and buyers of Cruichie)
1980s until today			Known as the Davies estate by locals	
2021	Remaining Parts of House – Steps in front of the house			Facebook – pictures of a member of public Rosie Porteous (neighbour)







2023	House (Period Unassigned) Site Name Glenlaggan House Classification House (Period Unassigned) Canmore ID 210446 Site Number NX67SE 54 NGR NX 68187 71273 Datum OSGB36 - NGR Permalink http://canmore.org.uk/site/210446 Ordnance Survey licence number 100057073. All rights reserved. Canmore Disclaimer. © Copyright and database right 2023. In its place today are holiday lodges.			Canmore
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Mochrum Park, Penninghame

by Kathryn Barr

Mochrum Park is a large house situated just off the B733, the road that runs between Wigtown and Kirkcowan in the parish of Penninghame.

The land that it stands on once belonged to a branch of the Gordans family and a smaller house which went by the name of, The Grange of Bladnoch was located there. This house would have been a plain, granite building. This land was later passed to the Earl of Stair in the 19th Century who then sold it to Sir William Dunbar who was the 7th Baron of Mochrum.

It was Sir William Dunbar who instructed an architect to design the house that we see today and pay for its construction. He also renamed the house Mochrum Park.

Sir William was born in 1812 and died in 1889. He succeeded his uncle to become the 7th Baronet of Mochrum in 1841. He was a politician and the Deputy Chairman of the Edinburgh, Perth and Dundee railway company. He was heavily involved in the railway and its expansion.

Sir William employed the architect Richard Park to design his new mansion. Richard Park was involved with many buildings in Newton Stewart and the surrounding area. Notably the McMillan Hall, which has some similar features to Mochrum Park. He also helped with alterations to Craichlaw in Kirkcowan and the reconstruction of the Old Place of Mochrum in Drumwalt, to name but a few.

The original farmhouse was mostly demolished but a wing of it was incorporated into the new building. The old farmhouse would have been built in the 18th Century. The new house was constructed between 1877 and 1879 and was built of red Dumfries freestone and local whinstone. The house was constructed in a gothic style. It is now a Category C listed building but it is only the 18th century part of the house that is of real interest. The entrance is flanked by two pillars from the original house that are at least 300 years old.



These are the pillars in the photo above.



Mochrum Park house below (Photo taken from; The Sphere, November 21st 1953)



*Another view of the house.
Mochrum Park by Hunters, Buxton. Hall/Country House.*



This photo was found on Pinterest and shows Mochrum Park in the early 1900s.

Note the square tower, very similar to the chateau like style of the McMillan hall.



Sir William lived at Mochrum park for 10 years, until his death in 1888. He lies buried in All Saints Church, Challock, just outside Newton Stewart on the B7027.

After Sir William died the house and the title passed down to his eldest son, Uthred James Hay, who became the 8th Baronet of Mochrum. Uthred was born in 1843 and he married Lucy Blanche Cordelia Grant in 1882. They never had children so when he died in 1904 the house and the title passed to his brother, William Cospatrick Dunbar.

Sir William Cospatrick Dunbar was the 9th Baron of Mochrum. He was born in 1844 and married Nina Susannah in 1878, the eldest daughter of Mr Alfred Douglas Hamilton of The Firs, Romford, Essex. In the book; Penninghame. The story of a Parish, it states that Sir William Cospatrick lived alone in the dilapidated mansion. They also were childless so when William Cospatrick died in 1931 the baronetcy and Mochrum Park passed to James George Hawker Rowland⁵. A cousin of Sir William. I don't believe the house was then

⁵ Sir James George Hawker Rowland Dunbar was the son of George Van Reede Dunbar, who was the son of James Dunbar, who was the son of Sir George Dunbar the 5th Baronet of Mochrum.

occupied until the house was requisitioned in 1940 and the army used it to support the war effort. It was in a sorry state of repair.

Sir James Dunbar the 10th baronet died at the age of 90 on the 23rd of January 1953. He was unmarried and died without having children. The baronetcy then passed to his second cousin Richard Sutherland⁶ who died two days later on the 25th of January 1953. Obviously the 11th baronet never resided at Mochrum Park and I don't believe the 10th baronet did either. Census reports have him living at various addresses in London and he died in one of his residences in Bognor Regis.

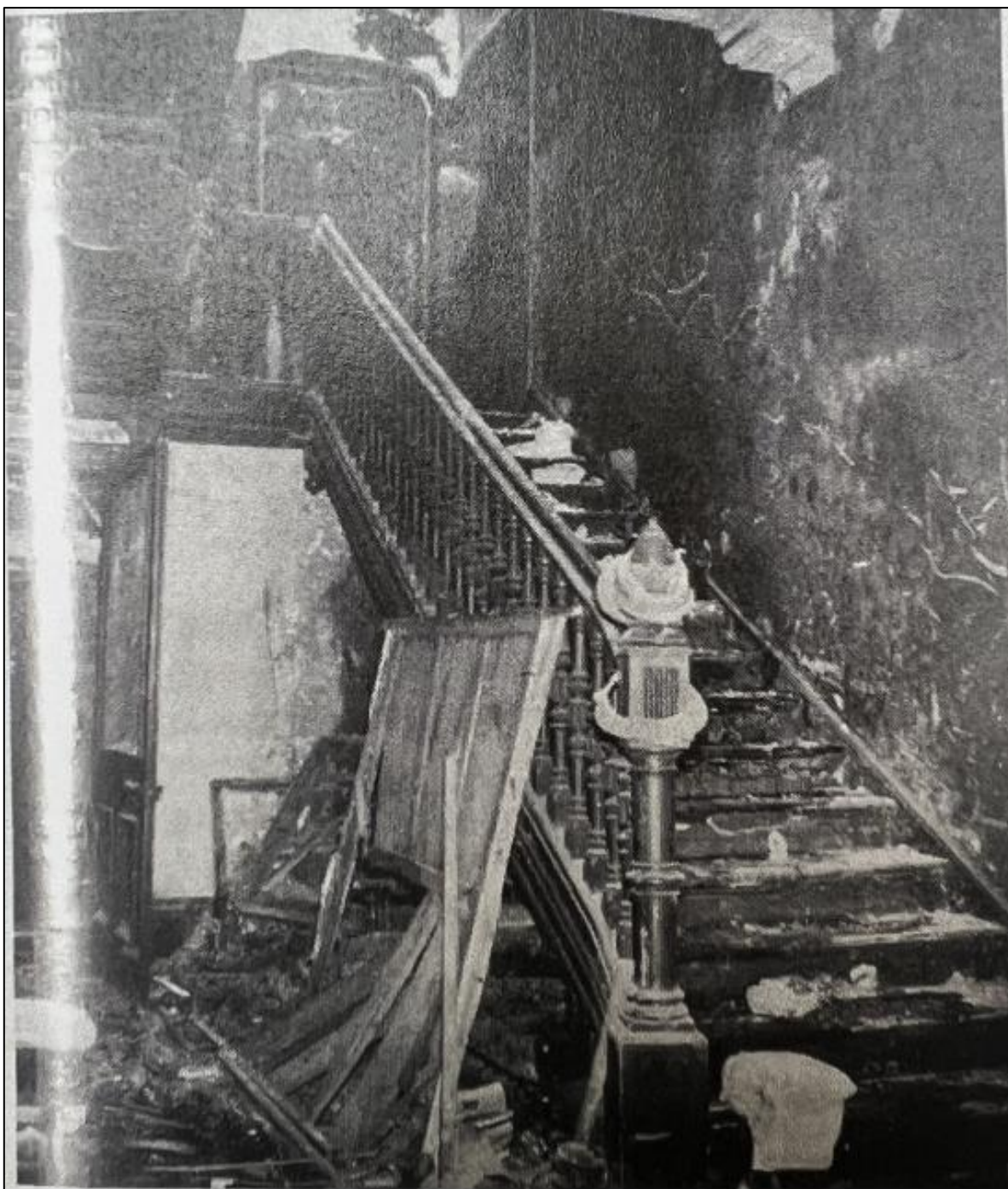
On the death of the 11th Baronet Richard Sutherland, a photographers artist and a first cousin once removed of Sir James Dunbar, 10th Baronet, the title and estate passed to Sir Adrian Ivor Dunbar. Richard Sutherland had two daughters but no sons. Sir Adrian Ivor Dunbar⁷ was very surprised to receive this inheritance, he was a semi retired handyman who had lived in the Unites States of America for years. Sir Adrian had been born in Weymouth in 1893. He had left England at the age of 17, and emigrated to Australia where he worked on farms before the war broke out and he joined the Australian army. After the war ended he headed to Canada with his French bride. After a few years he then went to America (Leicester Mercury, Tuesday March 30th 1954). He married secondly Esther Naomi Robinson in June 1930. This was who he was married to when he inherited the baronetcy of Mochrum.



The Twelfth Baronet and Lady Dunbar on their arrival in Southhampton after arriving from New York

⁶ Sir Richard Sutherland Dunbar was the son of Richard Taylor Dunbar who was the son of Lt-Col Thomas Clement Dunbar who was the son of James Dunbar who was the son of Sir George Dunbar the 5th Baronet of Mochrum.

⁷ Sir Adrian Ivor Dunbar was the son of Clement Adrian Dunbar, who was the son of Lt-Col Thomas Clement Dunbar.



