

The Landmark Trust

SADDELL ESTATE Cul na Shee History Album



**Written and collated by Caroline Stanford,
based on work by Clayre Percy**

Re-presented in 2015

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BASIC DETAILS

Acquisition of the Saddell Estate

Landmark bought Saddell Castle, Shore Cottage and Cul Na Shee from Colonel and Mrs Morton in 1975, who were given a life tenancy. These buildings were restored in 1976-8 and first let as Landmarks in 1978. The rest of the estate was bought in 1984, including Saddell Lodge. Ferryman's Cottage was added in 1990. Saddell House was restored by Landmark in 2004.

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Cul-na-Shee

Summary

The Landmark Trust's involvement with the estate and buildings at Saddell Bay on Kintyre dates back to 1975 when part of the estate including the Castle, Shore Cottage (built in the 19th century) and Cul na Shee were purchased from Colonel and Mrs Moreton. Mrs Moreton was given a life tenancy of Saddell House, which came to an end in 1998. In 1984 the Trust bought the remainder of the estate including Saddell Lodge, and in 1990 Ferryman's Cottage.

Cul-na-Shee

Cul-na-Shee was built in the 1920s by a teacher for her retirement. It takes its name from the little bay on whose shore it is built, Cul-na-Shee, or Cul-na-Sithe in the Gaelic spelling, meaning 'quiet corner.'

Since the mid 1960s it was lived in by Graham McKinley (1895-1980) and his wife Mary (1890-1982) when they retired from farming Whitestone, a farm on the Saddell estate. By the time the Landmark Trust bought Cul-na-Shee the Graham McKinleys had moved to Saddell Lodge.

The Landmark Trust's Repairs

When Landmark bought Cul-na-Shee it had no bathroom, just a WC by the front door, whose waste went straight into the sea; the roof and the corrugated iron walls were in a poor state, and the rooms, particularly the kitchen were dark. A new bathroom was added to the back of the house and a septic tank was installed.

The front lobby which had been added when the WC was installed probably in the 1950s and which took the light away from the kitchen, was removed. The kitchen window was then enlarged and another window looking west, away from the sea, was opened up.

The corrugated iron cladding was renewed at the back and at the front where the lobby had been. The house was re-roofed.

It was decided to line the rooms with pitch pine boarding, a common feature in Scotland, although the rooms at Cul-na-Shee were not originally finished in that way, it allowed for mineral fibre insulation to be inserted behind the boarding.

Brief history of Saddell Castle and Saddell House

In 1508 James IV, King of Scotland, granted the lands of Saddell Abbey to David Hamilton, Bishop of Argyll, with licence to "build castles ... and fortify them with stone walls". Saddell Castle was the result, a tower-house typical of the period. It was probably completed by 1512, and used by the Bishop as an occasional residence.

Of this 16th-century building there remain only the outer walls, including the entrance doorway, the great fireplace on the first floor and a small fireplace on the second floor (where there is also a garderobe closet), together with a short stretch of the original barmkin wall to the south of the tower, and some carved stone panels. In 1556 Saddell had been transferred to James Macdonald, who was busy annoying the English army in Ireland. In retaliation the Earl of Sussex mounted a raid on Kintyre in 1558, during which he burned and sacked the Castle, which he described as "a fayre pyle and a stronge".

The Castle seems to have been left as a ruin for the next hundred years, even after it was granted to Archibald Campbell, Earl of Argyll, in 1607. Then in 1650 the Earl, in turn, granted Saddell to William Ralston of that ilk, a fugitive from religious persecution in the Lowlands, on condition that he made it habitable within two years. The Castle was given a new roof, and floors, and the walls and parapet were extensively repaired. The arrangement of the rooms is mostly of that same date.

William Ralston soon moved elsewhere, and by the end of the 17th century the estate had been granted to a junior branch of the Campbell family, who became known as the Campbells of Glensaddell. During the 18th century they tried to make the Castle more comfortable, by lining the bedroom walls with panelling for example; and they smartened up the sitting room with a new fireplace, alcoves and a moulded plaster ceiling.

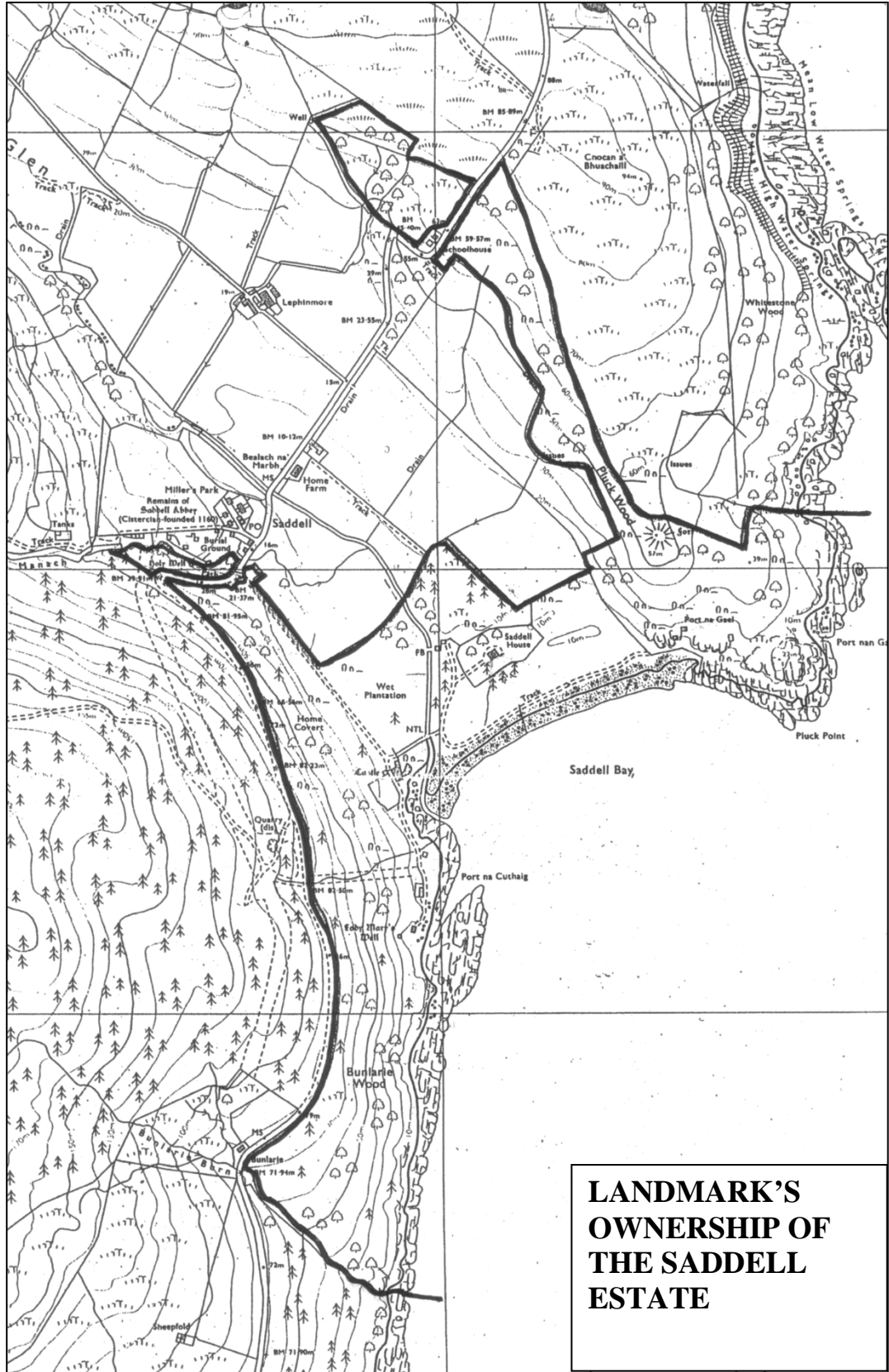
They must have felt they were fighting a losing battle, however, because in about 1774 the Campbells built themselves a new and more convenient home, which they called Saddell House. The castle became a farm, and was lived in by estate employees. Stone from the Abbey was used for the farm buildings that cluster around the foot of the tower.

In 1890 the Castle once again became, for a few years, the chief residence of the estate, after Saddell House was damaged by fire. At that time it belonged to Colonel Macleod, who clearly had great fun restoring the castle. It was he who put up the heraldic shields in the dining room, which contain heraldic jokes and puns; and he made several other minor alterations, such as the ceiling in the top bathroom, and fireplaces in several of the bedrooms.

Once Saddell House was repaired the castle went back to being an estate farmhouse. In the 1930s it was given another new roof. In 1937 the Saddell Estate was bought by Colonel and Mrs Moreton. During the war, when (the then) Captain Moreton was recalled to active service, Saddell House became home to children evacuated from Glasgow as well as to the Moreton's own children. The boys slept in the attic and the girls on the first floor and though these were tense days, it seems many happy memories were generated.

When Landmark bought Saddell Castle in 1975, the walls were in surprisingly good condition, only needing minor repairs to the stonework. There was one crack, in the south east corner, which had to be tied together, and some trees had to be removed from the parapet. The walls were then harled in the traditional way, which consists of applying a thin coat of lime plaster. The roof was reslated. The roofs of some of the outbuildings were unsafe, and these were taken off; some of the walls, including the entrance archway and cupola, were rebuilt.

Inside, almost total repair was needed - to floors, walls, doors and windows.



Cul-Na-Shee

Cul-na-Shee was built in the 1920s by a teacher, the daughter of the minister of a nearby parish, for her retirement. It takes its name from the little bay on whose shore it is built, Cul-na-Shee, or Cul-na-Sithe in the Gaelic spelling, meaning 'quiet corner.' It has remained quiet, quieter perhaps now than it was then, when the ferry was still meeting the Glasgow-Campbeltown steamers from the jetty in front of Ferryman's Cottage and once or twice a week there would have been uproar as sheep, coals and other provisions were landed.

Since the mid 1960s it was lived in by Graham McKinley (1895-1980) and his wife Mary (1890-1982) when they retired from farming Whitestone, a farm on the Saddell estate that lies a mile north of the Castle near the coast. Graham McKinley's uncle, Charlie McKinley farmed Whitestone before him, and Charlie and his sister were the last of the locals to speak Gaelic to each other in the home. John Moreton, whose parents owned Saddell, remembered Charlie McKinley as a 'wonderfully imposing figure with a soft and very deep west highland voice.' By the time the Landmark Trust bought Cul-na-Shee the Graham McKinleys had moved to Saddell Lodge.

There used to be a garden in front of the cottage, but in a storm in the 1970s the sea dumped great stones on it and it was obliterated. Landmark has twice built a road up to it and twice it has been totally washed away. Now Cul-na-Shee can only be reached by a footpath, which adds to its quietness.



