

# The Landmark Trust

## **GLENMALLOCH LODGE – Summary of its History**

Despite its tiny size, the 1849 Ordnance Survey Map tells us that Glenmalloch Lodge was originally known as Cumloden School. The *New Statistical Account of Scotland* (1845) further states that 'The Countess of Galloway has a charity school near Cumloden Cottage, where 25 girls are instructed in reading, writing, arithmetic and needlework, by a female teacher.' Lady Galloway was the wife of Randolph, 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Galloway. In 1827, then as Lord Garlies, Randolph bought the Cumloden estate from his uncle Lt. General Sir William Stewart, 4<sup>th</sup> son of the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl. Sir William was a career soldier, a colleague of both Nelson and the Duke of Wellington, and he had bought the Cumloden estate in 1817 for his retirement. It was Sir William who built Cumloden House, originally a thatched cottage orné; he laid out its gardens and walled the deer park that encloses Garlies Wood. He is also said to have loved to look out upon the ruins of Garlies Castle, the first seat of the ancient Stewart line that lies to the north of Glenmalloch Lodge. From 1740, the main seat had been Galloway House, but from the time of the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl, Cumloden House became a summer hunting lodge and, after the sale of Galloway House in 1908, the family's main seat.

During forty years of marriage, the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl and his wife Harriet orchestrated and financed a formidable programme of educational and social welfare initiatives across their estates. They ran clothing clubs and competitions for the best kept cottages. They paid school fees for those who would otherwise have been unable to attend the parish schools and ran several schools at their own expense. In Newton Stewart, Lord Galloway founded an infant school for over a hundred pupils and Lady Galloway a school of industry for girls - and the charity school at Cumloden.

A headstone in the Old Kirkyard at Monigaff records that Jane Ranken was teacher at the Cumloden school from its probable construction date of 1836 until her niece Wilhelmina Masson took over in 1845. Both mistresses went on to teach at Lady Galloway's school in Newton Stewart. While offering an important chance for girls from outlying crofts, Cumloden School probably closed soon after the Education Act of 1872, which provided compulsory education for all, which from 1889 was also free for all. By 1894, the building was marked on the OS map as 'Park Lodge' and by 1904 was known as 'Glenmalloch Lodge,' the name we have kept.

In 1911, Thomas Orr, gardener on the Cumloden Estate, lived in the lodge with his wife Bessie. In the 1930s, Glenmalloch Lodge was lived in by Mrs Hunter, widow of a former factor on the Cumloden estate. Later, a Mr and Mrs Harding lived for a few years in the lodge. During the war, Cumloden estate received evacuees who were put up in the estate buildings, so the lodge might well have been called into such service. Later, Paul Timoney, son of the cook and groundsman at Cumloden House lived there. The last remembered person to stay at lodge was a Cambridge priest in the early 1960s, who used it as a holiday cottage. It seems to have been left empty and uncared-for since this time, as lack of running water or electricity became increasingly unacceptable by modern standards, a victim of its own isolated and lovely setting. In 2003, Solway Heritage contacted the Landmark Trust to ask if we could help. A long lease was agreed with the Cumloden Estate. Thanks to a grant from Historic Scotland and donations from many private trusts and individuals, the former schoolhouse has been sensitively restored within that setting.

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## Restoration of Glenmalloch Lodge

Glenmalloch Lodge is a typically picturesque example of nineteenth-century model architecture, through which philanthropic estate owners sought to improve the living and working conditions of their tenants while at the same time beautifying their estate. It is built of local whinstone highlighted by a pink sandstone for the quoins and windows.

There have always been rumours that the schoolhouse was built from remnants of another building, but its dates and actual detail fit with neither Galloway House nor enlargements at Cumloden House.

Its stonework needed only minor replacement and repointing. A 6-bay wooden 'porch' was taken down in the 1980s, apparently because its lead roof was poisoning the cattle. Only its granite plinth stones survived and have been kept. The scar of the porch's pitched roof is still visible on the chimneystack. The iron posts and railings are repaired originals. The original roof had enormous slates at the eaves, laid in diminishing courses up to the ridge. Unfortunately, few survived and so the roof had to be renewed in slates supplied by the Burlington quarry in Cumbria, a traditional source for south west Scotland. The pierced bargeboards are all original. The diamond-paned windows are reproductions of the originals, using conservation glass for the panes.

An extension was added at the rear to provide a bathroom, by creating a larger version of the two original cludgies (one for coal, the other an earth closet). A new opening was made through the rear wall of the kitchen for access. We bowed to strong feelings from the local statutory bodies and built the extension to match the old, of whinstone struck from the boulders that litter the site. The new sandstone came from the Lochabriggs quarry near Dumfries, although the door surrounds are mostly the originals. The galleting, known locally as 'mouses' ladders', is a traditional touch. The dark green used for the external paintwork matches the oldest paint on the stable block at Cumloden House. The rainwater goods are based on fragments of the originals but are replacements.

Inside, we have laid new floors. The joinery is based on fragments of the original woodwork, as is the front door. The replacement plasterwork in the original building is all haired lime plaster on split laths, although gypsum on plasterboard was used in the new extension.

Water comes from nearby Pulcree Burn, and is pumped up to the building and run through a UV filter in the roof space. The low voltage electricity supply has been buried in order to protect the setting and views, an essential measure to preserve the beauty of this wide glen.

*The Landmark Trust is a building preservation charity that rescues historic buildings at risk and lets them for holidays. Glenmalloch Lodge sleeps 2 people. To book the building or any other Landmark property for a holiday, please visit our website [www.landmarktrust.org.uk](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk) or phone Booking Enquiries on 01628 825925.*