The house was in a bad state of repair when the Baronet and Lady Dunbar inherited it. In fact it was uninhabitable and the grounds were overgrown and very neglected.

It was reported in the Belfast Telegraph of August 7, 1956:

Farmer Likes His Castle

Sir Adrian Dunbar, Maryland farmer who inherited a big estate and a castle in Scotland three years ago returned to Hoboken, New Jersey with Lady Dunbar for a visit and said that they were well satisfied with their inheritance.

There home is now a 40 room castle at Mochrum Park, Kirkcowan, Wigtownshire.

Sir Adrian said that so far he has renovated only four rooms in the castle, adding that he had neither the money nor the stamina to do more.

He hoped to take his two sons - Roland (22) and Donald Robert (20) - back to Scotland with him. They will be discharged from the Army soon.

The boys did go to Scotland with them and both ended up marrying local girls. It was the son of Sir Adrians first marriage that would become the next baronet though. Sir Jean Ivor who was born in 1918. He was reluctant to take the title at first but his father convinced him but he had little interest in the house. When Sir Adrian died in 1977 the house was sold to the Ribbens family who live there still. The house is divided into two with Clement Ribbens living in one part with his wife, while his son Jamie and his family live in the other section.

When Sir Jean Ivor the 13th Baronet died in 1993 the title passed to his eldest son, Sir James Michael (born Jan 1950) the current baronet who resides in the USA but has visited Mochrum Park.

Mochrum Park no longer exists as the grand estate it once was. Many of the farms were sold off in the 1950s and the main house is now shared by two branches of the same family. Many of the former estate houses such as the coach house and the lodge are run as holiday homes connected to a different family. Some of its greatest features are also gone, a heraldic panel has been removed and returned to Glasgow cathedral and a Raeburn portrait of Lady Jacobina the wife of the sixth baronet now hangs in the Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh. Although she was said to haunt the house at one time.

Maps Of Mochrum Park (Pastmap)

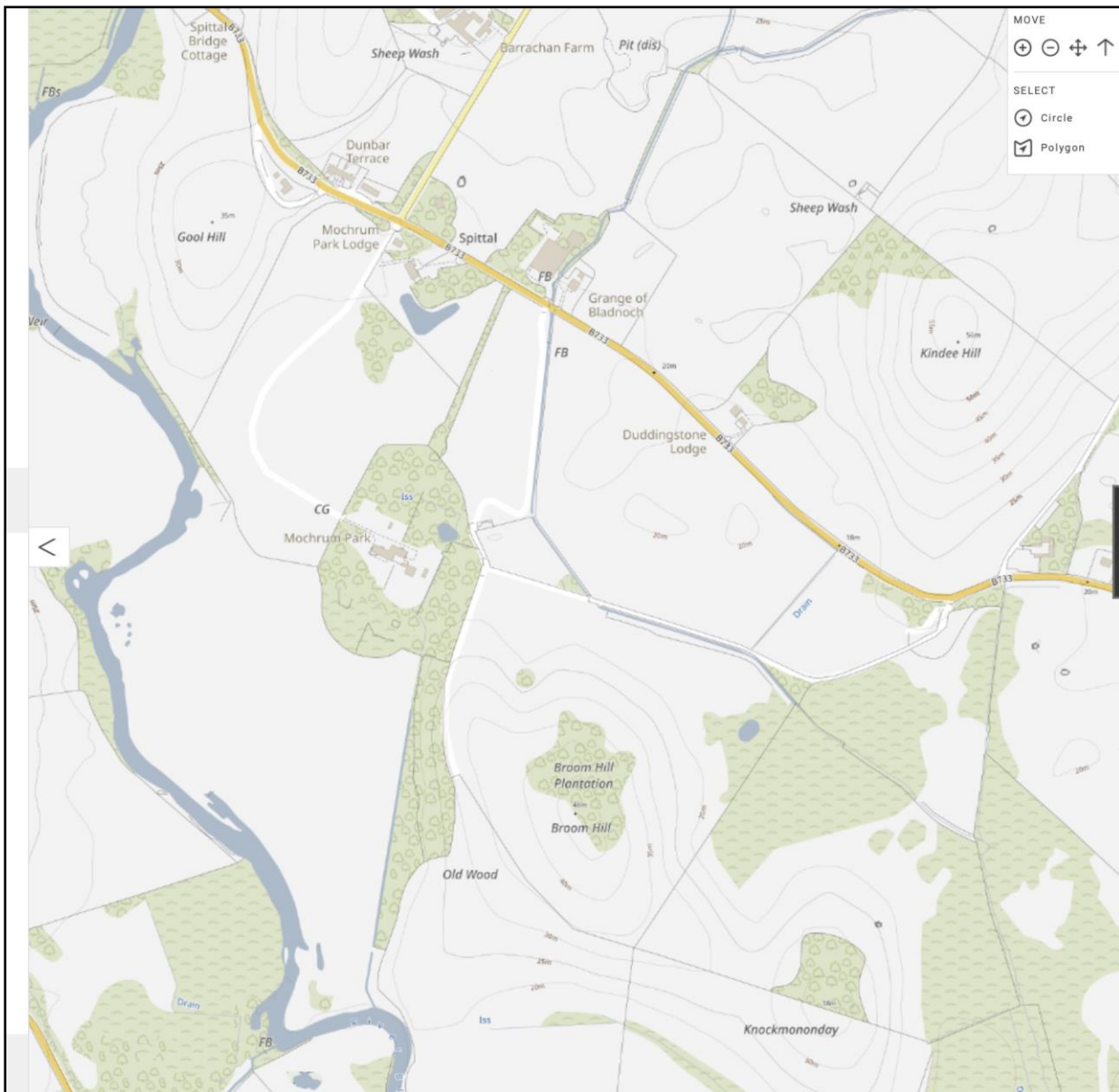
1st Edition 1843 -1882



1900's



OS map



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Daily Mirror, Monday November 9th 1953 [The British Newspaper Archives]

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The Peerage. <https://www.thepeerage.com>

The Sphere, November 21st 1953 [The British National Archives]

Dunskey House, Portpatrick

by Gabrielle Reynolds

Portpatrick, DG9 8TJ

Listed Building Status: B

Alternative names and spellings: Dunskey, Blairbowie, Craighury.

17th Century

1649

Rev. James Blair acquires the Portree Estate. The principal building of which is Dunskey Castle.

Groome, Francis H. (1882-1885) Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland: A Survey of Scottish Topography, Statistical, Biographical and Historical

1657

John Blair (son of Rev. James Blair) of Dunskey, valuation £946.13.4. (*Archaeological and Historical Collections Relating to Ayrshire and Galloway* p102)

1667

Marriage contract between John Blair and Jean Agnew, daughter of Patrick Agnew, Laird of Sheuchan. Witnesses included John's brothers, James and Hew.

The Agnews of Lochnaw p365

1667

Land tax rolls

John Blair £946.13.4

Land tax rolls, Wigtownshire vol 1, Portpatrick. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1672

Ratification to John Blair and his wife Jean Agnew of their lands to be called "barony of Dunskey".

Records of the Parliaments of Scotland

By 1684

John Blair had moved with his family to Killantringan. Dunskey Castle was in ruins with all useable building materials stripped and stored at Killantringan in preparation for building a new house at Craighouie.

Parish lists of Wigtownshire and Minnigaff, 1684

1691-95

"Dunskeyes own house 8" hearths. "Dunskey a kiln 1"

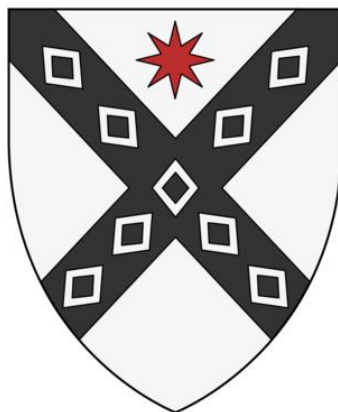
Hearth tax records for Wigtownshire, 1691-95, p13. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

The 18th Century



18th century topographical painting showing Dunskey House, Craigbouie Fell and the Walled Garden. It is just possible to make out the Blair family arms above the central doorway.

(Private collection)



*Arms of Blair of Dunskey
(www.blairsociety.org)*

1701

Dunskey House occupied.

Cunningham R, R, Portpatrick through the Ages, p25

1706

Dunskey House completed using materials from Dunskey Castle.

(www.scottish-places.com)



Excerpt from Military Map. William Roy, 1747. (www.maps.nls.uk)

1748

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
Lady Dunskey, Portpatrick	24	£0.12.0
John Blair, Craigbowie	40	£1.0.0

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 123, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1753

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
Lady Dunskey	21	£0.10.6
John Blair, Craigbuie	37	£0.18.6

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 123, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1756

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
John Blair of Dunskey	35	£0.17.6

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 123, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1758

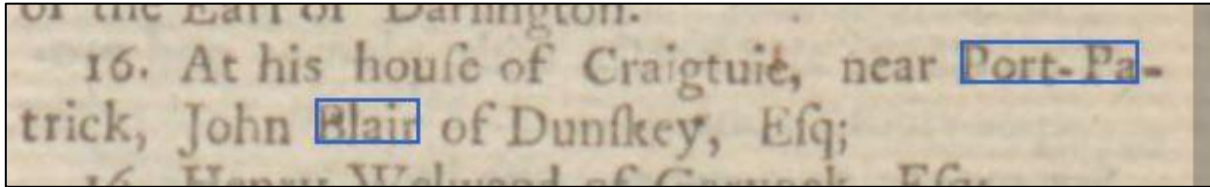
Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
Mrs Blair of Dunskey	37	£0.18.6

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 123, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1758

Death of John Blair.