Cul-na-Shee before



The Landmark Trust's Repairs

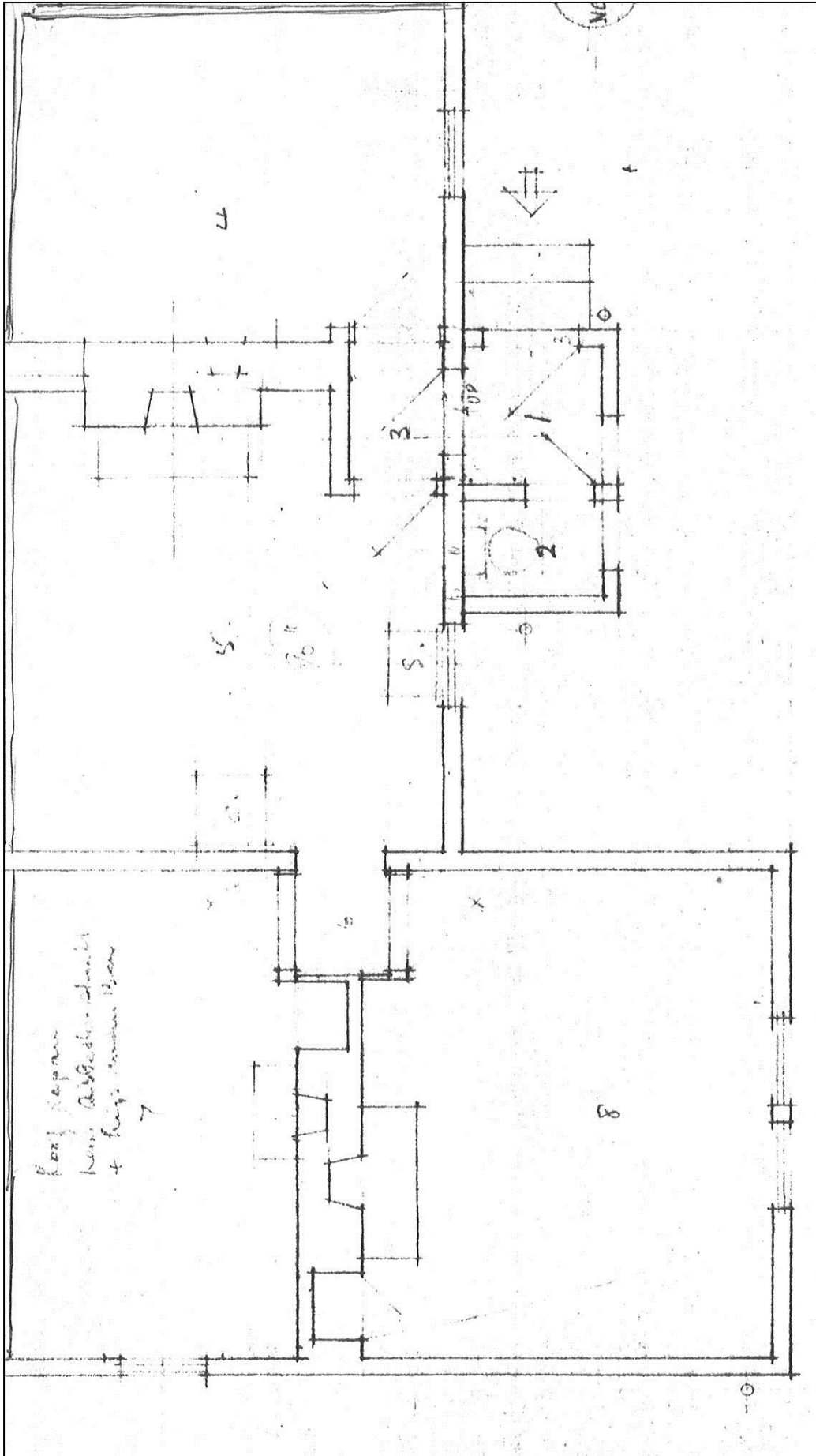
When Landmark bought Cul-na-Shee it had no bathroom, just a WC by the front door, whose waste went straight into the sea; the roof and the corrugated iron walls were in a poor state, and the rooms, particularly the kitchen were dark.

We decided that the only place to put the new bathroom which would not spoil the appearance of the little house was at the back. To this end rock was blasted away with dynamite from the bank behind by Robert Mauchline. A septic tank was installed.

The front lobby which had been added when the WC was installed probably in the 1950s and which took the light away from the kitchen, was removed. The kitchen window could then be enlarged. A window looking west, away from the sea, was opened up in the kitchen and another, also looking west, in the north bedroom. The window in the sitting room had such a high window-sill that sitting down you could not see the view, so it was lowered.

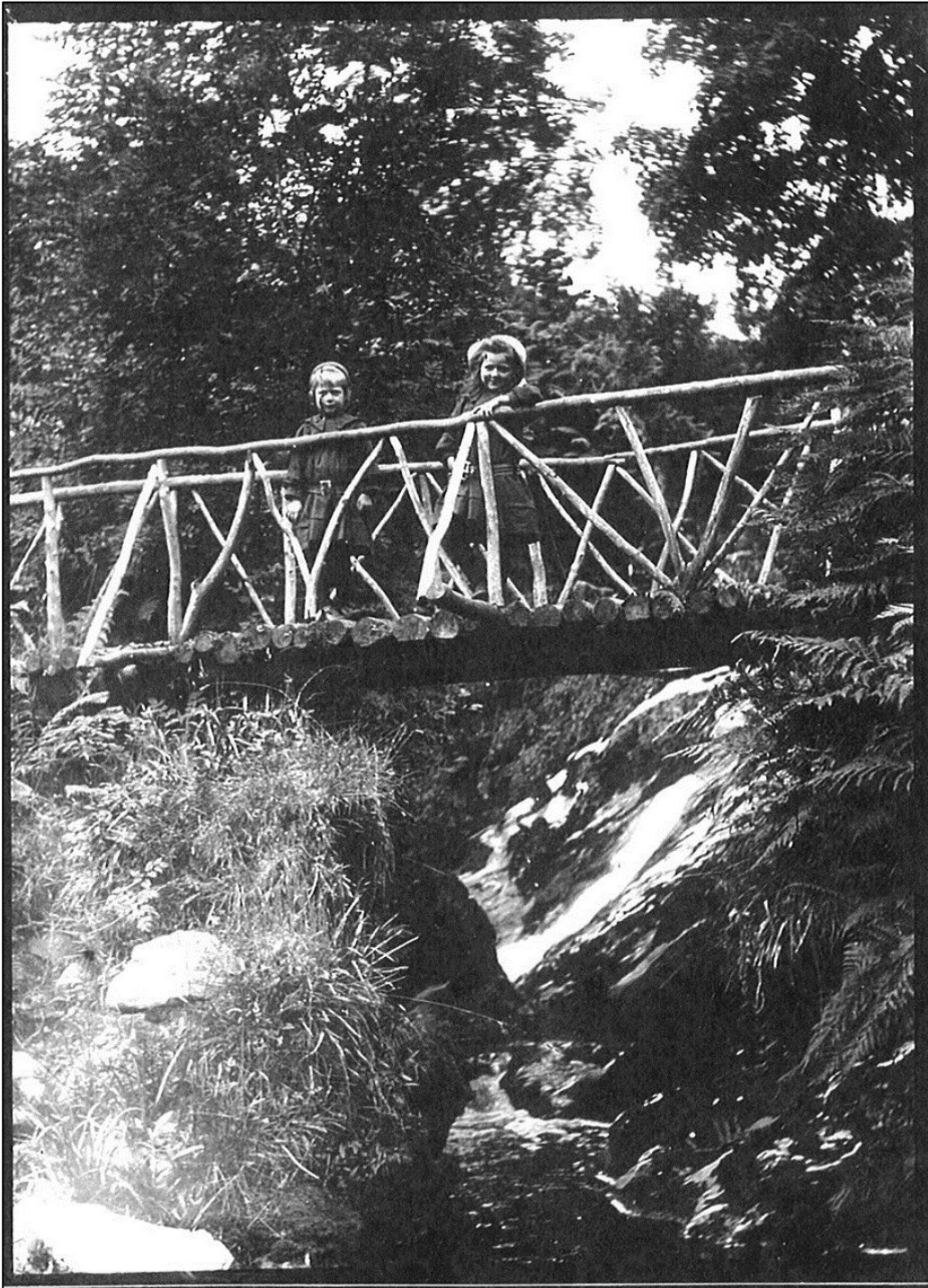
The corrugated iron cladding was renewed at the back and at the front where the lobby had been. The house was re-roofed.

Rooms lined with pine boarding are common in Scotland and although the rooms at Cul-na-Shee were not originally finished in that way, Landmark decided that it would make the house so much cosier that tongue and groove moulded pitch pine boarding was installed. Mineral fibre insulation was inserted behind the boarding. Plastic door-handles were replaced.



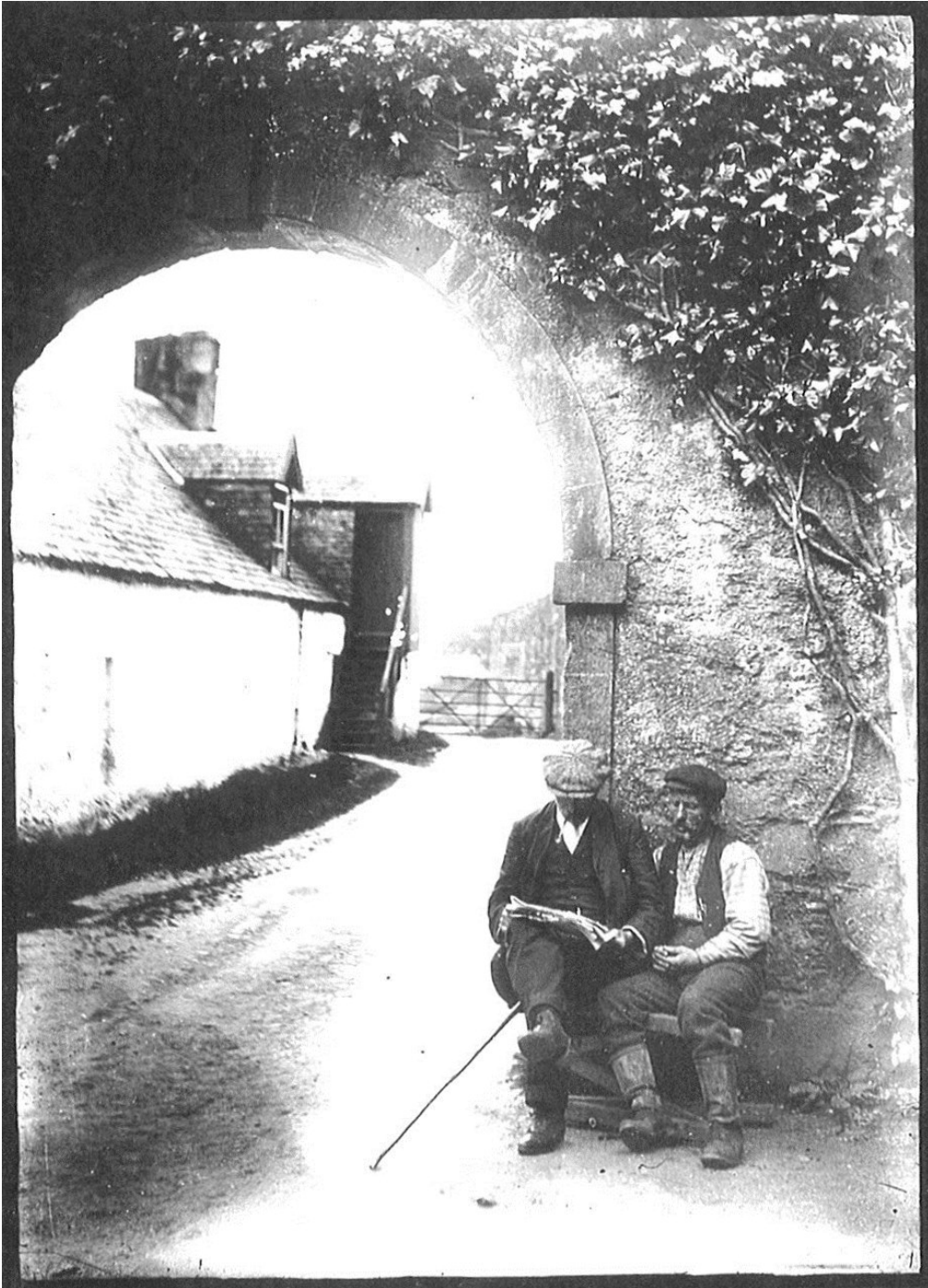
Cul-na-Shee - Beofre Plan

Pages from Mrs Martin's Saddell Album, taken about 1910









EARLY HISTORY OF SADDELL CASTLE AND THE ESTATE

As a small, remote castle with its own private dungeon, Saddell Castle might be expected to have had a history limited to the quarrels of rival clans in the peninsula of Kintyre. In fact its owners have been far from provincial. In the sixteenth century they suffered from supporting their allies the Irish against the English, in the seventeenth they stood out against Charles II's suppression of the Covenanters, in the eighteenth they played a courageous part in India in the early days of the British Raj and in the nineteenth century a fashionable spendthrift lost all.

