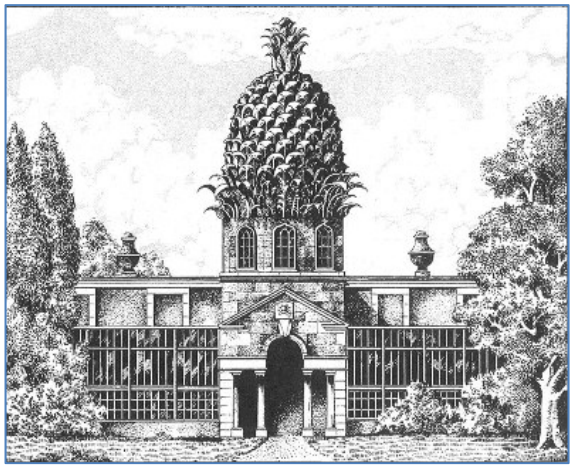
The Landmark Trust

# THE PINEAPPLE

# History Album



**Original notes by Clayre Percy, 1974**

**Revised and added to by Julia Abel Smith, 1992**

**Re-presented in 2015**

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## KEY FACTS

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|---|---|
| **Listed:** | **Grade A** |
| **Date:** | **1761** |
| **Lease acquired by Landmark:** | **1973** |
| **Architect for restoration:** | **David Carr Architects, Edinburgh** |
| **Bricks supplied by:** | **Swanage Brick and Tile Company, Dorset** |
| **Stone supplied by:** | **Natural Stone Quarries** |
| **Opened as a Landmark:** | **1975** |

## Contents

**The Pineapple**

## Summary

The Pineapple, perhaps the best known of all the Landmark Trust's buildings, was built by John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore, who acquired the Elphinstone estate, with an outmoded tower house. It seems that at first he built the garden with a small central pavilion of only one storey (up to the line of the string course below the existing windows) on its central axis in 1761, the date that appears on the keystone. It has been suggested that it may have been a somewhat belated wedding present to his wife after their marriage in 1759. We do not know who the architect was for this pavilion, but a likely contender is Robert Mylne, who had family connections with the Dunmores and who came from a family of master masons near Edinburgh. The walls are of double construction with a cavity through which hot air could be circulated to encourage the ripening of the fruit - the garden sits over a coal outcrop.

The Pineapple itself is now thought to be a later addition to this earlier pavilion. There are various physical clues that support this - the walls have been heightened and there are differences in the masonry; and it fits in with the sequence of events in Lord Dunmore's life. He left for America in 1770 and became Governor of Virginia. Here pineapples had acquired an association with hospitality - sailors returning home would stick a pineapple or two on their gateposts to tell the community they were back and would welcome visitors. From this, the fruit had become very popular as architectural decoration.

It seems likely that on his return to Scotland he decided to build his fruity extravaganza. No doubt he had developed a taste for pineapples and wished to grow them in his walled garden, and determined to outdo anything that he had seen in America, he built a pineapple 37 feet high! The walls containing the six windows were raised and the heating system made more sophisticated with the chimney pots disguised as decorative urns. Gardeners would then have been housed comfortably in the bothies on either side.

Frustratingly, the architect of this triumph of folly remains unknown despite numerous candidates being put forward. The Pineapple was never engraved or described in letters, diaries or travel logs of the period. The estate was not on any major tourist route, and perhaps the Georgians found it over the top and avoided it. There is a local tradition that it was built by Italian workmen because the standard of craftsmanship is so high. The drainage is ingenious - the stones are graded in such a way that water cannot collect anywhere. The base of each leaf is in fact higher than it appears when viewed from below, so that the rain water drains away easily from these higher parts. At one time it seems that the Pineapple was painted.

Lord Dunmore's son, the 5th Earl wrote how 'hothouse fruit ... was sent every fortnight from Dunmore Park, where my father had no house, but an excellent garden.' This situation changed when the son commissioned William Wilkins to design him a new house in 1820. It was built in the Tudor Gothic style. Wilkins went on to design such buildings as the National Gallery and the old St George's Hospital on Hyde Park Corner - now the Lanesborough Hotel. The 8th Lord Dunmore was the last member of the family to live in the house, which he sold in 1911. It ended up as

a girls' school and today the house is an empty shell. The Earl and Countess of Perth purchased the Pineapple and the walled garden in the late 1960s with plans to turn it into a house.

They decided not to go ahead with this and instead it passed to the National Trust for Scotland from whom the Landmark Trust took a lease in 1973.