The Scots Magazine 2nd January 1758. (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

1759

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
John Blair Dunskey	35	£1.7.6

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 123, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1760

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
John Blair Dunskey	24	£0.12.6

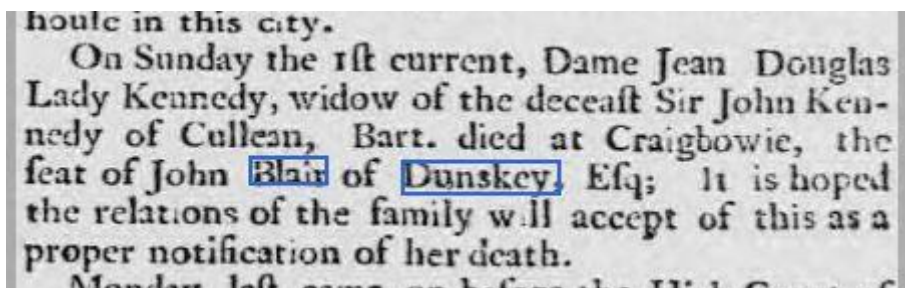
Window tax, 1748-98, vol 123, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1763

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
John Blair	20	£0.10.5

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 123, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)



The Caledonian Mercury 11th February 1767. (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

1767

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
John Blair Esq Dunskey	20	£0.15.10

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 123, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1768

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
John Blair Esq Dunskey	20	£1.11.8

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 124, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1770

James Hunter marries Jean Blair, heiress of Dunskey.

1772

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
John Blair Esq Dunskey	20 Empty	£??.?

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 124, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1772 – 1780

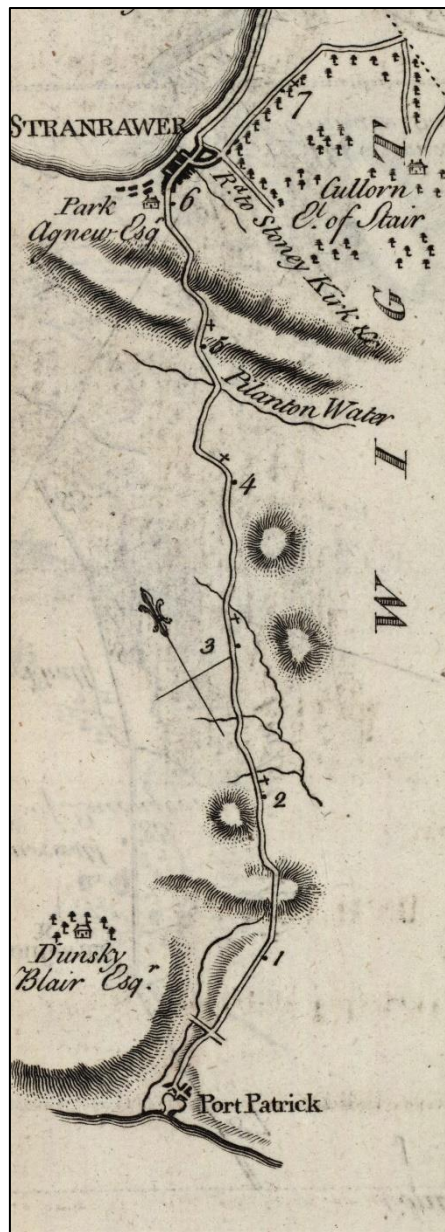
Window tax

Dunskey is recorded as “Empty”

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 124, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1777

Jean Blair inherits Dunskey, her husband James Hunter adopts the Blair name and the family become Hunter Blair.



Excerpt from "Map of road from Dumfries to Portpatrick". George Taylor, 1776. (www.maps.nls.uk)

1780 -1784

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
James Hunter Blair Dunskey	30	£3.0.0

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 124, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)



Excerpt from "Map of the County of Wigtown". John Ainslie, 1782. (www.maps.nls.uk)



Sir James Hunter Blair, 1st Bart, with his wife Jean and nine of their fourteen children. By David Allan, 1785. (www.nationalgalleries.org)



Preparatory sketch. There are minor alterations to the composition and the drive approaching Dunskey House and its adjacent building are more easily discernible. The boy with the whip is David Hunter Blair of Blairquhan. (www.metmuseum.org)

1780 – 1784

James Hunter Blair serves as M.P for Edinburgh.

1784 – 1786

James Hunter Blair serves as Lord Provost of Edinburgh and oversees many construction projects, including the South Bridge over the Cowgate. He is commemorated in the names of Hunter Square and Blair Street.

1786

James Hunter Blair created 1st Baronet of Dunskey.

1786

Female servant tax rolls

Sir James Hunter Blair of Dunskey. Margaret Rob – House servant. Duty £0.10.0

Female servant tax rolls, 1785-92, vol 06, Wigtownshire, (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1787

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
Sir James Hunter Blair of Dunskey	33	£3.6.0

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 124, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1787

Death of Sir James Hunter Blair in Harrogate. Robert Burns writes a rather turgid elegy to his memory. James' son, Sir John Hunter Blair becomes 2nd Baronet of Dunskey.

1787

Inhabited house tax

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No of Houses</u>	<u>Houses at 5L and upward and under 20L per Annum</u>	<u>Duty</u>
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1787 Sir John Hunter Blair 2 8 £??.?

Inhabited house tax, 1778-98, vol 61, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1788

Inhabited house tax

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No of Houses</u>	<u>Houses at 5L and upward, and under 20L per Annum</u>	<u>Duty</u>
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1788 Sir John Hunter Blair 1 8 £??.?

Dunskey

Inhabited house tax, 1778-98, vol 61, Wigtownshire, (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1788

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
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Sir John Hunter Blair, Dunskey 33 £3.6.0

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 124, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1789

Horse tax rolls

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Carriage horses (10s each)</u>	<u>Saddle horses (10s each)</u>	<u>Duty</u>
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1789 William Ross, Comptroller 2 2 £1.0.0

Of the Customs, Dunskey

Horse tax rolls, 1785-98, vol 13, Wigtownshire, (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1789

Female servant tax rolls

Sir John Hunter Blair of Dunskey Bart. At Portpatrick – Minor. Elizabeth Ker – House maid. Duty £0.2.6

Female servant tax rolls, 1785-92, vol 18, Wigtownshire, (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1789

Male servant tax rolls

Sir John hunter Blair Bart Dunskey. William Wallace - Gardener

Male servant tax rolls, 1777-98, vol 11, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1789

Inhabited house tax

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No of Houses</u>	<u>Houses at 5L and upward and under 20L per Annum</u>	<u>Duty</u>
1789	Sir John Hunter Blair Bart, Dunskey	3	8	£??.?

Inhabited house tax, 1778-98, vol 61, Wigtownshire, (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1789

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
Sir John Hunter Blair Bart, Dunskey	33	£3.6.0

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 124, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1790

Horse tax rolls

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>1 horse (10s)</u>	<u>2 horses</u>	<u>Duty</u>
1790	Mr. William Ross, Dunskey	2	1	1	££1.5.0

Horse tax rolls, 1785-98, vol 18, Wigtownshire, (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1790

Male servant tax rolls

William Ross Esq, Dunskey. James McCubbin

Sir John Hunter Blair Bart at Dunskey. William Wallace – Gardener

Male servant tax rolls, 1777-98, vol 15, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1791 - 1795

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
Sir John Hunter Blair Bart, Dunskey	33	£3.6.0

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 124, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1791

Female servant tax rolls

William Ross Esq, Dunskey. Marion Gill – Cook. Janet McLumpha – Childrens maid. Duty £0.2.6

Female servant tax rolls, 1785-92, vol 26, Wigtownshire, (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1791

Male servant tax rolls

Sir John Hunter Blair, Dunskey. William Wallace – Gardener

William Ross Esq. Factor to Sir John Hunter Blair Dunskey. James McCubbin – Groom & Gamekeeper

Male servant tax rolls, 1777-98, vol 17, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1791

Horse tax rolls

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>1 horse (10s)</u>	<u>2 horses</u>	<u>Duty</u>
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1791	William Ross Esq, Dunskey	2	1	1	£1.15.0
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10% per
31 George
III
£0.1.0

Horse tax rolls, 1785-98, vol 21, Wigtownshire, (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1791

Inhabited house tax

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No of Houses</u>	<u>Houses at 5L and upward and under 20L per Annum</u>	<u>Duty</u>
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1791	Sir John Hunter Blair Bart, Dunskey	3	8	£4.0.0
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Inhabited house tax, 1778-98, vol 61, Wigtownshire, (www.scotlandsplace.gov.uk)

1792

Horse tax rolls

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>1 horse (10s)</u>	<u>2 horses</u>	<u>Duty</u>
-------------	-------------	---------------	----------------------	-----------------	-------------

1792	William Ross Esq, Dunskey	2	1	1	£1.5.0
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10% per
31 George
III
£0.2.6

Horse tax rolls, 1785-98, vol 24, Wigtownshire, (www.scotlands places.gov.uk)