Saddell Castle was built between 1508 and 1512, when the King of Scotland was strengthening his position in the west. During the fifteenth century the western highlands and islands were ruled in effect not by the King but by the Macdonalds, celebrated in Sir Walter Scott's poem *The Lord of the Isles*. Saddell Abbey was the Macdonald burial ground. But by the end of the fifteenth century the situation had changed: the Macdonalds forfeited their land and the castles of Kintyre were in the hands of the King's supporters.

Around the same time, the monks left Saddell Abbey, and the estate was left deserted and vulnerable. In 1506 James IV made it over to the bishopric of Argyll, giving the Bishop – at that time David Hamilton, his firm supporter – licence to build a castle, which he duly did.

In 1556 the Bishop was again a Hamilton, James Hamilton, half brother of the Earl of Arran. The Bishop sold the whole Saddell estate, of 48 merklands, to his half brother (a merkland being a farm worked by one plough drawn by four horses). Arran exchanged it for a property on the Island of Arran belonging to James Macdonald, whose family had now regained their possessions. At that point the Saddell estate lost its ecclesiastical status and became an ordinary

secular barony, though subject to the Bishop's right to stay in the Castle whenever he wished.

Two years later disaster struck. Thomas Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex and Lord Deputy of Ireland, was instructed by Mary Tudor to proceed with the conquest of Ireland begun by her father, Henry VIII, and to oust the Scottish highlanders who had settlements along the east coast of Ireland. Pre-eminent among the highlanders were the Macdonalds, cousins and allies of the Macdonnells of Ulster. Sussex decided that the best way to get rid of them was to attack their home base in Scotland, so in September 1558 Sussex set sail from Lambay, near Dublin, and landed on the west coast of Kintyre. He wrote back to London: "I landed and burned eight myles of leynght, and therewith James McConnelles [Macdonald's] chief house called Saudell, a fayre pyle and a stronge." In November he returned with his booty to Ireland.

Saddell remained a ruin for nearly a hundred years. Perhaps it was because it looked so sinister and ancient, and perhaps because the gravestones at Saddell Abbey, which have knights of the fourteenth century carved upon them, were connected wrongly with the Castle, that stories were spun round it that have a grain of historical truth. They are mostly folk tale, however. The best known is about "The Great Macdonald" who seems to be a cross between Sir Walter Scott's medieval hero, who lived long before Saddell Castle was built, and James Macdonald, who owned Saddell from 1556 and who was killed in Ireland in a local feud in 1565:

"The Great Macdonald took captive from Ireland a man called Thompson, who had a beautiful wife. He brought them both back to Saddell. The woman he locked up in the Castle and hoped to have her as his concubine, but she steadfastly refused him. The man he threw into a barn and hoped to starve to death, but the man kept himself alive by eating the grain off the barn floor. Macdonald then put him into a bare shed, but every day a hen came to the shed and laid an egg, and that kept the man alive for many weeks. Eventually the hen stopped laying and the man became so hungry that he ate his left arm right up to the elbow, and then he died. His keepers took up the body and carried it past

the Castle to the burial ground. As they passed by the woman called down from the battlements: 'whose body is that you are taking to the grave?' 'Thompson,' they said. 'Is it my Thompson?' she asked. 'Yes,' they said. 'Wait while I come down and give him my last farewell,' she said; and at that she flung herself over the battlements and they took her, with Thompson, to the grave."

Another story has a firmer historical base. The Macdonald this time is Angus Macdonald, James's son. Angus had a feud with his brother-in-law Sir Lachlan Maclean over land on Islay. They devastated each other's country, even employing Spanish mercenaries from the wrecks of the Armada to do battle for them, and the resulting period of anarchy and misery for the inhabitants lasted for several years. Finally, in 1589, the King of Scotland intervened and Angus Macdonald's son James was retained in Edinburgh as a hostage. By this time Saddell was a ruin but the dungeon was in good order, as it is now, and may well have been used in those lawless times:

The Macdonalds and the Macleans of Mull were enemies and the Macleans, being the stronger, forced Macdonald to give them his son as a hostage. Macdonald then asked the Macleans to a banquet in the midst of which the Macdonalds overpowered their guests and threw them into the dungeon in Saddell Castle. The next morning, to amuse his men, Macdonald had one of the Macleans brought out of the dungeon and hanged. This he repeated each day till the King heard of it and stopped him, but nearly all were hung.

In 1598 the estate changed hands. Macdonald's land, including Saddell, was made over by the King to the 7th Earl of Argyll.

In 1650 the 8th Earl and 1st Marquis of Argyll, a shrewd politician whose seat was Inverary, wanted a secure home base. He set about filling Kintyre with supporters from the Nonconformist south of Scotland, and he chose his friend William Ralston, a laird with estates near Beith in Renfrewshire, to pioneer this enterprise.

Ralston was a Covenanter of the extreme sect known as Remonstrants. Argyll made him tacksman of Saddell, with 23½ merklands. A tacksman was a head tenant who paid rent to the chief, in this case to the Marquis of Argyll, while the working farmers paid rent to him. A tack usually lasted for 19 years. The estate, which was now about half the original ecclesiastical estate, seems to have run for roughly two miles north and two miles south of Saddell along the coast and inland up the Saddell burn. In the agreement place names are mentioned, some of which are the same, or nearly the same, as they are today. For instance, Plock is now Pluck, the wood near Saddell House; Leppincorach is still the name of a farm to the north near Torisdale and Leppinbeg is an adjacent wood; lferman is lfferdale up Saddell Glen, and Ugadilluachtrach must be Ugadale south of Saddell. Other names not on the modern 1:25,000 map are Guystell, Kilmichell, Bradifern, Ullodill and Tortisell. The Forestry Commission's blanket planting of conifers has probably obliterated some of the names, as well as the features of the old estate.

William Ralston, on his side, was to restore the Castle. He agreed to repair the masonry, put in new wooden floors, a new roof of "firr and sklait" and glaze the windows, fitting them with iron stanchions. The work was to be "perfyted at the sight of craftsmen of skill" before 1 November 1652. For this work the Marquis of Argyll advanced 5,000 merks, to be paid back in three instalments. The renovation was carried out and when finished the Castle must have looked much as it does today.

When, under Charles II, the Covenanters were persecuted, William Ralston was imprisoned in Dumbarton Castle for two years from 1665. The 9th Earl of Argyll, son of Ralston's old friend, was in command of the King's forces and used Saddell and Skipness Castles as garrisons for his troops.

In 1668 William Ralston signed a bond in Edinburgh, saying that he would keep the peace. Argyll at this point proved as good a friend to Ralston as his father had been. The tack on the Saddell property had run out and was not renewed but Ralston was made tacksman of a larger and richer estate, of 44 merklands, south of Campbeltown. He died in about 1691 and is buried at Kilcolmkill.

When Ralston left Saddell in 1669, the Saddell estate was granted to Dugald Campbell of Lindsaig. Towards the end of the seventeenth century a younger son of Campbell of Stack was living there, and by the turn of the century those Campbells were known as the Campbells either of Saddell, or of Glensaddell.

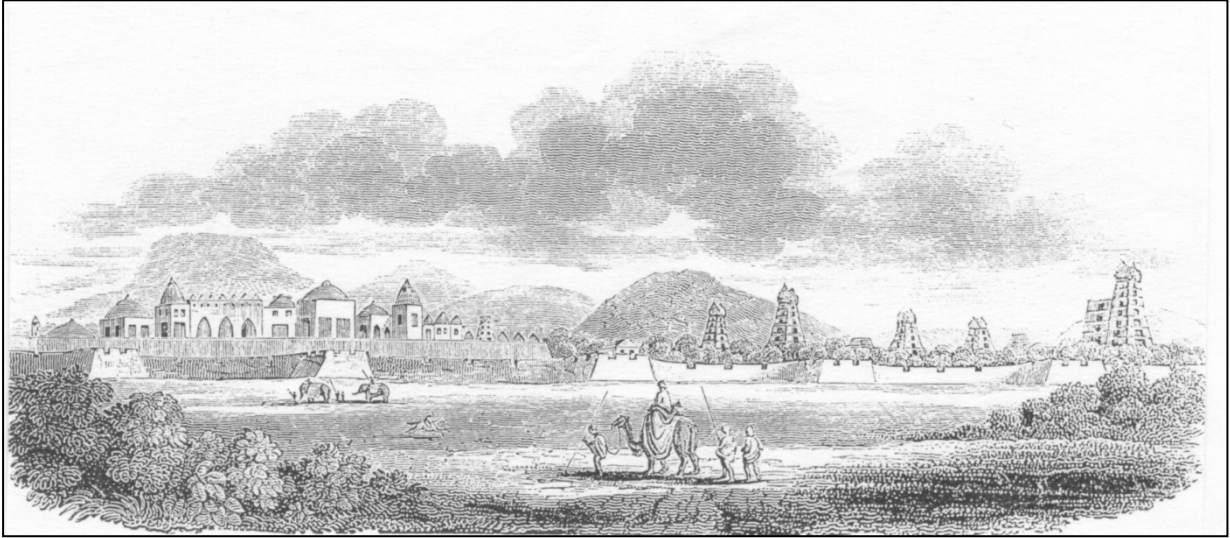
THE CAMPBELLS AND THE BUILDING OF SADDELL HOUSE

When Campbeltown, which had been founded by the 7th Earl of Argyll, became a Royal burgh in 1700, the first provost of Cambeltown was a John Campbell of Saddell. Little is known of this first apparent Campbell owner of the estate.

The first Campbell owner of Saddell who is more than just a name is Colonel Donald Campbell (1726-1784), whose tomb is in the graveyard at Saddell Abbey. In Sir Duncan Campbell's *Records of Clan Campbell in the Military Service of the Honourable East India Company 1600-1858* we are told that as a subaltern in the Guards, Donald Campbell served in Germany under the Duke of Cumberland. The Duke admired him so much both for his great personal beauty and for his military talents that he had a portrait drawn of him.

In 1753, aged twenty-seven, Donald Campbell went out to Madras to join what later became the Indian Army, then part of the East India Company. He was to remain in India for almost twenty years. At the siege of Madura in 1763 he commanded the cavalry, and received fourteen sword wounds and a musket ball in the body. He continued fighting gallantly, but eventually his men withdrew. He was left on the ground and stripped of his clothes by the enemy. Yusuf Khan, leader of the enemy troops, saw him lying there and is said to have burst into tears, saying he wished it had been anyone rather than Donald; taking him to the fort, he had his wounds dressed and sent him out again to his friends.

Donald's career path in India was by no means atypical for his generation of Scotsmen. Auchinleck House, home of the Boswell family was under construction at exactly this time and their capable factor James Bruce wrote in excuse of the slow progress that at Auchinleck 'The building is going on: tho' slowly by reason of few hands, the reason of which was, before a full determination was fixed on, Masons was all taken up as a vast worke is going on in this country by all these great Nabooos.'



*View of Madura from the South in 1794.
(From Col. James Welsh's Military Reminiscences, Vol. I).*

There was an ever-growing Scottish expatriate community in India and in 1762, aged 36, Donald found an eminently suitable bride, another member of the far-flung Campbell clan. He married Anne, daughter of John Campbell, in July at Fort George in Madras. Anne was to bear him three sons and five daughters.