**Restoration by the Landmark Trust**

The site had been severely neglected and the buildings on either side of the Pineapple were deteriorating fast and had almost disappeared behind vegetation - so one of the first jobs was to clear all this away. The three remaining urn shaped chimney pots were removed and all doors, window frames and the carved wood entablature behind the portico were removed and stored for later use. Both wings required extensive repair - new joists and flooring were required; the roofs were replaced using the best of the old slates with new ones to match; all timber lintels were replaced and the walls were made good up to the eaves with the coping stones carefully reset. The fourth decorative chimney pot was found broken into many fragments, but these were all carefully gathered and stuck back together to join the other three.

The portico roof was likewise re-slated with a mix of old and new slates and the cornice was carefully taken down, re-bedded and reset because it had become displaced. Stonework to the north entrance and the steps was reset and the metal railings repaired and re-fixed. The walls and vault were treated for damp and waterproofed and re-plastered. The two panelled doors and frames leading into the original hothouses were repaired. The wooden Ionic columns and the broken entablature were restored and the stone slab floor was overhauled with paving from the Natural Stone Quarries.

For the Pineapple itself, scaffolding was erected to give access to all parts and to facilitate the removal of plants. In fact the stonework, considering its neglect, was in remarkably good condition - a testimony to its good design and drainage system. All the joints were raked out and repointed and the whole fruit was cleaned by hand with just water and a churn brush. Inside, the existing windows were repaired and others were replaced to match exactly. The stonework and plasterwork was cleaned and redecorated and window seats were supplied and fitted. Finally all the work was done to form the Landmark accommodation - bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room and kitchen - in the two wings. Since completion, the Pineapple has been available to rent for up to four people.

The garden was a jungle, covered with rosebay willow herb. The Scottish Tourist Board gave a grant towards its restoration, and the area was cleaned and prepared for the trimming and grading of the slopes. It was seeded in the autumn of 1974 with the first cut the next spring. The South Pond was cleared and put in order and the perimeter railing re-erected. The stone doorway in the east garden wall was also rebuilt and the walls were repaired where necessary with 14,000 bricks made to match by the Swanage Brick and Tile Company. A tree planting scheme was carried out based on a formal orchard layout.

# Introduction

**Not Just the Pineapple**

In 1990, the Jubilee Year of The Landmark Trust, we held an exhibition entitled 'Not Just the Pineapple.' The title seemed to us to be particularly appropriate because it appears that everybody knows us for the repair of this extraordinary building. Unique as it is, it has caught the imagination of the press and appears in most features about the Trust and certainly everything written about follies. Amongst all Landmarks, it is surely the best known.

The Pineapple was built by John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore (1732 – 1809). Lord Dunmore acquired the Elphinstone estate in 1754, two years before he succeeded to the title, and he built the garden with a small central pavilion of one storey, with a projecting portico, on the central axis in 1761. The most plausible sequence of events is that he added the Pineapple itself later in the 18th century when he returned from America where he served as Governor of both New York and Virginia.

In 1950 the walled garden was turned into a commercial market garden. Later, the Earl and Countess of Perth drew up plans for converting the Pineapple into a house with two small wings at the back. However, these came to nothing and instead they presented the Pineapple and its surroundings to the National Trust for Scotland in 1973. At the same time, The Landmark Trust took a lease of the Pineapple and it now let for holidays.

The 8th Lord Dunmore was the last member of the family to live in the now ruined country house at Elphinstone, built by William Wilkins in 1820. For financial reasons, he sold the estate in 1911. In 1917 Mr Wilkinson sold it to Mr Peter Jones whose wife continued to live there until 1961. After that it was used as a girl's school for three years and since then it has been empty.


**Detailed view of Roy's Military Map (charted between 1748 and 1754)**
**There is no sign of the walled garden, just the main house.**

## The History of the Site

**Lord Dunmore's New Estate**

John Murray as Lord Fincastle (the title of the eldest son of the Earls of Dunmore) bought the Elphinstone estate with its tower in 1754. At this time the family seat was at Taymount in the village of Stanley, between Perth and Dunkeld, one of the seats of the Dukes of Atholl. Lord Fincastle may have bought the new estate at Elphinstone as an investment as there were lucrative coal workings on the site. When he succeeded to the title two years later he gave the name of Dunmore to the tower and estate and we have a fairly clear idea of its layout from Roy's Military Map of Scotland, drawn up between 1748 and 1754.