1792

Inhabited house tax

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No of Houses</u>	<u>Houses at 5L and upward and under 20L per Annum</u>	<u>Duty</u>
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1792	Sir John Hunter Blair Bart, Dunskey	4	8	£4.0.0
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Inhabited house tax, 1778-98, vol 61, Wigtownshire, (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1792

Male servant tax

William Ross Esq, Dunskey. James McCubbin – House servant & groom

Sir John Hunter Blair, Bart, Dunskey. William Wallace – Gardener

Male servant tax rolls, 1777-98, vol 19, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1793

Male servant tax

Sir John Hunter Blair Bart Dunskey. William Wallace – Gardener

*Male servant tax rolls, 1777-98, vol 21, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)***1794**

Inhabited house tax

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No of Houses</u>	<u>Houses at 5L and upward and under 20L per Annum</u>	<u>Duty</u>
1794	Sir John Hunter Blair of Dunskey, Bart.	4	12	£6.0.0

*Inhabited house tax, 1778-98, vol 61, Wigtownshire, (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)***1794**

Male servant tax

Sir John Hunter Blair of Dunskey Bart. William Wallace – Gardener

*Male servant tax roll, 1777-98, vol 23, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)***1797**

Dog tax rolls

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Dogs at 3s</u>	<u>Dogs at 5s</u>	<u>Duty</u>
1797	Mathew Quirk, Dunskey	1	1		£0.3.0

*Dog tax rolls, vol 02, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)***1797**

Horse tax rolls

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>1 horse</u>	<u>2 horses</u>	<u>Duty</u>
1797	Mathew Quirk, Dunskey	1	1		£0.10.0

10% per
31 George
III
£0.1.0

10% per
36 George
III
£0.10.0

*Horse tax rolls, 1785-98, vol 30, Wigtownshire, (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)***1798**

Window tax

<u>Name</u>	<u>Windows</u>	<u>Duty</u>
Mathew Quirk, Dunskey	12	£0.14.0

Window tax, 1748-98, vol 124, Wigtownshire. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1798

David Hunter Blair buys Blairquhan in Ayrshire. The estates of Dunskey and Blairquhan remain closely linked until the 21st century.

1799

Land tax rolls

Sir John Hunter Blair of Dunskey Baronet

“His lands and Barony of Dunskey, comprehending Killantringan, High and Low Craigbowies and Ochtrymakain, Dinvins, (Moroch Port, alias Port Moulgainoe), Dunskey Castle and Croft, High and Little Piminnochs, Craigenless, Auchenwie, Mini Crofts, Craig Slav and Croft, Portpatrick and Crofts adjoining with the Miln. By the adjusted supplyroll in 1667. Amount in cumulo to the sum of Scots £946.13.4”

“And also for his lands of (Kininglass) purchased off the Estate of Sheuchan comprehending Challoch Hill, Meikle and Little Knockglass, High and Low Tibberts, Crailoch including Green Know, Crailoch and Mill Crofts as above, amount in cumulo to £190.0.0”

Land tax rolls for Wigtownshire, vol 03, Portpatrick. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

The 19th Century

1800

Death of Sir John Hunter Blair. His brother, Sir David Hunter Blair becomes 3rd Baronet of Dunskey.



Extract from Dunskey Estate Plans. William Dubar 1804. Note that somebody has pencilled in the line of the new approach drive. (www.maps.nls.uk)

1815 -1846

Corn Laws

The corn laws were a series of tariff and trade restrictions on imported cereals. The Hunter Blairs along with representatives from most of the Wigtownshire land owning families served on various committees to view their opinions on the subject. There are a number of newspaper articles listing the members of these committees, but not their opinions.

1816

“Member returned to serve in Parliament, Shire of Wigtown, James Hunter Blair, of Dunskey, Esquire, in the room of Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir William Stewart, K.B. who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.”

Royal Cornwall Gazette, Saturday 17th August 1816. (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)



*Excerpt from estate map showing Dunskey House, the Walled Garden and the Approach Drive. 1814.
(Private collection)*

1820

Sir David Hunter Blair commissions architect William Burn to build a new castle at Blairquhan.

1822

The death of Colonel Blair of Dunskey has given rise to a spirited contest for the honour of representing the county of Wigton in the Commons House of Parliament. The candidates are said to be Sir William Maxwell of Monreith, Bart., James M'Dowall, Esq: younger of Logan, and Forbes Hunter Blair, Esq. of Pertospittle, brother to the late member. As the freeholders on the roll are not very numerous, it is probable that the result of the canvass now going forward will be known long before the day of election.

The Scotsman, Saturday 13th July 1822. (www.british newspaperarchive.co.uk)

1824

Building work at Blairquhan is completed.

1830's

Dunskey house and stables remodelled by William Burn.

1832

The Urquhart Census of Portpatrick

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
Forbes Hunter Blair Esq	51	Proprietor of Dunskey
John Brodie	40	Butler
Mary Brown/Brodie	40	House Keeper
Elizabeth Taylor	30	Chamber maid
Agnes Hunter	25	Dairy Maid
Daniel McLean	22	Footman
Elizabeth McIntyre	30	Kitchen Maid
John Lamb	40	Forester at Dunskey
Joanna Turnbull/Lamb	40	Washer Woman
Felix Henry	70	Labourer at Dunskey
Henry Darrock	50	Labourer at Dunskey
Peter Darrock	17	Labourer at Dunskey
John Ormrod	50	Gamekeeper at Dunskey
Robert Taylor	33	Gardener at Dunskey
James Bennet	40	Groom at Dunskey
Alexander Hill	44	Under-groom at Dunskey
John Hunter	45	Ploughman at Dunskey
Peter Hawthorn	40	Under-gardener at Dunskey
Isabella McWilliam/Hawthorn	35	Washes Clothes
John Murdoch	40	Factor at Dunskey

The Social Survey and Register of all Households in the Village and Parish of Portpatrick, 1832. Ewart Library, Dumfries, (GWA 4(31))

1834

Polar explorer Captain Ross dines at Dunskey with Colonel Thomas Hunter Blair before leaving for Liverpool in order to receive the freedom of the city.

English Chronicle and Whitehall Evening Post, Thursday 16th October 1834.

(www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

1842

"Forbes about the year 1842 built a large addition to the house, consisting of dining, drawing, and billiard rooms with bedrooms above."

Hunter Blair, David Oswald. Medley pp2-5

By 1842

Lower loch created

1842

"We drove one morning with Colonel Blair, (a Waterloo officer, who had just returned from the agreeable and gratifying duty of dining with *the* Duke, on the anniversary of the great day,) as far as his estate of Dunskey, near Portpatrick, and some eight or ten miles from Culhorn. A great portion of the higher ground between it and Stranraer seemed rather wildly cultivated, presenting a good deal of a north-of-Ireland aspect, though, no doubt, in the course of improvement. There was little or no wood visible, but the old Place of Garthland, recently purchased by Lord Stair, showed some good timber at some distance to the left. It must be both old and fine, if we may judge from a specimen of felled ash which we saw upon the quay at Stranraer, and which the diameter could not have been less than from three to four feet. The

style of farming greatly improved as we approached Dunskey, and we soon found ourselves under the shelter of extensive and very thriving plantations. The mansion house though of irregular form and unimposing exterior (having been built by various proprietors, from time to time, in accordance with no preconceived plan), is within doors both elegant and commodious. C'est un maison bien meublée, and the cellar is excellent.

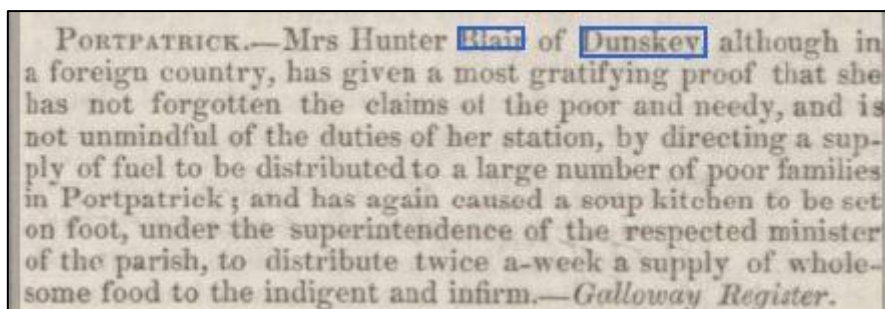
We proceeded on foot to inspect the grounds. We were certainly surprised when first informed that scarcely a tree existed here five-and-twenty years ago, except a few planted by the late Sir James Hunter Blair; and now, notwithstanding its vicinity to a bold and rocky shore, and unscreened exposure to the ocean blasts, there are from four to five hundred acres of excellent and even vigorous plantations. But, as the Secretary pointed out, with his accustomed perception both of the useful and the picturesque, a great advantage is gained by the ground being, though high, yet varied by numerous deep and sheltering hollows, between the prevailing elevated ranges. On the seaward side, a lively brook finds its way down a deep romantic glen, which presents, at certain points, the characters of a rocky ravine or dingle, with a silvery fall of water, encompassed by tangled banks richly covered with ivy, honeysuckle, and the more gorgeous fox-glove. Walks in a winding almost labyrinthic order, connected on either side by a slender span of a rustic bridge, conduct from point to point, and the stream, after brawling its way down the rocky glen, pursues a more quiet course for a few hundred yards, and then sinks into the sea, in a small recess called Port-Kale Bay, a little northwards of Portpatrick. The strand of this bay is composed of coarse gravel, the debris of the surrounding whinstone, and is separated by a small promontory from another bay, called Port-Murray, the shore of which consists of pure yellow sand. In this latter, at no remote period, there was an excellent salmon fishery, not fewer than 170 having been captured at one draught, though now-a-days nothing is to be taken but sea-trout. We were asked the probable reason for this change, and of course were unable to tell, - which is one great advantage of being what is called a practical naturalist."