In 1764 Donald was "esteemed an exceedingly good officer" by the Court of Madras and was given a Colonel's commission in the 1st Regiment of Foot. In the same year he was specially chosen by the Nawab of Arcot from among a number of British officers to be commandant of Madras. In 1768 he played a major part in several military operations, taking three enemy Indian forts.

Donald's wounds continued to trouble him and in 1771 he returned to Scotland. In 1772 he asked permission of the Government to take a reward from the Nawab of Arcot; this was granted and his widow continued to receive an annuity until her death in 1803. In 1774 he built Saddell House and it seems very probable that the Nawab's reward and the building of the house were connected. His return from India as a rich man would also explain his being in a

position to build the house before inheriting the estate, which became his only in 1781.

We do not know exactly how Donald Campbell died although William Dobie in 1833 refers to 'an accidentally self inflicted wound'; of his three sons, Donald and then John succeeded him at Saddell. All three sons had followed their father as career soldiers in India, and all three died at relatively young ages. Captain Donald Campbell, the eldest of the three, enjoyed his inheritance at Saddell for only seven years before dying aged 30 in 1793. The middle son, Charles, having apparently been commissioned into the Scots Regiment at the same time as his brother in 1779 aged only 12, died in Madras at the age of 23, 'an amiable and elegant young man.' John, the third son who inherited Saddell in 1793, similarly died in his mid thirties in 1799.

The Campbell portraits at Saddell Castle

In 2000, four portraits of the Campbell family came up for sale. They show Colonel Donald Campbell (the builder of Saddell House) and his three sons. We were delighted to acquire three of the portraits, which at the time of writing hang in the sitting room at Saddell Castle. Sadly, Charles got away.



David Martin (1737-1797)

Portrait of **Colonel Donald Campbell** (1726-84), half-length, in uniform with a red sash, holding a cane in his right hand.

signed and dated 'Martin P.W.P./Pinxt: 1785.'
oil on canvas 30 x 25 in. (76.3 x 63.5)

The sitter was the son of Colonel Campbell of Gelnasaddell by Mary Campbell, second daughter of John Campbell of Barbreck. He entered the East India Company in 1752 and moved to India the following year. He was to remain in the Company's service until 1771 and was promoted to the rank of Major in 1754, Captain in 1758, Major in 1763 and Colonel in 1765. He married Anne, daughter of John Campbell of Barbreck, at Fort St. George, Madras, in July 1762, by whom he had three sons and five daughters. Dated 1785, this portrait was probably completed after his death.



David Martin (1737-1797)

Portrait of **Captain Donald Campbell** (1763-1793), half-length, in the uniform with of the Royal Scots regiment.

signed and dated 'Martin P.W.P./Pinxt: 1785.'
oil on canvas 30 x 25 in. (76.3 x 63.5)

The eldest son of Colonel Donald Campbell of Saddell Castle. A 'Donald Campbell', who is presumably identifiable with the sitter, is recorded as having been in the Royal Scots regiment from 1779 to 1793. The sitter succeeded his father at Saddell Castle and on his death in 1793 at the age of 30, was succeeded by his third brother, John.



Circle of Sir Henry Raeburn, R.A.
(1756-1823)

Portrait of **Charles Campbell**
(1767-1790), half-length, in the
uniform of the Royal Scots regiment.

oil on canvas
30 x 25 in. (76.3 x 63.5)

The sitter was the second son of Colonel Donald Campbell and was probably the 'Charles Campbell' who was commissioned into the Royal Scots in September 1779. He was promoted to Lieutenant in the 74th Regiment of Foot in the East Indies in December 1787 and died at Madras on 24th October 1790. His gravestone in St Mary's Cemetery Madras reads: 'Lieut. Charles Campbell of the 74th Regiment, second son of Colonel Donald Campbell of Glensaddell, aged 23 years. A most amiable and elegant young man.'



David Martin (1737-1797)

Portrait of **Major John Campbell**
(d. 1799), half-length, in the uniform
of the Royal Scots regiment.

signed and dated 'Martin P.W.P./Pinxt: 1785.'
oil on canvas 30 x 25 in. (76.3 x 63.5)

The third son of Colonel Donald Campbell of Saddell Castle. A 'John Campbell' who may perhaps be identified with the sitter, is recorded in the Royal Scots regiment from 1778 to 1790. The sitter succeeded his eldest brother, Captain Donald Campbell, to the Saddell estate in 1793.

There were local theories about the run of early deaths suffered by the Campbells in the 18th century. Close by to Saddell House lie the remains of Saddell Abbey and that so little is left is due in no small part to Colonel Donald Campbell, who pillaged the Abbey ruins for stones with which to rebuild the barmkin at the Castle, turning it into a farm court. The locals did not approve and feelings still ran high many years later, when William Dobie described the Castle in 1833, in his *Peregrinations in Kintyre*:

“The pulling down of the crazed walls of the Religious Edifice [Saddell Abbey] were regarded by the good folks of the district at the time, as acts of the most daring impiety, and the general belief was, and still is, that he thereby brought a curse not only on himself, but on his posterity likewise. The curse, it is said, did soon overtake him, for he died by an accidentally self-inflicted wound and though it has hung thus long over his descendants, it is now about being consummated, inasmuch as the present Laird of Glensaddell is merely nominally such, and it would require little skill in Palmistry, to foretell he shall be the last of his line.” [Dobie is writing during the time of the flamboyant John Campbell, Donald’s grandson, who was indeed forced to sell the estate in 1836 due to his extravagance – see below].

Captain Donald had not married, but the third son, John, married Matilda Lockhart of Largee in 1797 and they had a son the same year. Soon afterwards John and his wife had identical dreams. They dreamt that two great oak trees disappeared, leaving one young one growing between them. Matilda asked a fortune-teller what was the meaning of the dream, and she replied that both would die but their child would flourish. John died in September and Matilda in December of the following year, 1798. The pathetic tale, further dark evidence to locals of the curse of Saddell Abbey, is commemorated by the poet Letitia Elizabeth Landon in *The Dream*, a romantic ballad written in 1826:

Two fair oak trees most caught her eye;
The one looked proudly up to the sky,
The other bent meekly, as if to share
The shelter its proud boughs flung on the air.
There came no cloud on the face of day;

Yet even as she look'd they passed away,
Unmark'd as though they had never been,
Save a young green shoot that had sprung between.
And while she gazed on it, she could see
That sapling spring up to a noble tree...

In an introductory note, Letitia Landon wrote that "the vision, the prophecy, and ultimately the death of the youthful pair are actual facts; and the present Campbell of Saddell Esq, Laird of Glensaddell, Anglice Melancholy Valley, is the very child whose health and prosperity have realised the prediction of his birth." (Letitia Landon's etymology is doubtful; the name Saddell is more probably derived from Samhdail, meaning peaceful plain.)

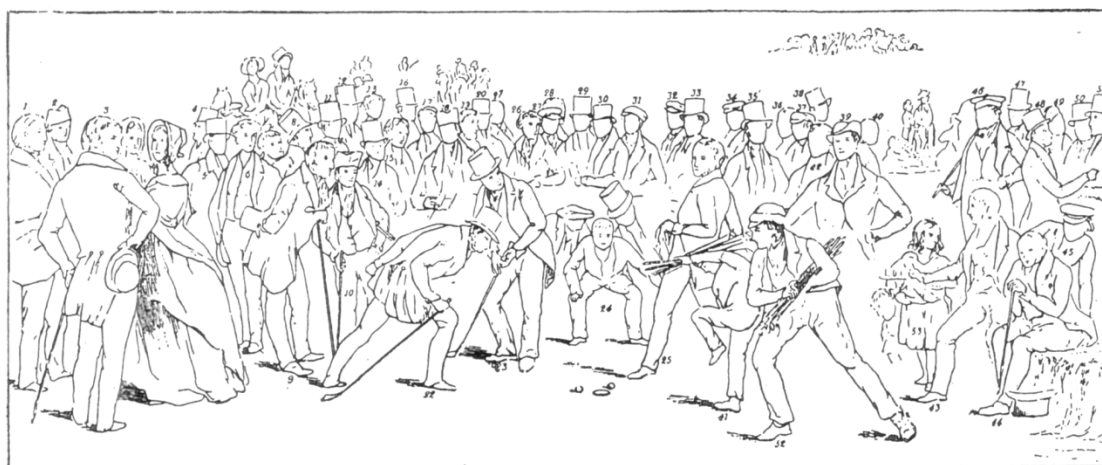
The orphan, another John Campbell, grew up to be fun loving and a big spender. For his twenty-first birthday party he filled Saddell Castle and Saddell House with his guests, and no one was allowed to cross the burn between the two without partaking of a dram.

But John found Saddell was too remote, and as a rich young bachelor he had a flat in London, another in Paris and a yacht. He was also a keen hunting man, with a hunting box in Melton Mowbray; he must have kept a horse in Edinburgh too, because there is a story of his riding 20 miles back to Edinburgh after hunting one day and 30 miles to a meet the other side of Edinburgh, the next. Locally he was known as "The Rider".

By 1824 John had seriously overspent, and was forced to sell outlying parts of the Saddell estate. In 1836 he sold the rest, including the house and Castle, to Lieut-General Robert Campbell of Kintarbert. He continued, however, to call himself Campbell of Glensaddell, and his life is sufficiently colourful to worth recounting beyond his tenure at Saddell.



The *Golfers* by Charles Lees, a record of a round played by John Campbell of Saddell in 1844. John is the dashing figure in the green coat just to the right of the main group. Note the little 'Ginger Beer Girl' next to him!



Charles Lees R.S.A.

C.E. Wagstaffe Engraver

THE GOLFERS,

A Grand Match Played on St. Andrews Links,

By Sir David Baird Bart. & Sir Ralph Anstruther Bart. against Major Playfair & John Campbell Esq of Saddell.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Sir John Muir MacKenzie of Delvin, Bart. | 19 J. Wolfe Murray, Esq., of Cringletie | 37 Col. Moncrieff |
| 2 Sir John Murray Macgregor, Bart. | 20 J. Ogilvie Fairlie, Esq., of Coodham | 38 Lord Viscount Valentia |
| 3 O. Tyndall Bruce, Esq., of Falkland | 21 John Hay, Esq., of Morton | 39 John Campbell, Esq., of Glensaddell |
| 4 Sir Charles Shaw | 22 Sir David Baird, Bart., of Newbyth | 40 Henry Macfarlane, Esq., M.D., Perth |
| 5 Col. Playfair of St. Andrews | 23 Major Playfair of St. Andrews | 41 W. Pirrie—a Caddie |
| 6 The Earl of Eglinton | 24 Thomas Patton, Esq. | 42 Sir John Campbell of Airds |
| 7 Robert Lindsay, Esq., of Straiton | 25 Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bart. | 43 Honble. Henry Coventry |
| 8 James Hay, Esq., Leith | 26 John Balfour, Esq., Balbirnie | 44 George Cheape, Esq., of Wellfield |
| 9 Earl of Leven and Melville | 27 Honble. David Murray | 45 W. Dun, Golf Club Maker, Musselburgh |
| 10 A. Robertson, Golf Ball Maker, St. Andrews | 28 John Stirling, St. Andrews | 46 Captain David Campbell |
| 11 Sheriff Gordon | 29 James Condie, Esq., Perth. | 47 W. Peddie, Esq., of Black Ruthven. |
| 12 John Sligo of Carmyle | 30 Col. Murray Belshes of Invermay | 48 W. Wood, Esq., Leith |
| 13 Hamilton Anstruther, Esq. | 31 James H. Dundas, Esq., W.S. | 49 G. Dempster, Esq., of Skibo. |
| 14 John Whyte Melville, Esq. | 32 James Blackwood, Esq. | 50 W. Goddard, Esq., Leith |
| 15 Lord Berridale | 33 James Oliphant, Esq., W.S. | 51 Robert Patullo, Esq., St. Andrews |
| 16 F. Blair, Esq., of Balthayock | 34 Charles Robertson, Esq. | 52 Sandie Pirrie |
| 17 The Master of Strathallan | 35 Sir N. M. Lockhart, Bart., Carnwath | 53 Ginger Beer Girl |
| 18 John Grant, Esq., of Kilgraston | 36 Robert Chambers, Esq. | |

In 1839 John prepared to take part in the Eglinton Tournament, going as the Black Knight, on a black horse, dressed in black armour with four black-suited retainers. Unfortunately, at the rehearsal he bravely but foolishly allowed himself to be charged to test the force of a spear. Sitting motionless on his horse, with only a breastplate for protection, he received a direct blow from a lance, which glanced off the breastplate, pierced his elbow and unhorsed him. He was so badly hurt that he could not take part in the tournament itself. A wit remarked that he had lost his family seat, which was of course all too true. He was the only casualty of the tournament.