The estate acquired by Lord Dunmore had already been laid out in the formal manner. Elphinstone Tower was set at the junction of three avenues, one of which led to the River Forth and a second down to the village of Airth. To the north west of the tower, (on another part of the map) is a large wood with two straight rides crossing one another at the centre. There is no sign of the present walled garden.

The Tower, even with its original wing, may appear rather a modest house for such a large estate. This is explained by Ian Gow of the National Monuments Record of Scotland:

> The Scots really do take gardens seriously so a grand garden and a rough house are not as incompatible as they would be in England. In a similar vein the Scots go in for monumental farm buildings which are so grand, like Penicuik, that you can live in them if the big house burns down. A great many people hung onto old towers and discomfort and put off the inevitable. There is a good parallel in the other Wilkins' house at Dalmeny where the Roseberys put up with Barnbougle well into the 19th century on Lord Rosebery's assertion that 'it was good enough for my grandfather.' It also reflects Scotland's lack of cash.

**Roy's Military Map, c1750: the Elphinstone Estate is in the top right hand corner on this sheet.**

## Who Built the Pineapple?

**The 1761 Pavilion**

We do not know the architect, designer or builder of the Pineapple, but there are various possibilities. No walled enclosure on the site of the present garden is shown on Roy's Military Map c1750. It therefore appears that in 1761 Lord Dunmore built the walled garden and small pavilion on ground appropriately named 'Sunny Side' on the Map.

Robert Mylne (1734-?) may have been the architect of this early pavilion. He had connections with the families of both Lord and Lady Dunmore. Of a similar age to Lord Dunmore, Mylne was born near Edinburgh into a family of master masons to the Crown of Scotland. In 1753 he began working as a wood carver for the Duke of Atholl at Blair Castle under the carpenter and designer, Abraham Swan. Mylne's patron, the Duke, was Dunmore's cousin, so it is possible that he knew of Robert Mylne.

Robert Mylne left Scotland in 1754 to join his brother on the Grand Tour. In Rome he met Lord Garlies, the brother of Lady Charlotte Stewart, soon to become Lady Dunmore. Delighted with himself and his new acquaintances, Mylne wrote home on 26th April, 1758:

> My next employment was with My Lord Garlies, eldest son of the Earl of Galloway's, at present on his travels… He … learned of me the principles of architecture, and we became so familiar at last that he could never be without me. I never met with a more amiable man in my life, for in a short time all ceremony was thrown off his side, and I was on the same footing as if a Lord myself … Likewise as My Lord is very fond of every country-man he meets, that are likely to do well, especially as he was so of me, whose family, he knew had lorded it over stone and mortar from time immemorial in Scotland.

There was promise of future patronage too. Mylne continues:

> He professed himself that he would be greatly my friend when he returned to Scotland; and for instance of it, while in Rome here he received a letter from Mr Murray of Broughton, his brother-in-law, [James Murray had

> married Lady Catherine Stewart in 1752] in which there was a hint of his being obliged through necessity to build … And in all, I have the greatest reason to believe that he will be of vast service to me yet.

Before he returned to Scotland, Mylne gained the distinction of being the first British architect to win a prize at the esteemed Academy of St Luke in Rome. Instantly, he achieved fame. Robert Mylne is less well known today than either of his compatriots, Robert Adam or William Chambers, but his early career was undoubtedly more glorious than either of theirs.

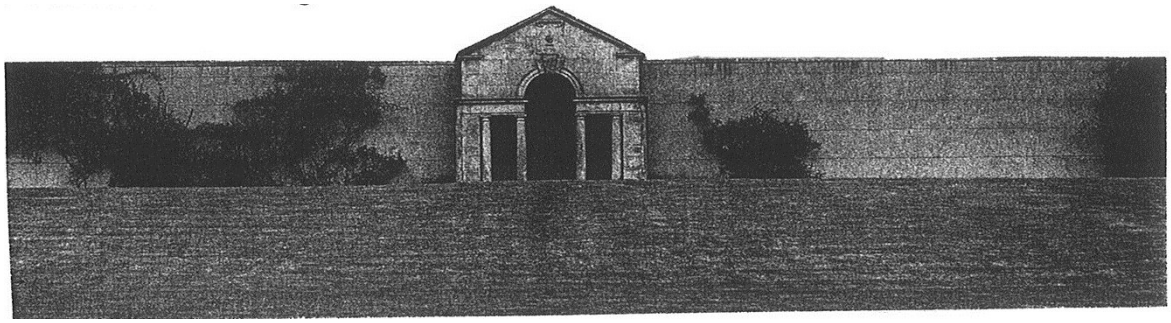
Back in London in 1759, he intended to come straight up to Scotland to look at the site for James Murray's new house and in August he received a letter from Lord Garlies inviting him to the family seat at Galloway House where 'something is to be altered.' All this had to be temporarily laid aside when the competition for Blackfriars Bridge was announced and Mylne set to work on his design: 'If I can you all and him (Lord Garlies) in the beginning of winter, I'll think myself happy', he wrote to his mother. It seems that he did go home then, as there are no letters to his family in the RIBA collection from 25th August 1759 until 24th January 1760. Lady Dunmore and her new husband may well have spent their first married Christmas at her family home and could therefore have met her brother's protégé at Galloway House.