"We observed that the young plantations to which we have alluded, failed in some measure as they approach the sea. Of the fir tribe by far the hardiest is the pineaster. First planted in Wigtownshire about 70 years ago by the Earl of Galloway, who recommended it as most capable of resisting the influence of the sea breezes, and experience has justified his expectation. It would be well to try sycamore and elders (not of the Church of Scotland, but), *Sambucus nigra*, both of which thrive well along our coasts. Of other trees which have been cultivated here with some success, we may name elm, oak, and ash. Besides the pineaster, the spruce and silver firs make progress, but the larch and Scotch firs have proved a failure. Vegetation, in general, is said to be slow in early spring, but rapid during summer, so that the harvests "are usually completed about the middle of October." The young shoots of trees, however, are often found in November un-prepared for those upheaving storms which saturate their succulent parts with salt sea spray, and not seldom cause a considerable portion of their tops to perish.

We returned to the dwelling house of Dunskey, by the side of a piece of water of about four acres, which has been lately formed into a fish pond, and stocked with trout and minnows. The latter were brought from Ayrshire, not being natives of the parish, in which, however, they will speedily acquire a right of residence, if not in the meantime swallowed by the former, which is probably the proprietors view. There is no natural lake in this district, but the trout of the burns are said to be of good flavour. We may conclude the parish business of Portpatrick by observing, that although we really did our best to look about us, yet it rained so unceasingly as almost to wash the very spectacles from off our nose; and although we inspected in the most patient spirit the thriving woods and picturesque ravine, an ingenious ice house and a well constructed pond, the pleasantest things we saw throughout the day were a blazing fire and a superexcellent lunch. We tried the experiment of drinking champagne out of Bohemian glass, and the Claude Lorraine effect, so rich and glowing, was much admired, and cannot be too frequently imitated in raw and gusty weather."

(Wilson, James. 1842. *A Voyage Around the Coasts of Scotland and the Isles* p48-51, p53-55)

1844



Dumfries and Galloway Standard, Wenesday 21st February 1844. (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

1846

"The property of Colonel Hunter Blair, C.B, containing Dining Room, Drawing Room, Billiard Room, Library, Family Sitting Room, and eleven Bed Rooms, all recently and completely Furnished; also Water Closets, Pantries, Kitchen, Scullery, and Servants Apartments, complete; together with Garden and Gardener's House, Stabling for Ten Horses, Groom's House and Coach Houses; also with the Keeper's House and Dog Kennels, and the Right of Shooting over about 9000 Acres of Land adjoining, _ will be LET for the space of *One or Two Years* from and after the 15th day of May first.

Dunskey is situated within one and a half mile of Portpatrick, where the Carlisle and Glasgow Mails in coaches, as also the steam-packets with the Irish Mails, arrive and depart daily; and is surrounded by 400 Acres of Wood and Plantations, conveniently intersected with numerous Drives and Gravelled Walks.

There are both Grouse and Black Grouse on the Estate, and the preserve is abundantly stocked with Hares and Rabbits, Pheasants, and Partridges; there is also in the season excellent Woodcock shooting, The White Fish caught at Portpatrick is celebrated; and there is a Fresh-water Lake, within a few minutes' walk of the House, having a boat on it, and a good stock of Trout.

If required, excellent Pasture Grass, adjoining the Groom's Stables and Cow Byre, may be has along with it.

For further particulars, apply to John Bell, Esq, W.S, 81 Great King Street, Edinburgh; or to J. Murdoch, Dinvin, Portpatrick, who has full power to conclude a bargain with an acceptable tenant." *Glaasgow Herald, Friday 17th April 1846, (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)*

1847

Authority for these other modes of spelling when known (Dunskey Estate)

Peter Martin	Low Auchenree
David Wright	Workman - Craigboy
Isiah Ferguson	High Auchenree
Mathew Wither	Moorcroft
James Logan	Workman – Moorcroft
John Murdoch Esq	Factor to Thomas Hunter Blair – Dinvin House
William Thompson	Craigboy
William Reaside?	Game Keeper – Dunskey
John Lamb	Forester – Dunskey
John Maperly?	Dinvin
James Boyd	Farmer – Dinvin North
William McClure	Killantringan
Peter Hawthorn	Gardener – Dunskey

(Ordnance Survey name Book, Vol 34, 1845-49)

Mrs Hunter Blair, of Dunskey, Portpatrick, has caused a supply of comfortable blankets to be given to twenty-four poor families in that parish.

John o' Groat Journal, Friday 17th December 1847. (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS RECENTLY DECEASED.

MAJOR-GENERAL THOMAS HUNTER BLAIR C.B.



THIS gallant officer died at Leamington on the 31st ult., and adds another name to the long list of the departed heroes of the Peninsula and Waterloo. Few earned, with more distinguished service, military reputation. He entered the army in 1802: in 1808 he proceeded to the Peninsula, and participated in the battles of Roleia and Vimiera, the action at Lugo, and the retreat and victory of Corunna. Subsequently, he assisted at the capture of Oporto, and was severely wounded at Talavera. The latter unlucky circumstance proved of great injury to Major Hunter Blair, for while in hospital he was made prisoner by the French, and detained in France until the peace of 1814. The next year's brilliant campaign of Waterloo gave the gallant officer another opportunity of distinction, but he was again severely wounded on that memorable field. The last sphere of action on which Col. Hunter Blair was engaged was India, where he remained several years, and served with great credit during the Burmese war, commanding a brigade in Ava, and distinguishing himself at the taking of Melloon. He was a companion of the Order of the Bath, and received clasps for Roleia, Vimiera, Corunna, and Talavera. His commission of Lieutenant-Colonel bears date the day of Waterloo; that of Major-General he attained in 1846.

The deceased was the sixth son of the late Sir James Hunter Blair, Bart., of Blairquhan, and brother of the present Sir David, and of James Blair Esq., M.P., of Dunskey, whose estates he inherited. He married, in 1820, Eliza, daughter of J. Norris, Esq.

Illustrated London News, 8th September 1849. (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

"...My father succeeded to the property (Dunskey) on the General's death in 1849, (and) signs were not wanting that factors had been too long supreme... According to the settlement of the family estates made a generation previously, my father on succeeding to Blairquhan had to divest himself of Dunskey and of a smaller estate in Ayrshire (Brownhill, near Mauchline), in favour of his eldest son. I consequently became on my grandfather's death the baby laird of Dunskey, of course under the guardianship of my father... My grandfather, who had previously bought back the property in the Carrick district of Ayrshire formerly belonging to his maternal ancestors the Kennedys of Blairquhan, had completed the beautiful castellated mansion which was henceforth to be the principal seat of his family."

Hunter Blair, David Oswald, Medley, pp 2-5



Extract from Ordnance Survey Map, 1849, showing Dunskey House, Walled Garden, Stables, and Approach Drive. (www.maps.nls.uk)

1851

Census

<u>Address</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
Dinvin	John Murdoch	59	Factor
Gamekeepers	Andrew Whitcroft	28	Gamekeeper
Gardeners House	Peter Hawthorn	58	Gardener
Foresters House	James Drynan	35	Forester
Porters Lodge	Emma Lamb	62	Gatekeeper
Grooms House	Alexander Hill	62	Land Steward
Joiners House	Robert Smith	42	Joiner

1857

Death of Sir David Hunter Blair. His son, Sir Edward Hunter Blair becomes 4th Baronet of Dunskey.

1870

Laying of new telegraph submarine cable between Port Kale (Dunskey) and Northern Ireland. Cable huts constructed to house equipment and operators.

1872 -1873

Land Ownership Commission

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Estimated acreage of property</u>	<u>Gross annual value</u>
David Hunter Blair of Dunskey	Dunskey, Portpatrick	8,255	£4,948.16.0

Land Ownership Commission, 1872-73. (www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk)

1875

David Oswald Hunter Blair converts to Roman Catholicism.

1878

David Oswald Hunter Blair enters the Benedictine monastery at Fort Augustus as a postulant. As a Benedictine monk David Oswald Hunter Blair could not own property. Therefore, Dunskey passed to Fort Augustus Abbey.