John appears as a jaunty figure in *The Golfers*, the painting of a game that took place at St Andrews in 1844, when John Campbell of Saddell and Colonel Playfair played against Sir Ralph Anstruther and Sir David Baird, both lairds from Fife. John was a great gambler on the game, but not a great player. He was once challenged by a Mr Messieux, who was Swiss and an excellent player, to a game in which John could use any club he liked, while Messieux used only a putter.

At about this time John Campbell fell in love with Henrietta, daughter of the Macleod of Dunvegan. Not unnaturally the Macleod disapproved of his daughter's choice, and to meet her secretly it was said that John used to swim the loch with his clothes wrapped in a bundle on his head. Eventually Henrietta's father relented and they married in 1846. They lived for part of the time at least in a house in St Andrews called the Priory, in South Street.

John Campbell's only surviving son, Jock, who was brought up in St Andrews and was a scratch golfer, had a son named Ian who went to South Africa and called his farm Saddell.

LATER HISTORY OF SADDELL HOUSE, AFTER THE CAMPBELLS

Meanwhile, Robert Campbell of Kintarbert, who had bought the Saddell Estate from John in 1836, had made Saddell over to his nephew, Dugald MacNeill of Drumdrissaig, son of his sister Margaret. In 1858 the Duke of Argyll gave up the head lease on Saddell in favour of Dugald MacNeill, who became the freeholder of Saddell, rather than just tacksman. Dugald died in 1874 and Saddell passed to his sister Isabelle, who never married. (Readers unused to the labyrinthine nature of the genealogy of the Scottish clans may at this point find it helpful to refer back to the MacNeill and Macleod family trees, included earlier!)

Dugald and Isabella MacNeill had their own family link with the Campbells of Glensaddell. Colonel Donald Campbell, the builder of Saddell House, had a younger sister Anne, who in 1745 married Donald Macleod, tacksman of Swordale, who lived near Dunvegan on Skye. Their grandson Norman Macleod, minister in Campbeltown and later Dean of the Chapel Royal, married Agnes Maxwell in 1811. She was the daughter of Maxwell of Aros in Mull, and her mother was a MacNeill, Dugald and Isabella's aunt.

Agnes Maxwell spent most of her childhood at Drumdrissaig, brought up by her uncle and aunt Mary MacNeill. In a memoir of Agnes's son, another Norman Macleod, a distinguished minister in the Church of Scotland, Dean of the Order of the Thistle and friend of Queen Victoria, a passage is quote in which Agnes describes her childhood:

"My aunt Mary was a woman of strong sense and judgement, very accomplished and cheerful, and while most exacting as to obedience and good conduct, was exceedingly loving to me while I was with her. She gave me all my instructions, religious and secular; and used in the evenings to take her guitar and hum over to me old Scotch songs and ballads, till I not only picked up a great number, but acquired a taste for them that I have never forgotten ... I fear that some of the fine young ladies of the present day, attended by their nursery-maids, would have thought me a demi-savage had they seen me helping the dairy-maid to

bring in the cows, or standing in a burn fishing for eels under the stones, climbing rocks, or running a madcap race against the wind."

There was also a romantic connection with Saddell on the Maxwell side. A Maxwell ancestor of Agnes's, in the time of the persecution of the Covenanters by Claverhouse, fled from his home in Galloway to Kintyre and hid for several weeks in the woods of Saddell. When discovered, he was chased to the south end and, nearly overtaken, rushed into a farmhouse where the farmer was carding wool. The farmer, realising what was happening, threw his apron over him, gave him the cards and the soldiers, when they came in, never suspected the industrious young man combing the fleece by the fire. Maxwell stayed in Kintyre, and one of his descendants was Agnes's father. When Isabelle died unmarried in 1885 she left Saddell to her cousin, Colonel John Macleod, younger son of Norman and Agnes Macleod, and great-great-nephew of Colonel Donald Campbell who built Saddell House.

It was during Colonel Macleod's ownership of Saddell that Saddell Lodge was built. He is the delightful character who appears in D T Holmes's Literary Tours in Scotland. Holmes describes how, in 1908, he stayed at Saddell House with Colonel Macleod, son of "the never-to-be-forgotten Dr Norman Macleod":

"The Colonel was born in 1820, was present at the Eglinton Tournament, and is today in spite of his eighty eight years, hale in body, sound of wind, and perfectly clear in intellect. He is a walking encyclopaedia of all the social and political changes that have come about since the accession of Victoria. He is also an authority on livestock, and it is intensely amusing to see his horses scampering from the far end of the field when they see him, in the hope of getting some bits of sugar he always carries in his pocket for their benefit."

Colonel Macleod was one of the last of the Gaelic-speaking lairds, a scholar, and the owner of an important Celtic library. In September 1899, Colonel Macleod was living in his other house at Tarbert and had let Saddell House to an English shooting tenant, a Reverend Mr. Bramwell from Chertsey, when it was gutted by a bad fire. According to the contemporary newspaper reports, the fire was thought to have started in the kitchen chimney flue and spread to the joists in the roof. The appropriately named butler, Mr Grimword, heroically saved as much as he could of his master's famed library as the fire took hold, but in those days the volunteer fire brigade (such as it was) had to be summoned from Campbeltown by telegram and this message was not received until two hours after the alarm was first raised, when the wagon could not be sent because it had no brakes. The Carradale brigade failed to set out at all because their captain was out fishing and so unable to give his consent. In effect, the fire was left to burn itself out, the roof eventually collapsing to leave 'the bare walls standing gaunt and grim.'

Luckily, as the Courier subsequently reported, the walls were found to be strong enough to carry a new roof and the plasterwork to be 'scarcely affected.' Colonel Macleod rebuilt the house and it is largely this refurbishment that we see today internally. While the house was being rebuilt, Colonel Macleod lived in the Castle, which he had renovated in 1891-3. He was a great lover of the learned pun, and in the Castle he extended this to heraldry. The dining room ceiling there is his work and shows how he enjoyed inventing coats of arms and mock mottoes. He was the last owner of the estate to live in Saddell Castle. He died in 1909, leaving the estate to his daughter Isabella.

Account of the fire at Saddell Castle in September 1899, from The
Campbeltown Courier, 16th September 1899.

16 Sept.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT SADDLELL.

MANSION HOUSE GUTTED.

DAMAGES ABOUT £5000.

One of the most destructive fires of recent years was that which occurred last (Thursday) night at Saddell, when the fine old mansion house belonging to Colonel John MacLeod of Saddell and Kintarbert was completely gutted and a considerable and valuable portion of the furniture destroyed. Saddell House, a large square building on Saddell Bay, comprised about forty apartments. It is three storeys in height, with one storey underground, and had attics above. The lower part of the house is protected by a wall and rail, enclosing the outside cellars, &c. The mansion house was erected about 120 or 130 years ago by a Colonel Campbell, and was afterwards sold to Mrs M'Neill, in whose family it remained until the death of Miss M'Neill, about 16 years ago, when it came into the possession of Colonel MacLeod.

In the absence of the proprietor, who is presently residing at Kintarbert, the house is occupied by a shooting tenant, the Rev. Mr Bramwell, an English clergyman. At the time of the occurrence he was out fishing and returned on learning of the outbreak.

Like all similar outbreaks, its origin is not very apparent, but the very probable supposition is put forward that the conflagration arose in the kitchen chimney, and that some of the joists caught fire and spread. At anyrate, about three o'clock in the afternoon smoke was seen issuing from the roof directly above the kitchen. The servants quickly raised the alarm, but their attempts to reach the source in one of the attic apartments were retarded by the door of the room being locked. This door was, however, burst open, when it was discovered that the fire was pretty well advanced. A burst of flames met the entrants, and soon a tongue of fire shot through the roof. By this time the employees on the adjacent fields and the villagers had gathered, and a band of eager and willing hands engaged in the work of combating the flames. Mr James M'Lean, overseer, directed the operations, and his practical measures were ably carried out. By breaking in the roof and pouring down water it was thought that the fire would be got under. There were no adequate appliances, but water was obtained from a tank about 600 yards off. The female servants, assisted by the boys of the village, carried it in buckets from the tank. By means of ropes these were raised

The MacLeods part full utm g the had M fam M fam M exp of wh a g I pla g cut the will M ne id (lo re at dis ing to The fe m as ov ld su n N M st tid as ot of O h- of an W th ot te st. a- all

boys of the village, carried it in buckets from the tank. By means of ropes these were raised to the windows in order to save them being carried upstairs. All hands wrought strenuously to cope with the conflagration, but despite their untiring energies the flames rapidly spread, and soon the whole suite of rooms in the upper storey was ablaze. Fire forked out at the windows, the woodwork crackled and blazed, and showers of sparks rose and fell. Unfortunately the supply of water in the tank became exhausted, and having no other resource the workers had now to let the fire take its course. Attention was then directed to saving the furniture, and the large staff of assistants actively engaged in the work of removal. Everything that could be secured was taken outside, and the greater part of the furnishings was saved from the devouring element. Still, a considerable portion perished in the flames. The library, which is considered one of the largest and best of the private libraries in the country, suffered most, and the loss here can never be repaired, numerous volumes of considerable historic and intrinsic value being destroyed. The butler who remained in the library until the intense heat forced him to evacuate, managed to save a number of the pictures and more valuable books by throwing them out the window. A quantity of silver plate was included in the destruction, while the servants were deprived of the greater part of their belongings, one poor woman being left with nothing but the clothes she stood in. Shortly before five o'clock a telegram was received here calling for the Fire Brigade. About a dozen men responded to the summons, but a considerable time elapsed before they took their departure, a brake from the White Hart Hotel conveying them to Saddell. The fire engine, which is not equipped with a brake, could not be taken because of the dangerous nature of the road. On arrival the brigade found that their services were of little avail. Even had there been proper appliances at hand it would have been impossible to engage in any serviceable work at this stage, and the brigade left at ten o'clock. The fire had quickly burned itself downwards, and the whole of the fine old structure was in possession of the raging element. As the roof fell in, a dense volume of smoke and flame shot up into the air, and care had to be exercised that the falling sparks did not ignite any of the furniture outside. By ten o'clock the fire had dwindled to within the confines of the walls. Parts of the wood work were still blazing, but two or three hours after midnight the fire had practically burnt itself out, although it continued to smoulder away during the night and all the following day. The whole building has been completely gutted, and nothing is left but the bare walls standing gaunt and grim. There is an exception in the kitchen which remains intact. It is arched by solid masonry.

Happily there were no casualties of any consequence. One of the servants sustained a slight injury through being caught in the falling debris. Mr Bramwell and most of the servants found

refuge in the castle.

16

DISASTROUS FIRE AT SADDLELL.

MANSION HOUSE DESTROYED.

A BRILLIANT SPECTACLE.