On February 22nd, 1760 Mylne's plan for Blackfriars Bridge was approved. This was an amazing achievement for a young man of 26 who was not only untried but also had the disadvantage of being a Scot. The country of his birth would however, have recommended him to the Galloway family. True to his word, Lord Garlies arranged for Mylne to meet his brother-in-law and from 1763 – 1765 he was building Cally House in Galloway for James Murray. He carried out the proposed alternations on a house for Lady Susannah Stewart. This may be Lady Susan Stewart, another of Charlotte Dunmore's sisters, who married the Marquess of Stafford in 1768. Considering Mylne also worked for Lord Garlies's father-in-law, the Earl of Warwick in 1765, it seems perfectly likely that one of

his first, albeit modest, commissions for the extended Galloway family, was for Lord and Lady Dunmore. A famous and successful young Scot, friend of Lord Garlies, and a craftsman highly regarded by the Duke of Atholl: Robert Mylne must be a strong candidate for the unknown designed of the pavilion at Dunmore in 1761. It is simple and well proportioned; and its pure Classicism and restraint are hallmarks of his style.

**The Pineapple Itself – the Idea**

Stewart Tod, the architect for the Landmark restoration of 1973, believes that the Pineapple itself may be later than the pavilion below because the walls have been heightened and there are differences in the masonry. It seems likely that there was some form of heating for the walls in 1761 otherwise there would be little point in siting the garden as Lord Dunmore did, so near a source of coal. The walls, which are of brick with freestone dressings, are of double construction and contain cavities through which hot air was circulated for the benefit of the ripening fruit. Initially the walls may have been the height of the string course below the present six windows and therefore would have looked something like this:



The interpretation would fit in with the sequence of events in Lord Dunmore's life. Certainly it is more and more likely that the idea for his Pineapple came from his Governorships in America. In 1761, the year that the garden was laid out, Lord Dunmore was first elected a Representative Peer for Scotland. Consequently he spent more time in London and less on his Scottish estate. He left for New York in 1770 and returned from a revolutionary America in 1777. Pineapples had been grown in Scotland since 1728 but were extremely expensive and a great

delicacy; being native to Latin America, they were much more plentiful in Virginia. In an article on pineapples, Glyn Christian has written:

> It seems to have been in the eastern seaports of colonial America that the fruit acquired its association with hospitality. Sailors returning home stuck a pineapple or two on their gateposts to tell the community they were back and would welcome visitors. Certainly the symbolism of the pineapple is immensely more potent there than in Britain. It is almost impossible to go into a New England hotel or house without finding pineapples somehow incorporated into the décor. At such places as Colonial Williamsburg there are shops selling pineapple everything – from door knockers and book ends to wall papers, stencils, trivets and dishcloths.

In Lord Dunmore's day in Virginia, pineapples were popular architectural decorations. Thomas Jefferson, who provided some plans for extending the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg for Lord Dunmore, used the pineapple motif. It also appears over the front door of William Byrd's house at Westover, on the James River in Charles City County. In fact, that design originates in England in William Salmon's book *Palladio Londinensis* or *The London Art of Building*. Also in Charles City County, a house named Shirley was surmounted by a pineapple and inside The Carlyle House, Alexandria, dating from c1752, the Blue Room doorway has an open pediment with a pineapple.

On his return to Britain, Lord Dunmore may have spent more time at Dunmore, as the family home at Taymount in Perthshire was let and later sold towards the end of the 18th century. Perhaps it was at this time that he decided to build his fruity extravaganza. No doubt he had developed a taste for pineapples and wished to grow them in his own walled garden. From what we know about Lord Dunmore, having seen pineapples used as modest decorations in America, it would have been entirely in character to outdo them all by building a pineapple 37 feet high. This he would have regarded as a huge joke. He was certainly back home and ready to receive visitors! It therefore seems likely that when the Pineapple itself was erected, the walls containing the six windows were raised, and the heating system was made more sophisticated necessitating the installation of chimney pots disguised as decorative urns. The gardeners could then have been housed more comfortably in the bothies on either side.