1890's

MacKenzie & Moncur glasshouses built in the walled garden to replace an earlier structure shown on the 1894 O.S map

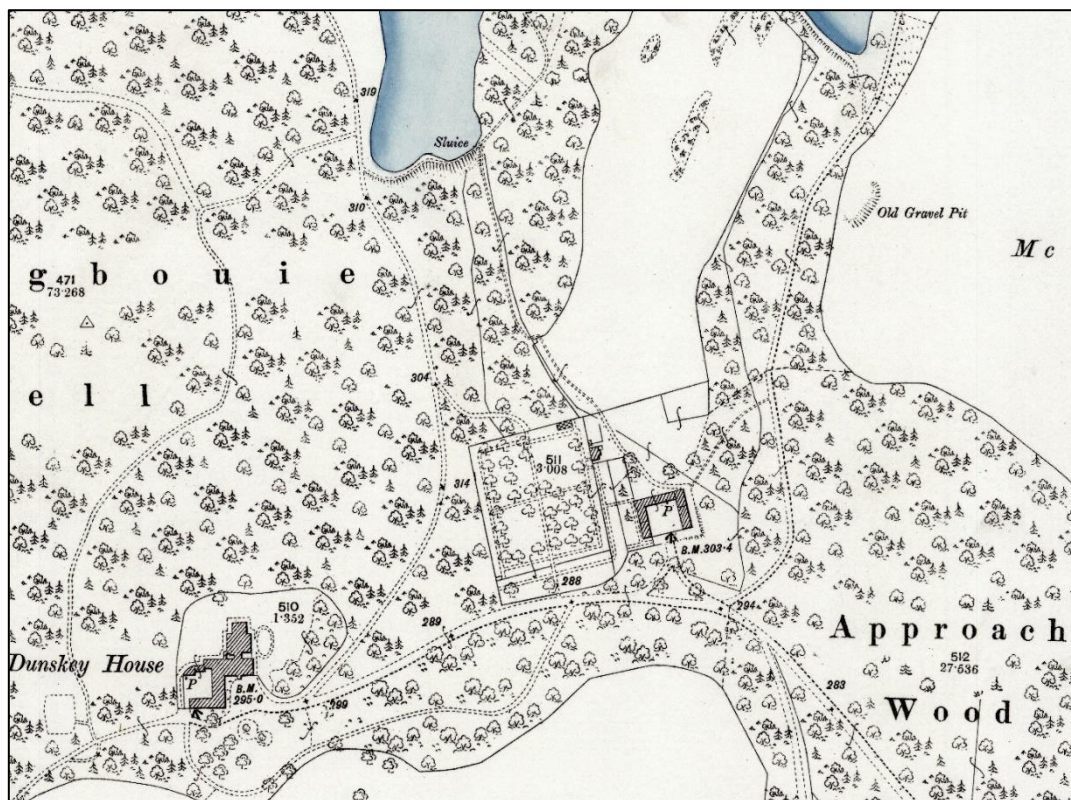
1891

Census

Mary Easton	Cook
Christina McG?	Housemaid
Mary Miller	Ladies maid
Margaret McBain	Launderess
Marion Glasgow	Under housemaid
Jeannie Welsh	Kitchen maid
Robert Todd	Footman
A Day	Butler
John Wilson	Coachman

By 1893

Upper loch created



Extract from Ordnance Survey Map, 1894. (www.maps.nls.uk)

1892

Supposed Child Murder at Portpatrick

"A girl named Grace Kelly, sixteen years of age, residing at Dunskey Home Farm, has been arrested on a charge of concealment of pregnancy and child murder. Late on Monday evening the policeman stationed at Portpatrick brought the news to Stranraer, and Superintendent Charlesworth returned with him to Portpatrick on the same night to investigate the matter. Sufficient evidence was forthcoming to justify the arrest of the girl Kelly who was conveyed to Stranraer and detained until further inquiries were made. The police were induced, from the information they obtained, to suspect that the body of the child had been thrown into one of the lakes at Dunskey, and on Wednesday morning had the upper lake dragged, when the body of a female infant tied up in a bag was brought to the surface. The child was fully developed, and appeared to have been in the water for some days. Yesterday Dr Easton, assisted by Dr Munro, made a careful post mortem of the body, and a report will be sent in to the police in due course. The girl will remain in custody."

Stranraer and Wigtownshire Free Press, 5th May 1892

The outcome of this case is unclear. However, a Grace Kelly of the right age appears on the 1901 census, living in Glenluce.

1896

Death of Sir Edward Hunter Blair. His son, Sir David Oswald Hunter Blair becomes 5th Baronet of Dunskey.

20th Century

1900

Dunskey is sold from Abbot Sir David Oswald Hunter Blair to his niece, Lady Augusta Helen Boyle and her husband Charles Lindsay Orr Ewing, son of Sir Archibald Orr Ewing of Ballikinrain. At this time the estate covered some 8,000 acres. Blairquhan remains with the Hunter Blair side of the family.

"Mr Charles L. Orr Ewing, M.P. for Ayr burghs, has purchased the estate of Dunskey, in Wigtownshire. Dunskey House and shootings are now tenanted by the Rev. A. A. Donaldson, of Eton College; and Knockinaam Lodge on the estate, with shootings, is rented by Captain G. Lowsley Williams, of Chevington, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, who is with his regiment, 4th Yorkshire Militia, in South Africa. Mr Orr Ewing has bought the estate from his wife's uncle, the Rev. Sir David Hunter Blair, of the Monastery, Fort Augustus.

Woodford Times. Friday 31st August 1900. (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

1902

Additional MacKenzie & Moncur glasshouse built. J. Galloway was paid £1. 0. 0. To cart it from Portpatrick station.

Dunskey estate legers in the Ewart Library, Dumfries

1901 -04

Current house commissioned by Charles Lindsay Orr Ewing and built by the following.

Architect: James Kennedy Hunter, 51 Sandgate, Ayr

Clerk of Works: J.P. Harris

Builders: Messrs G. Reid & Son, Catrine, Ayrshire

Joiners: Messrs J. & D. Meikle, Ayr

Plumber: Messrs Armour & Sons, Campbeltown

Slater: Mr J. C. Highet, Ayr

Cement Worker: Mr Hall, Irvine

Plasterwork: Mr Rome, Glasgow

Heating: Messrs MacKenzie & Moncur, Edinburgh

The cost, including the South Lodge was £30,000

(www.scottisharchitects.org.uk)

1901

“Fr Abbot left for Dunskey to select the furniture which is to come here, as the new proprietor is pulling down the house & building an entirely new one.”

(*Furnishing Fort Augustus Abbey, Inverness-shire. Anderson, Christina M. Regional Furniture, vol XXI, 2007 p221*)

1901 – 1905

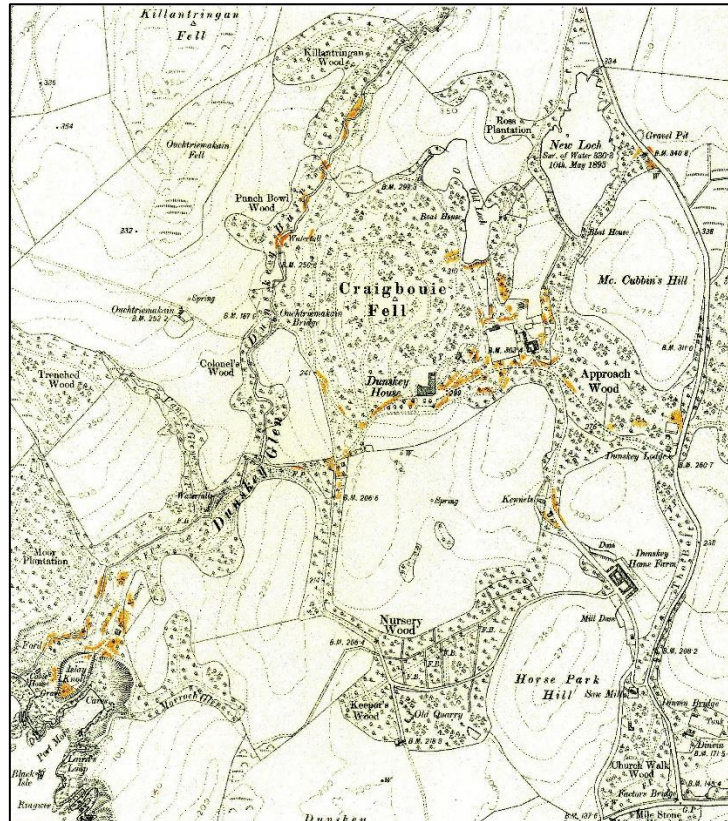
Separate laundry (now Craighouie Cottage), two new lodges – one at the main entrance to the estate (South Lodge) and one at the head of Dunskey Glen (Glen Cottage), a dairy (later converted to a tearoom) and a new head gardeners house all built



Dunskey House, 1904 -1910. Photograph believed to be by John McClymont Brownlee of Portpatrick

1903

Death of Charles Lindsay Orr Ewing. Dunskey passes to his son, Edward Lindsay Orr Ewing.