A disastrous fire occurred at Saddell on Thursday, and resulted in the almost total destruction of the mansion house owned by Colonel J. N. Macleod of Saddell and Kintarbert, and which was such a prominent landmark from its open situation in front of the bay. The outbreak, which originated in a lumber room in the upper part of the premises, above the kitchen, and is supposed to have been caused by the overheating of the kitchen flue—although several theories are advanced as to the probable origin of the fire—was first noticed at three o'clock by a servant, who immediately raised the alarm. The neighbours were first apprised of the affair and telegraphic messages were as soon as possible despatched to Campbeltown and Carradale. A large number of willing helpers—men, women and children, the juveniles being greatly added to on the dismissal of the school—were speedily on the scene, being drawn from the village, the fields, and all around for a considerable distance, and steps were taken to save the house furnishings, it being apparent almost from the outset that the building was doomed. The door of the lumber room was locked, but was subsequently burst open, and access was sought by a window. The rush of air gave the flames impetus, and, there being no appliances at hand to cope with the outbreak, the fire afterwards spread throughout the building with remarkable rapidity, steadily and swiftly eating its way downwards to the basement. The work of saving the furniture was an extremely hazardous and perilous one—indeed, Mr Grimword, the butler, was hurt by a falling beam while thus engaged, but not seriously—but was notwithstanding carried out with a promptness and vigour on the part of the many volunteers on the

ground that was commendable in the highest degree. Fortunately the bulk of the furniture, pictures, bedding, &c., were thus saved. A large iron safe was also removed outside the principal entrance. The household articles were laid on the lawn in front of the house as they were brought outside, and the wind fanning the flames and carrying the showers of sparks arising from the falling timber within the burning building in a north-westerly direction these goods enjoyed comparative immunity from further danger. A large collection of books was got safely out of the smoking room, and these were piled on the grass beside the furniture, but unfortunately the library, containing one of the finest and most comprehensive and valuable collection of books in the country, and including many standard volumes and works of the greatest rarity, was almost completely destroyed, only some two shelves of books having been saved. This library alone, it is stated, was worth thousands of pounds. The other losses included a quantity of silver-plate which was stored in the lumber room and the jewellery and belongings of a lady visitor—Miss Slidden—as also some of the belongings of the housemaid and kitchen maid, the men who tried to enter the apartments containing these articles being driven back by the suffocating smoke and fumes which were belching forth from the rooms. It was some considerable time after the flames had burst through the roof before the roof itself fell in, but then "the devouring element" rapidly swallowed up everything inflammable as it spread across the house and downwards to the lowest flat, ceiling after ceiling crashing in as the fire consumed the woodwork, or, half burned, giving way as the iron bedsteads, baths, beams, or other heavy articles fell from above, until only the bare walls, with the entrance way and porch, arched passage, and pantry remained standing. From the south-east portion of the premises, where the outbreak occurred, the fire swept completely round and throughout the building, and at midnight was still raging in the servants' quarters in the sunken flat. The wines, &c., were removed from the spirit vault and taken to the Castle about eight o'clock under the direction of Constables D. Munro, Carradale, and M'Lean, Campbeltown. Constable Munro arrived at Saddell on his bicycle from Carradale about seven o'clock on being informed of the departure of the firemen from Campbeltown, and Constable M'Lean proceeded to the scene of the fire along with the members of the brigade. Both constables remained on the ground over midnight.

Account of the fire from the Argyllshire Herald, September 16th 1899.

Argyllshire Herald *cont.*
edition:

And a postscript in the same

ground over midnight.

Intelligence of the outbreak was received in Campbeltown by wire about five o'clock, but there was considerable delay before the firemen ultimately got away, and then they proceeded to Saddell without hose or engine, only taking with them a number of buckets for service. The engine had been removed from the engine-house in Bolgam Street but was rehoused before the firemen's departure, as it was considered the road was too dangerous for the safe passage of the engine without a drag, and it was known that even if the engine could have reached Saddell safely in time to be of service there was no proper connection to which to attach the hose. About a dozen firemen left in a brake from the Argyll Hotel at 6.15 p.m. The conveyance arrived at Saddell exactly 65 minutes later. The sight of the blazing structure as viewed from the high roadway above Saddell was a magnificent one, and the brilliance of the spectacle became more marked as the shades of evening fell, and with the incessant showers of sparks gave the sight the appearance of a veritable pyrotechnic display.

The firemen who had journeyed from Campbeltown worked vigorously, under Firemaster McCallum, to save the pantry and contiguous premises, which the fire had not yet reached, water being carried in buckets from the burn some 200 yards off, from a tank, and from a tap at the house.

The proprietor, Colonel Macleod, is presently in residence at Kintarbert, Saddell House and shootings being meantime occupied by the shooting tenant, Mr Bramwell and party from Chertsey, Surrey. There were in all eight visitors and ten servants in the house. At the time of the outbreak the house party were engaged fishing in the direction of Carradale, and the groom was despatched with tidings of the fire. The term of Mr Bramwell's occupancy would expire on Wednesday next.

The mansion, which was erected over a hundred years ago, was a substantial structure of three flats and attics. It is believed to be insured, although definite information as to this could not be obtained.

The party from Saddell House were accommodated during the night in the old Saddell Castle—an historic edifice built in 1508—and at Glensaddell and the Post Office. The Castle, it may be noted, was last renovated about seven years ago, and the summer tenants only took their departure on Tuesday last.

The following is to hand this (Friday) afternoon:—*Re* the fire at Saddell House, the Carradale Fire Brigade with steam fire engine, on receipt of telegram of fire, at once got engine ready to proceed to Saddell. The reason for not starting was the consent of Mr Mackenzie, which could not be obtained. The Carradale Fire Brigade consists of captain, engineer, and crew of s.y. "Seahorse." The engine was ready and prepared for starting 20 minutes after receipt of telegram of fire. The brigade was enthusiastic to proceed, but Mr Mackenzie was fishing in the bay and could not be attracted ashore, his consent being absolutely necessary before the engine could start.

Isabella's husband, who was a Campbell cousin, died young and Isabella lived in Saddell House with her son Jack Macleod Campbell, known as Jack the Laird. Jack predeceased his mother Isabella, as did her daughter Anne, who had married Colonel Robert Craig MC. Their daughter, another Anne, who married John Burrie, inherited Saddell from her grandmother. Anne Currie sold Saddell to Dr Andrew Macleod of Johannesburg.

In 1938 Dr Macleod sold about 5,000 acres of hill land on the estate to the Forestry Commission. He re-roofed the Castle but he never lived there. He had a son, who was killed while flying and is buried in Brackley cemetery near Carradale.



**Jack Macleod Campbell,
Laird of Saddell,
outside Saddell House
c. 1920.**

(Photo: Norman A. Campbell)



'A large square house in the middle of a field.'

Also in 1938 Captain (later Lieut-Colonel) Pat Moreton, OBE, MC, bought the Saddell Estate. Capt. Moreton was formerly of the 1st King's Own Dragoon Guards and one of the most skilful salmon fishermen of his day and he moved into the house – one of many English sportsmen at the time who decided to pursue their passions north of the border. He used to fly a Union Jack from a flagpole on the flat roof above the bay windows, until one day the flagpole blew down, breaking the stone balustrade. This anecdote probably explains its absence today – we found remnants of it in the cellar. Colonel Moreton's daughter Penelope, now Mrs F. D. McAuley, remembers the house being described rather uninvitingly when they bought it as 'a large square house in the middle of a field' and photos from the time bear out the bleakness of its setting in the 1930s.

The estate was then four merklands in the centre of the old property, run by five staff in the house and three looking after the estate. 'The war put an end to that luxury,' writes Mrs McAuley, and Captain Moreton was recalled to active service. She remembers him on leave spending 'many hours building dams in the burn, which created splendid salmon pools and the salmon began to come up.' Friends from the Fleet Air Arm base in Campbeltown enjoyed the excellent rough shooting around the estate. Later, 'plantations and trees were planted near the house and later a heather garden. Many rhododendrons and azaleas were planted along the burn.'



**Saddell House in the 1930s, when acquired by the Moretons
The balustrade is still in place.**



**Saddell House shortly after its acquisition by the Moretons,
with signs of their new planting apparent.**

While Captain Moreton was away during the war his wife Rosie provided a home both for her own four children and for up to twenty evacuees at a time from Glasgow. The boys slept in the big room at the top of Saddell House and the girls in the middle room on the first floor, on mattresses placed around the room. They all ate in the basement kitchen. The evacuees even brought their own school teacher and half the local school was given over to them. Mrs Moreton had an open truck in which she would drive the children around and 'their sing-songs were memorable.' Hens were kept and ponds made for ducks, while the Moreton's Highland pony was conscripted to plough up the garden for vegetables and pull logs down from the hills. The tensions of the time are evident in the panic that set in among the evacuee children when they first saw the northern lights, which they mistook for searchlights and believed that the Germans were

coming. Nevertheless, the war years provided happy links with Saddell for many of the evacuees, who continue to visit now with their own younger generations.

Norman Campbell, who also lived at Saddell Bay in these years, remembers that before the advent of hydro-electricity in the early 1950s, Saddell House generated its own electricity from the 'Power House/Sawmill/Laundry' on the burn – the building still stands on the site of the earlier mill shown on the Langlands estate map of 1784.

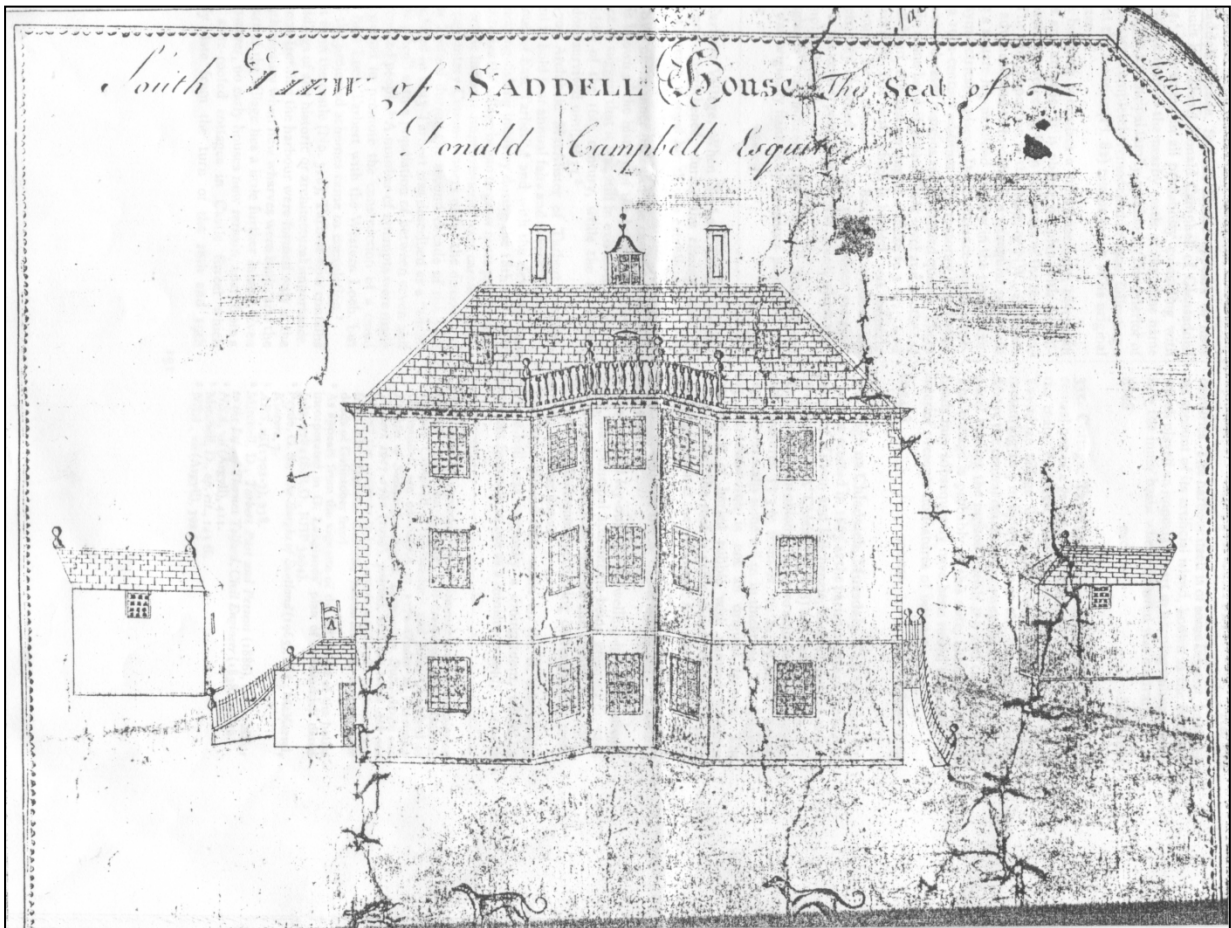
More recently, Saddell Bay acquired a new notoriety in 1977 when the video for Paul McCartney's 'Mull of Kintyre' was filmed on the beach with the Campbeltown Pipe Band.