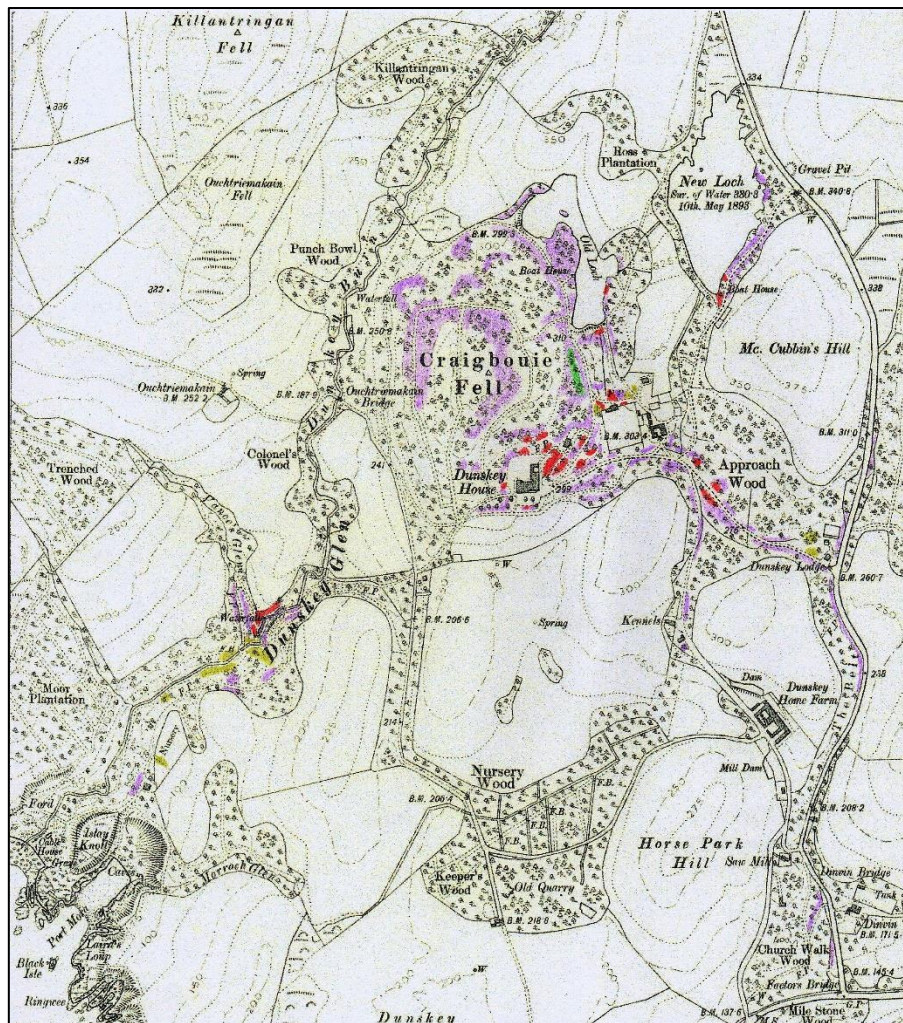


Map showing mass plantings of Narcissus cultivars which started following the death of Charles Lindsay Orr Ewing. (Personal Collection)

1904

Extensive planting of Rhododendron cultivars at Dunskey. The plants were supplied by Herd Bros of Penrith at a total cost in excess of £150

Dunskey estate ledgers in the Ewart Library, Dumfries



Map of 1904 Rhododendron plantings. Purple: *R. ponticum* and *R. catawbiense*, both were used extensively to define paths, viewpoints and to provide shelter. Red: *Rhododendron* species, varieties and cultivars, some of which have been identified. Lime: Laurel. Green: *Quercus ilex*. (Personal Collection)

1904

Lady Augusta Orr Ewing commissions James Kennedy Hunter to design and build the Portpatrick Hotel

1906

Tragic Occurrence

"About eight o'clock on Friday morning it was found that a young man named Robert Davitt, eighteen years of age, employed as a gardener at Dunskey, had taken his own life during the night. In the morning he was missing, and on a search being made he was found hanging in an outhouse near the gardens. The door was locked from the inside, and the rash act had been carried out in a very determined manner. Davitt had been in a very depressed state of mind for some time, and had only just recently returned to work after a rest of a few weeks. He had been complaining of very severe pains in his head. He was known as a quiet and industrious lad. In the outhouse he left pathetic letters for his parents and a comrade. He was a native of Portpatrick, where his parents reside, and the sensational affair called forth the deepest sympathy for them in their sad bereavement. The internment took place in the Cemetery on Sunday afternoon. The coffin was covered with beautiful wreaths, and the large attendance of the Estate employees and the general public showed every manifestation of regret in connection with the melancholy occurrence."

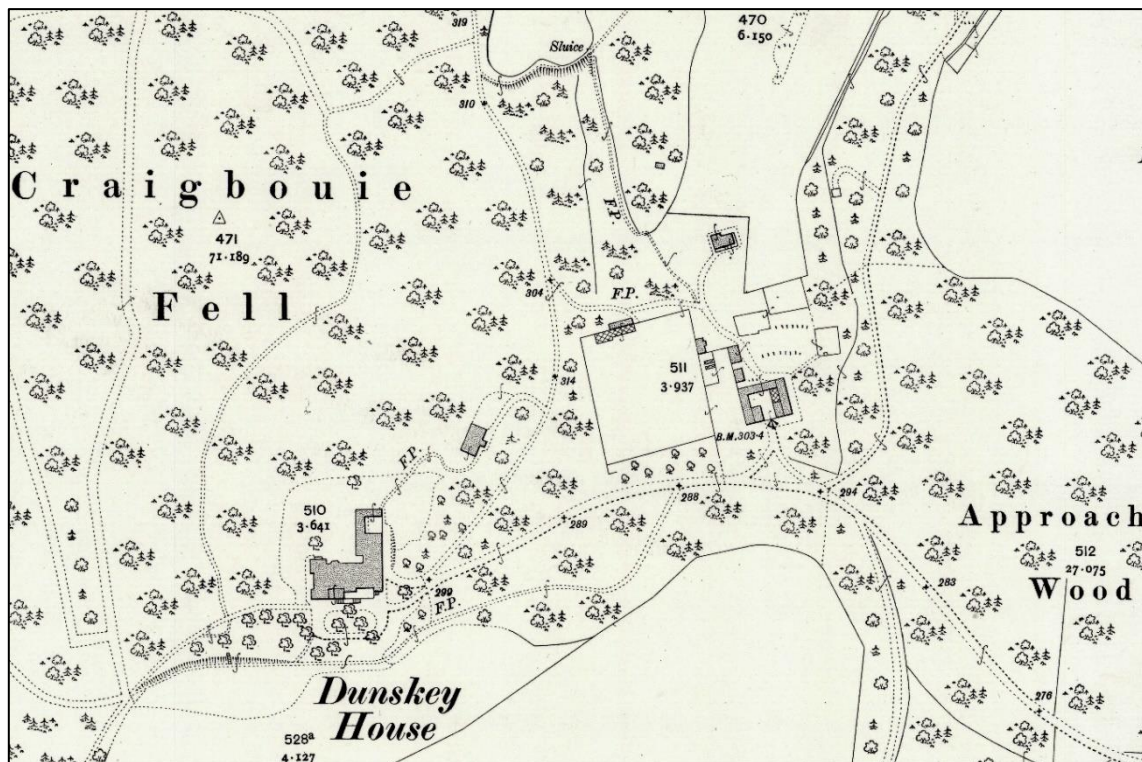
Stranraer and Wigtownshire Free Press, 11th January 1906

1907

Portpatrick Gardener Drowned

"The body of Robert McCredie, apprentice gardener, aged 15, and residing at Craigslove two miles from Portpatrick, was recovered from Dunskey Lake on Sunday forenoon. He left home on Saturday afternoon for Portpatrick, and was observed sliding on the lake. Cries were subsequently heard, but no suspicion of danger was aroused; but when it was reported on Sunday forenoon that McCredie had not returned home, Constable Thomson and a search party dragged the lake, and found the body in about 12 feet beneath broken ice, which gave indications that McCredie, a good swimmer, made a bold struggle for life, but was overcome by cold. The deceased was a trumpeter in the local Artillery Volunteers."
Aberdeen Journal, Wednesday 2nd January 1907. (www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk)

This tragedy most likely occurred in the upper loch as it is close by Craigslove and runs adjacent to the road leading to Portpatrick.



Extract from Ordnance Survey Map, 1908. Note changes to Dunskey House. (www.maps.nls.uk)

1908

Messenger & Co glasshouse added to the range of existing glasshouses in the walled garden. The glasshouse was transported by train to Portpatrick before the estate carter conveyed it to the gardens. He was paid £1. 4. 6. The addition of this building requires alterations to the north wall of the garden and the extension of the back sheds.

Dunskey estate ledgers in the Ewart Library, Dumfries

1911

Garden Party at Dunskey

"In connection with the Coronation of the King and Queen, Lady Augusta Orr Ewing held a garden party, on Saturday last, at Dunskey. The day was favourable, and up to 400 of the feuare, tenantry, and others assembled on the well-kept lawn in front of the mansion house. Over the entrance gate was a decorated wooden arch, with the word "welcome" neatly cut out of it...."



Welcome sign from the 1911 garden party. (Private collection)

“...The party was much struck with the beauty of the surroundings, and on reaching the spacious modern mansion the days of yore were forcibly brought to mind by a very large ship’s anchor, with a wooden stock, that had been unearthed while the improvements at Blair Street were being carried out...”

“...Tea and refreshments were provided in a sumptuous manner in a large marquee, games and amusements of various kinds were engaged in, while dancing took place to the strains of Crozier’s band. The well-kept gardens were visited by many during the afternoon, and the greenhouses, with rare ferns, together with the outside flowers and vegetables, reflected much credit on Mr Jowitt, head gardener...”
Stranraer and Wigtownshire free Press. 6th July 1911.

1913

Ballikinrain burned out – supposedly by suffragettes. Some of the estate staff relocate to Dunskey.

1914

Marriage

“The wedding of Lady Augusta Orr Ewing (daughter of the Earl and Countess of Glasgow, and widow of Mr. C. L Orr Ewing M.P for Ayr burghs) and Mr. T. W. H. Inskip took place on Thursday”
Dumfries and Galloway Standard. Saturday 1st August 1914. (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

1915

Serg. Charles M. McGregor, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, killed in action April 1915. The McGregor family had previously been at Ballikinrain, but relocated to Dunskey following the 1913 fire.
Julia MacDonald. The Faithful, the Fallen and the Forgotten.

1916

Pte. Simon Grant McGregor, Canadian Infantry, killed in action February 1916. Simon was the brother of Charles McGregor.
Julia MacDonald. The Faithful, the Fallen and the Forgotten.

Unknown date

Serg. James K. McGregor, New South Wales Infantry, killed in action on an unknown date. James was the brother of the above Charles and Simon. James appears to have wounded then held as a prisoner in Constantinople.

Julia MacDonald. The Faithful, the Fallen and the Forgotten.

Kenneth Morrison, The Scottish War Memorials Project

Charles, Simon and James McGregor were the sons of John and Anne McGregor who lived in the south lodge at Dunskey. John worked as a game keeper. The couple had one other son, named Peter. Peter survived the war and died in 1970.

Personal recollections

1916

2nd Lieut. James Melrose Kerr, Royal Scots Fusiliers, died September 1916. James was the nephew of the Dunskey factor, James Purves and had been his assistant.

Julia MacDonald. The Faithful, the Fallen and the Forgotten.

1917

Corporal Andrew Anderson, 33091, Wiltshire Regiment, killed in action February 1917. Andrew had lived on the Dunskey estate and previously worked as a Game Keeper.

Julia MacDonald, The Faithful, the Fallen and the Forgotten.

1918

Lance Corporal John Anderson, 23804, Royal Scots Fusiliers, killed in action March 1918. John was the brother of Andrew Anderson and also lived and worked on Dunskey.

Julia MacDonald, The Faithful, the Fallen and the Forgotten.

1918

Pte. Gilbert Thomson, 72124, Canadian Light Trench Mortar Battery, killed in action April 1918. Gilbert had worked on Dunskey as a chauffeur.

Julia MacDonald. The Faithful, the Fallen and the Forgotten.

1918

Wounded

“Second-Lieutenant E. L. Orr Ewing, The Black Watch, has been wounded in action. He is the eldest son of the second marriage of the late Mr. Charles Lindsay Orr Ewing of Dunskey, Wigtownshire.”

Kilmarnock Herald and North Ayrshire Gazette. Friday 25th October 1918.

(www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

1930

Death of Edward Lindsay Orr Ewing. Dunskey passes to his brother, Captain David Orr Ewing.

“The death occurred at Colchester today of Lieut. E. L. Orr Ewing, of the Black Watch, a well-known United Services Football Club player.

Lieut. Orr Ewing received an injury to his ear while playing Rugby last week and septic poisoning supervened. He was the Laird of Dunskey, Portpatrick, and a nephew of the Earl of Glasgow, his mother is Lady Augusta Inskip.”

Gloucester Citizen, Tuesday 25th November 1930. (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

1939

Death of Abbot Sir David Oswald Hunter Blair. His brother, Sir Edward Hunter Blair becomes 6th Baronet of Dunskey.

1945

Death of Sir Edward Hunter Blair. His son, Sir James Hunter Blair becomes 7th Baronet of Dunskey.

1964

Death of Captain David Orr Ewing. Dunskey passes to his son, Major Edward Stuart Orr Ewing. Still living.



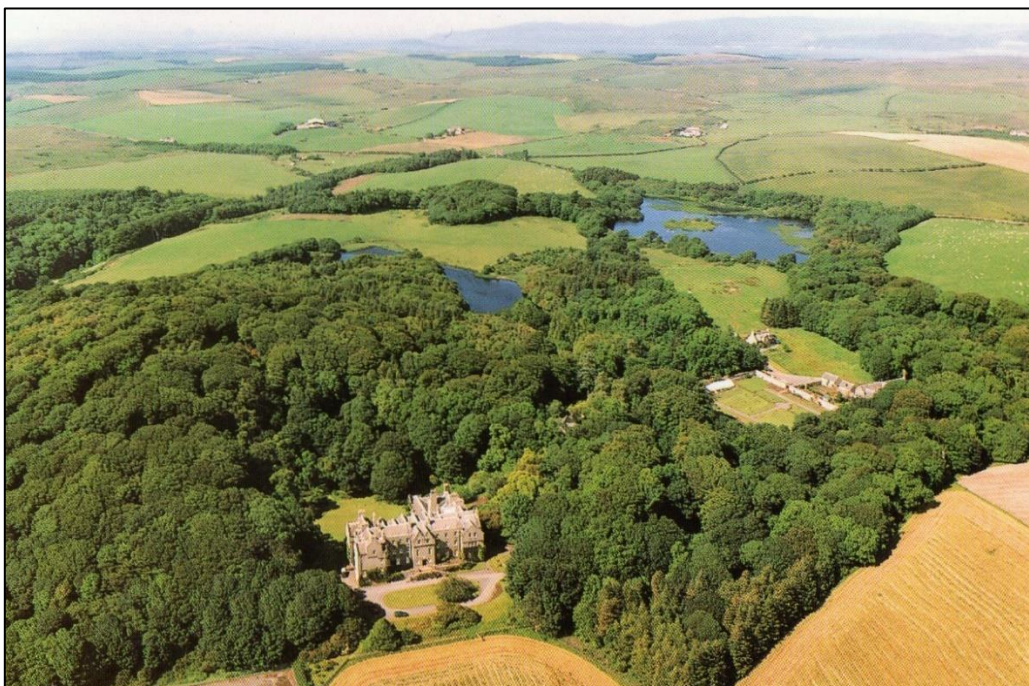
Aerial photograph of Dunskey walled garden and head gardener's house in the 1960's. (Personal Collection)

1997

Work begins on the restoration of the glasshouses and walled garden. The former dairy is converted to a tearoom.

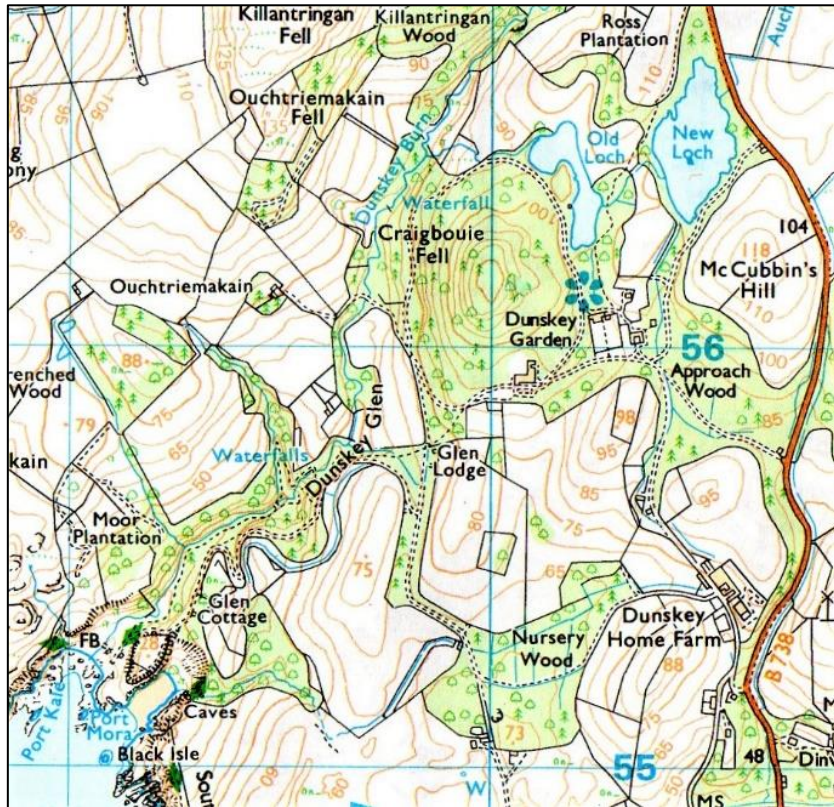
1985

Death of Sir James Hunter Blair. His son, Sir Edward Thomas Hunter Blair becomes 8th Baronet.



Aerial photograph, 1999. (Private collection)

21st Century



2001

Dunskey gardens and tearoom opened to the public. This covers just the walled garden due to foot and moth epidemic. The gardens later extend to encompass woodland walks and the two lochs.

2001 – 2016

Continued restoration and study of the gardens and grounds, including the identification and mapping of historic plants.

2003

Dunskey maze, the first hedge maze in south west Scotland, is planted.

2006

Death of Sir Edward Thomas Hunter Blair. His cousin, Sir Patrick David Hunter Blair becomes 9th Baronet.

2016

Major Edward Stuart Orr Ewing steps back from the day to day running of Dunskey Estate to be succeeded by his son, Alastair Lindsay Orr Ewing.

2017 - present

Dunskey gardens close. Dunskey becomes an exclusive private events venue.

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Cardoness House, Anwoth
The Holme, Balmaclellan
Balmaghie House, Balmaghie
Hensol House, Balmaghie
Laurieston Hall, Balmaghie
Slogarie House, Balmaghie
Borgue Old House, Borgue
Senwick House, Borgue

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Castledykes, Dumfries
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Ravenstone Castle, Glasserton
Dildawn House, Kelton
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