In 1975 the Landmark Trust bought Saddell Castle, Shore Cottage and Cul Na Shee from Colonel and Mrs Moreton. In 1984 the Trust bought the remainder of the estate, and in 1990 Ferryman's Cottage. The Moretons were given a life tenancy of Saddell House, which came to an end with Mrs Moreton's death in 1998.



Saddell Bay under a rare covering of snow in the 1950s (photo: Norman C. Campbell). The openness of Saddell House is still very apparent, compared with the density of trees around it at the end of Mrs Moreton's tenancy in 1998, below. Landmark has since thinned the trees to open up the view to the Sound.





Drawing of the south (east) elevation of Saddell House in 1784 by G Langlands (NMRS AGD/77/1).

Note the servants' entrance to the basement floor on the site of the later two storey addition, which still stands today. The two pavilions are puzzling as we have found no archaeological evidence of their existence but they are a typical feature for Scottish houses of the period (as indeed at Auchinleck House).



An engraving of Saddell, published in 1861 (from Glencreggan, a Highland Home in Cantire by Cuthbert Bede).

SADDELL CASTLE Brief notes on the building and its restoration

Saddell Castle is a good example of the Scottish tower house, a type of building that first appeared in the fourteenth century and which proved so practical, so simple to build and so easy to defend that it remained in fashion for the next four hundred years.

It was an extensive repair job but not an entire re-build when the Castle was made habitable again in 1650. William Ralston, the occupier, mended the walls, put in new wooden floors, re-roofed it in "firr and sklait" (i.e. fir boards and slates), glazed the windows and fixed iron bars over them. The work was to be "Perfyted at the sight of craftsmen of skill" and the completion date was 1 November 1652.

The new stone work was carried out in a different, darker red stone from the original, and is visible particularly in the parapet. There are no early pictures of Saddell Castle, but the windows were probably enlarged in 1650.

Once Saddell House was built in 1774, the Castle and the barmkin became the home farm. Stones from the ruin of Saddell Abbey were used to build the farm court and are still visible in the walls. The Castle was inhabited by farm workers and retired employees and so, luckily for us, was neither enlarged nor encased in Victorian baronial.

By 1833, in a drawing of the castle by William Dobie in his Perambulations of Kintyre, the farm court had replaced the barmkin and the picture shows a stable crenellated in the gothic manner attached to the north side of the Castle. There are two large doors in the wall that now has the cupola above it, but there is no cupola. The windows are as they are today, but Dobie does not show the massive chimney stack which must presumably have been there. He described

the interior of the Castle, which seems to have been left much as it was when the family moved out:

“Went over its principal apartments, and was gratified to find so perfect a specimen of the accommodation furnished by one of our most ancient kinds of Scottish baronial residence. This accommodation, though not in accordance with the manners, nor suited to the fastidious wants of the present day, is far from being contemptible, and two hundred years ago must have been considered superb. Some of the apartments are of respectable dimensions, and in the last century several Scottish noblemen were occasional residents within them. The kitchen chimney conveys a good idea of the plentiful hospitality of feudal times, as the dungeon on the ground floor, now flagged over, does of their violence.”

In 1889 McGibbon and Ross described Saddell Castle in their *Castles and Domestic Architecture in Scotland Volume III*, with both a drawing and a plan. It is interesting because it shows the Castle as it was before the restoration of 1891. The then laird, Colonel Macleod, made some quite minimal alterations in 1891-3, mainly romanticising the interior, but he also put a cupola over the arch as you arrive and housing for his flagpole on the roof. The front door, with its cable moulding and date (1508) above it was renewed; the human head on the stone corbels in the cellar were carved, as were the corbels re-dressed as shields on the second floor bedroom. He also made various internal alterations. In 1899, Colonel Macleod, moved into the Castle while Saddell House was being repaired after a fire. He was a keen antiquarian, delighted no doubt at having an excuse to live in his castle. In 1938 the Castle was re-roofed but by then it was superfluous to the needs of the estate and it gradually deteriorated. In 1971, when Saddell Castle was described in detail in the Kintyre volume of the Argyll Inventory by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland, it was noted that “the tower house and out-buildings are derelict and rapidly becoming ruinous” (the detailed description is appended). The Landmark Trust bought the Castle in 1975 and work started on its restoration in May 1976, lasting for just under two years. It was furnished and let by Easter 1978.



Saddell Castle in 1974, before restoration.

On the outside, trees were removed from the roof of the Castle and it was re-slatted. When first built it would probably have been roofed in turf – thatch was too easy to set alight to use in a fortified house – but ever since the restoration of 1650–52 the Castle roof had been slated, the slates laid on boards of Scots fir.

The roofs of the farm buildings within the old barmkin wall were taken off where they were unsafe. Then trees that were growing out of the walls were removed and the walls rebuilt where necessary. The Victorian chimney pots were removed as being an unnecessary weight.

There was a crack running from top to bottom of the Castle at the southeast corner. It looked serious but when tests were made it was found that the wall was only an inch out of true, and it was sufficient to tie it back in.

When the old harling (or render) was removed the original slits were discovered, which were the only stair lighting before the bigger windows were made in the 1890s. The slit between the second and third floors can just be seen in the 'before' photograph. The bigger stair windows do not appear on the McGibbon and Ross plan of 1889. The stone surrounds of the slits were so soft that they had to be harled over again, or they would have crumbled away. All the other windows were replaced.

The archway into the courtyard was unsafe and the wall had to be taken down and rebuilt. The nineteenth-century cupola was replaced.

Inside the castle everything – walls, floors, ceilings, windows, doors – had to be repaired, or if there was nothing left, remade. The wood for the floors (good quality pitchpine) came from the Scotia Distillery in Campbeltown, which was being altered at the time that the work was being done at Saddell Castle. Two bathrooms were put in and a modern kitchen. A few partitions were moved but there were no structural alterations.

SADDELL LODGE

Saddell Lodge stands at the entrance to the avenue which leads to Saddell Castle and, in recent years, Saddell House. The Lodge was built in the late nineteenth century. We do not have an exact date, but it seems likely that it was built either in the early 1890s when Colonel McLeod was refurbishing the castle, or else around the time that Saddell House was undergoing a major restoration and remodelling in 1900 after the serious fire in September 1899. Landmark acquired the Lodge in 1984 from Colonel and Mrs Moreton, when we replaced the roof and added a second bedroom and the bay window.

FERRYMAN'S COTTAGE

Ferryman's Cottage was built on the site of an older cottage that belonged to Donald Galbraith, a fisherman from Gigha on the west coast of Kintyre who came round to the east side to be ferryman at Saddell. The ferryman was a person of considerable importance in a village. He was a freeman who owned his own house and land was not an estate employee.

The present house was built in 1921-23 by Lachlan Galbraith, Donald's son who lived there with his wife and five children. He continued as ferryman until the ferries stopped at the beginning of the war in 1939. Lachlan died in 1961 aged 82. His daughter, Nana, married Angus MacAlister and they brought up their children, Lachlan, Angus and Annie in the Ferryman's Cottage. They were the last of the family to live there.

Landmark changed very little to the cottage, except the addition of a new window to light the WC and the back door in the kitchen was turned into a window. The old windows were replaced by windows with glazing bars.

Inside, on the ground floor, the door between the kitchen and the dining room has been removed and instead they are divided by an open archway. On the first

floor the bathroom has been changed and the WC is now out of the bathroom and in what was a cupboard.

THE FERRIES

Ferryman's Cottage is a reminder of the time when the jetty, still visible in front of the Cottage was a lifeline between the village and outside world. There was only a rough track between Saddell and Campbeltown and all goods, including coal, freight and livestock had to be off-loaded from the 'Puffa' boats that steamed down the Clyde from Glasgow to Wemyss bay, then to Lochranza on the north end of Arran, down the east coast of Kintyre and called at Carradale and Saddell when weather permitted.

There were three of these boats, the Kintyre (1868-1907), the Kinloch (1878-1926), and the Davaar (1885-1943), all owned by the Campbeltown and Glasgow Steam packet Joint Stock Company Ltd. In September 1907 the Kintyre collided with the Maori, a far bigger ship, and sank with five minutes. Fortunately no passengers were on board, but the chief engineer drowned.

The Davaar started off with two funnels when it was built in 1885, but was reboilered and modernised in 1903, after which it had one. Lachlan Galbraith was a mate on the Davaar before he inherited the ferry from his father, and his brothers John and Neil were at different times skippers of that boat and also of the Kinloch. The Galbraiths were a family of seamen.

SHORE COTTAGE

Shore Cottage is a stylish, harled and symmetrical Victorian building probably built by Colonel John Macleod who inherited the Saddell estate in 1885 and died in 1909. He was one of the last of the Gaelic-speaking lairds, a scholar and antiquarian. Colonel Macleod's great granddaughter sold the estate in 1937 and after changing hands once it was bought by Colonel Moreton in 1938.

Shore Cottage was built to be two dwellings facing back to back. Mr John Moreton, Colonel Moreton's son, remembered the cottage at that stage. In 1938 Thomas and Janet McLeish were living there. Thomas died in 1946, aged 86 and Janet died in 1951 aged 82. Their daughter, Jeannie, worked in Saddell House up to her death in 1971, aged 77. She brought up her nephew, Alister, whose mother, Anne, died giving birth to him in 1936, aged 32.

Work started in 1975 and was completed in the spring of 1976. Comparatively little was altered by Landmark. Outside, the lean-to was removed from over what is now the front door, restoring symmetry to that side of the house. The roof was stripped and re-slatted, and the timber beams replaced where they were rotten. The walls were re-harled and the cottage was wired for electricity.

Inside, the sitting room was enlarged, one staircase was removed, making two useful cupboards, and one of the downstairs bedrooms was turned into a bathroom.

SADDELL ABBEY

We know very little about the history of Saddell Abbey. It was a Cistercian foundation and, unusually for Scotland, its mother church was at Mellifont in Ireland. (The other ten Cistercian monasteries in Scotland owed their existence to Rievaulx in Yorkshire or to Melrose, Rievaulx's chief colony in Scotland.) The Abbey was founded in 1160, probably by Somerled who is a great hero of Gaelic literature credited with freeing the southern Hebrides from the Norsemen. He was killed through treachery in 1164 during negotiations with an embassy from King Malcolm IV over Anglo-Norman control over the Scottish Court at Renfrew – now the site of Glasgow airport. Somerled's son Reginald was left to oversee the completion of the Abbey.

The monastic community at Saddell can never have been large, although its self-sufficiency was ensured by endowments of land in Kintyre, Gigha, Knapdale, Carrick and Arran. It was built beside the Allt nam Manach, or 'stream of the monks'. The typical Cistercian plan for the abbey church would have been cruciform, with a quadrangle formed on the south side of the nave by three ranges of two-storey buildings.

In 1794, the church was recorded as being 41.5 metres (136 feet) long, although only remnants of the presbytery and north transept survive today. Nineteenth-century drawings suggest that the present transept was a thirteenth-century replacement of a slightly smaller twelfth-century original. A few carved stones from the abbey are in the Campbeltown museum and a detailed description of these and the Abbey site from Ecclesiastical Monuments is appended.

Only the undercroft of the refectory remains of the other monastic buildings, presumably due to its use as a burial-place after the Reformation. For once the demise of Saddell Abbey was not the result of the activities of Henry VIII's henchman. In 1507 under James IV, it was recorded that no monks had been at Saddell 'in living memory' (this may have been a convenient exaggeration!) and that the fruits amounted to no more than £9 a year. The monastic lands and properties were duly added to the Bishopric of Argyll and the lands of Saddell transformed into a free barony. In 1508, David Hamilton, Bishop of Argyll and a loyal supporter of James IV, began the construction of Saddell Castle to serve as his residence in Kintyre. It is not known whether the Abbey church continued in use after this change of use, although it would seem likely that it did. In 1556 however, all ecclesiastical links ceased when the then bishop sold the estate to the Earl of Arran.

Further evidence of the monastic period survives in the finely carved tombstones to be found on the site, which is run by Argyll & Bute District Council. Several schools of stone carving flourished in the West Highlands

between about 1350 and 1500, one of which was based at Saddell and clearly served this burial ground. It was the Macdonalds' burial ground until they forfeited their lands under James IV. There are several examples of elaborately carved grave slabs and crosses at the Abbey site. Their decorative intricacy is reminiscent of monastic manuscripts and clearly derives from much older Celtic traditions of design. While many of the effigies are of mediaeval origin, of particular interest to us is the gravestone that commemorates Colonel Donald Campbell of Glensaddell who died in 1784. He, of course, is the builder of Saddell House and pillager of Abbey stone.



Detail from the Campbell monument.

THE HOLY WELL

A further remnant of the monastic period is the Holy Well, which lies across the Allt nam Monach directly opposite the Abbey site. In earlier times there was a footbridge connecting the two. Today, it is reached through the gate directly opposite the entrance to Saddell Lodge, across the road.

The spring emerges into a corbelled stone recess set into the hillside. There is a stone basin bearing a simple Latin cross. Early nineteenth-century records state that this was erected by a Bishop Brown, who lived in Saddell, to replace an earlier basin. It may even be that the spring predates the monks; many such wells or springs were originally sacred to a pre-Christian water spirit and Christianised by the missionaries, who assimilated many such pagan traditions. In ancient times every natural feature would have had its own Gaelic name, although we have been unable to discover the name of this one.

Such springs were credited with the power to heal or grant wishes, and petitioners often left a token at them. Scotland has over 600 such holy wells and baptisms at the Saddell well are said to have taken place within living memory.

Landmark owns another such site in St Winifred's Well in Shropshire. This site was so important as a place of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages that a mediaeval well chamber was built to accommodate pilgrims – and now accommodates Landmark visitors.

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The chapters in this album on Saddell Castle and the history of its owners were written and researched by Clayre Percy in 1997. Alan Clyde of the Hurd Rolland Partnership prepared a comprehensive report on Saddell House and its history, including analysis of the building by John Gifford, in 2001. The album has been amended and research updated for Saddell House in 2004 by Caroline Stanford.

THE SPRIGHTLY TAILOR

Joseph Jacobs

A sprightly tailor was employed by the great Macdonald, in his castle at Saddell in Kintyre, in order to make the laird a pair of trews, as used in olden time. And trews being the vest and breeches united in one piece, and ornamented with fringes, were very comfortable, and suitable to be worn in walking or dancing. And Macdonald had said to the tailor as a sort of a dare, that if he would make the trews by night in the church, he would get a handsome reward. For it was thought that the old ruined church was haunted, and that fearsome things were to be seen there at night.

The tailor was well aware of this; but he was a sprightly man, and when the laird dared him to make the trews by night in the church, the tailor was not to be daunted, but took it in hand to gain the prize. So, when night came, away he went up the glen, about half a mile's distance from the castle, till he came to the old church. Then he chose him a nice gravestone for a seat and he lighted his candle, and put on his thimble, and set to work at the trews; playing his needle nimbly, and thinking about the prize that the laird would have to give him.

For some time he got on pretty well, until he felt the floor all of a tremble under his feet; and looking about him, but keeping his fingers at work, he saw the appearance of a massive human head rising up through the stone pavement of the church. And when the head had risen above the surface, there came from it a great, great voice. And the voice said: 'Do you see this great head of mine?'

'I see that, but I'll sew this!' replied the sprightly tailor; and he kept stitching away at the trews.

Then the head rose higher up through the pavement, until its neck appeared. And when its neck was shown, the thundering voice came again and said: 'Do you see this great neck of mine?'

'I see that, but I'll sew this!' said the sprightly tailor; and he kept stitching away at his trews.

Then the head and neck rose higher still, until the great shoulders and chest were shown above the ground. And again the mighty voice thundered: 'Do you see this great chest of mine?'

And again the sprightly tailor replied: 'I see that, but I'll sew this!' and he kept stitching away at his trews.

And still the monster kept rising through the pavement, until it shook a great pair of arms in the tailor's face, and said: 'Do you see these great arms of mine?'

'I see those, but I'll sew this!' answered the tailor; and he kept stitching hard at his trews, for he knew that he had no time to lose.

The sprightly tailor was doing the long stitches, when he saw the monster gradually rising and rising through the floor, until it lifted out a great leg, and stamping with it upon the pavement, said in a roaring voice: 'Do you see this great leg of mine?'

'Aye, aye: I see that, but I'll sew this!' cried the tailor; and his fingers flew with the needle, and he made such long stitches, that he was just coming to the end of the trews, when the monster was taking up its other leg. But before it could pull it out of the pavement, the sprightly tailor had finished his task; and, blowing out his candle, and springing from off his gravestone, he buckled up his coat, and ran out of the church with the trews under his arm. Then the fearsome thing gave a loud roar, and stamped with both his feet upon the pavement, and out of the church he went thundering after the sprightly tailor.

Down the glen they ran, faster than the stream when the flood rides it; but the tailor had got the start and a nimble pair of legs, and he did not choose to lose the laird's reward. And though the thing roared to him to stop, the sprightly tailor was not the man to be restrained by a monster if he could help it. So he held his trews tight, and let no darkness grow under his feet, until he had reached Saddell Castle. He had no sooner got inside the gate, and shut it, than the monster came up to it; and, enraged at

THE SPRIGHTLY TAILOR

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losing his prize, struck the wall above the gate, and left there the mark of his five great fingers. You may see them plainly to this day, if you'll only peer close enough.

But the sprightly tailor gained his reward: for Macdonald was impressed by his courage and paid him handsomely for the trews, and never discovered that a few of the stitches were somewhat long.



**Antony Gormley's GRIP on the day of its installation,
Wednesday 22nd April 2015.**

LAND

An installation by Antony Gormley in celebration of Landmark's 50th anniversary

In 2015, Saddell Bay is one of five Landmark sites chosen by artist Antony Gormley for an installation called LAND, a collaboration with Landmark in its 50th anniversary year. From May 2015 to May 2016, five different representations of a human figure in cast iron are placed to represent the four compass points - Saddell Bay, Martello Tower, Clavell Tower and SW Point on Lundy, with Lengthsman's Cottage as the fifth, anchoring the whole installation near the centre of Britain, a quiet site on a manmade waterway in marked but complementary contrast with the wide horizons of sea and cliffs at the other four sites.

The Saddell work is called GRIP. It was specially created for the site using 3D body scanning techniques, produced in an edition of 5 plus artist's proof.

Landmark's role as Exhibitor of the works was funded by three very generous Landmark supporters who wanted to support this high profile initiative to celebrate Landmark's work across Britain. The cost of fabrication of the five works was funded by the White Cube Gallery, who will sell them on behalf of the artist at the end of the installation year.

Landmark also received a development grant from Arts Council England for scoping and developing this public art work in celebration of our 50th anniversary.

LAND – Artist's Statement

Antony Gormley

The prospect of making five works for five very distinct locations around the British Isles, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Landmark Trust, was an intriguing one. I am always interested in how a work might affect a given environment and possibly add a dimension, a point of focus in a landscape or room. The challenge posed by the Trust's invitation was not simply to offer some form of decoration for the range of historical layers that their buildings embody. The Trust saves buildings that would otherwise disappear and allows us to live within their history. Many of these buildings are detached from their original context of use and social matrix, and are sometimes remote. Some of these buildings were built as follies and towers, made to stand apart, using their isolation as a point of punctuation in the landscape, making a landmark or a point from which to look out at the world at large. This isolation promotes thinking about human history and power relations, and wonder at the very variety of habitats that the human species has created for itself. This being in the world but not exactly of it, through distance in time or isolation in space, is precisely the position that I aspire to occupy in my work. A certain distance is necessary in order for sculpture to encourage or evoke contemplation. It was important to find sites in which the work would not simply become an unnecessary addition, but where it could be a catalyst and take on a richer or deeper engagement with the site.

Each of the five works made for this commission tries to identify a human space in space at large. Where do we live primarily? We live in a body. The body is enclosed by a skin, which is our first limit. Then there is clothing, that intimate architecture of the body that protects us from the inclemency of the weather. But beyond a set of clothes are fixed shelters. We live in a set of rooms. A room coheres into a building and buildings cohere into villages, towns and cities. But, finally, the limit of our bodies is the perceptual limit of the horizon, the edge of a world that moves with us.

In searching for positions to site the five body-form sculptures, I have looked for locations that are not simply conventional places for sculpture (the grotto, the glade, the lawn, the niche or on the axis of an avenues of trees). I have found the most potent places to be where the horizon is clearly visible, and that has often meant the coast. So, I have been drawn to places where the vertical nature of the sculpture can act against the relatively constant horizon of the sea: the promontory on Saddell Beach near Saddell Castle in Argyll; Clavell Tower, the folly on the South Dorset coast; the promontory above Devil's Leap, Lundy; and the Martello tower near Aldeburgh in Suffolk. The work is a register for our experience of our own relative positions in space and time, which has led me to choose positions on the edge; the liminal state of the shoreline.

Of course, all of this relates to our identity. The buildings of The Landmark Trust are detached from their original social function and, mostly, from the city. I think that they connect with the characteristics and psychology of the British as an island people. The British Isles are set somewhat adrift from the great Eurasian continent, with our various associations with the Norse and Scandinavian countries, the Baltic and indeed our friends across the Atlantic. Despite being very aware of our own insularity and separation from the rest of the world, the trading relationships with distant lands - that relationship with the sea, with self and other, with home and the world - has led to water: our identity as an island nation is moulded by our relationship with the sea.

I have selected four coastal sites that are countered by the siting of a fifth body-form that will look down at the water in the lock next to Lengthsman's Cottage in Warwickshire, in the centre of England. The towers and defensive sites on the coastline are here, inland, parried by a state of intimate, domestic exploitation of water as a containable means of transport. I have tried to associate all five works with both their social contexts and the geology of site, using the language of architecture and geology, while acknowledging the skin as a 'weathered edge'.

The challenge was to make every work distinct, to allow its verticality to be a focus, as a kind of rod or conductor for thoughts and feelings that might arise at a site. They are not representations. They are simply displacements, identifying the place where a particular human body once stood and anyone could stand. In that respect they are open spaces, void of ideological or narrative content but waiting for your attention. The works are made of iron: the material that gives this planet its magnetic field, its density, something that maintains it in its particular course through the heavens. Although these works are temporary placements, I would like them to act as catalysts for a reflexive engagement with site: both body and space. In the context of The Landmark Trust's 50th anniversary, it is an occasion to think and feel the nature of our species, its history and future, and its relationship to the huge biodiversity of living beings that exist on the surface of this extraordinary blue planet.