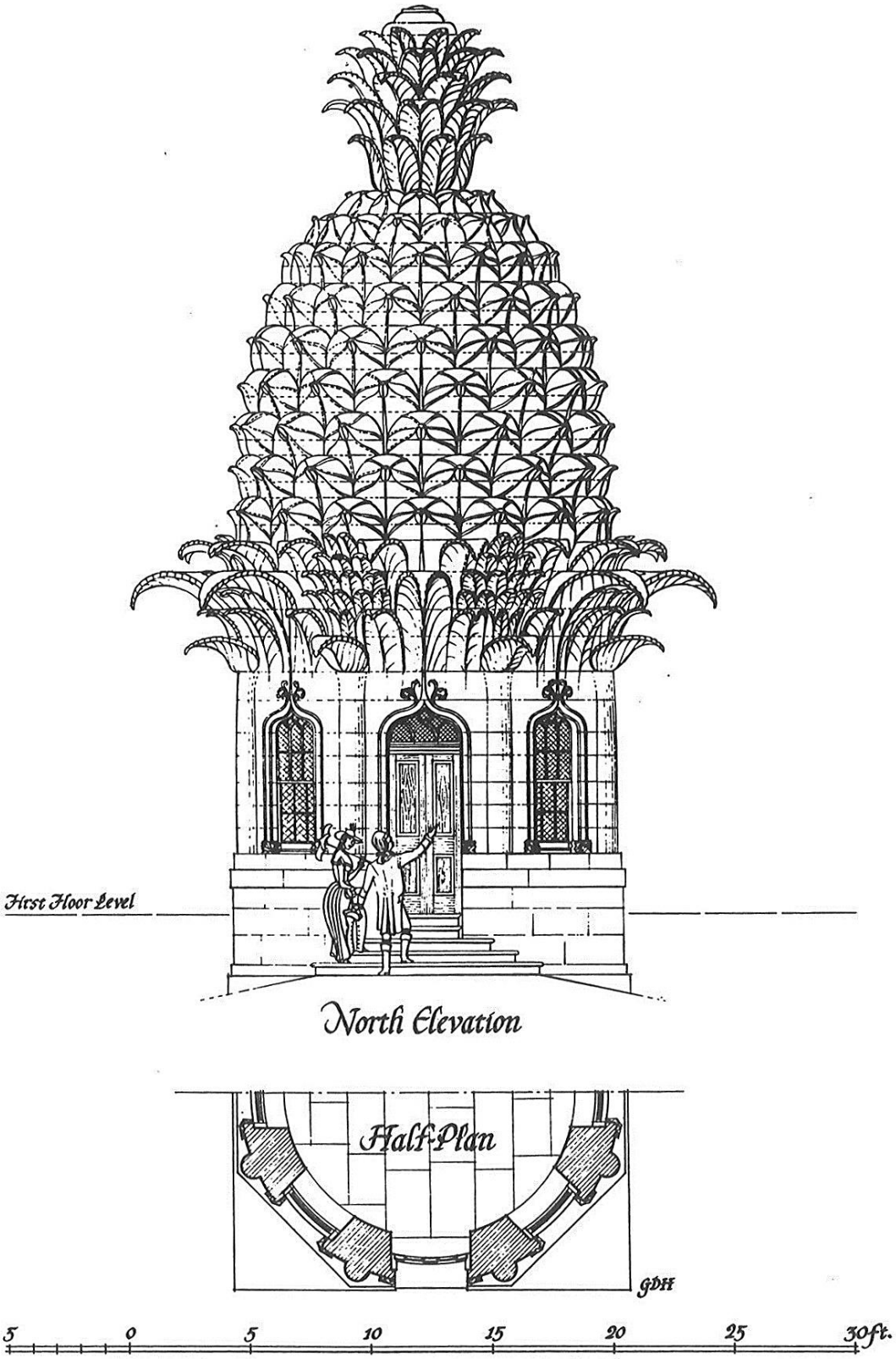
**Who Designed the Pineapple?**

Unfortunately, we do not know. It does seem extraordinary that such a glorious building was never engraved or described in letters, diaries or travel logs. One reason may be that the Georgians found both the Pineapple and its builder an embarrassment and the Victorians were simply not interested by which time its architect had been forgotten. Secondly, Dunmore was not on a major tourist route.

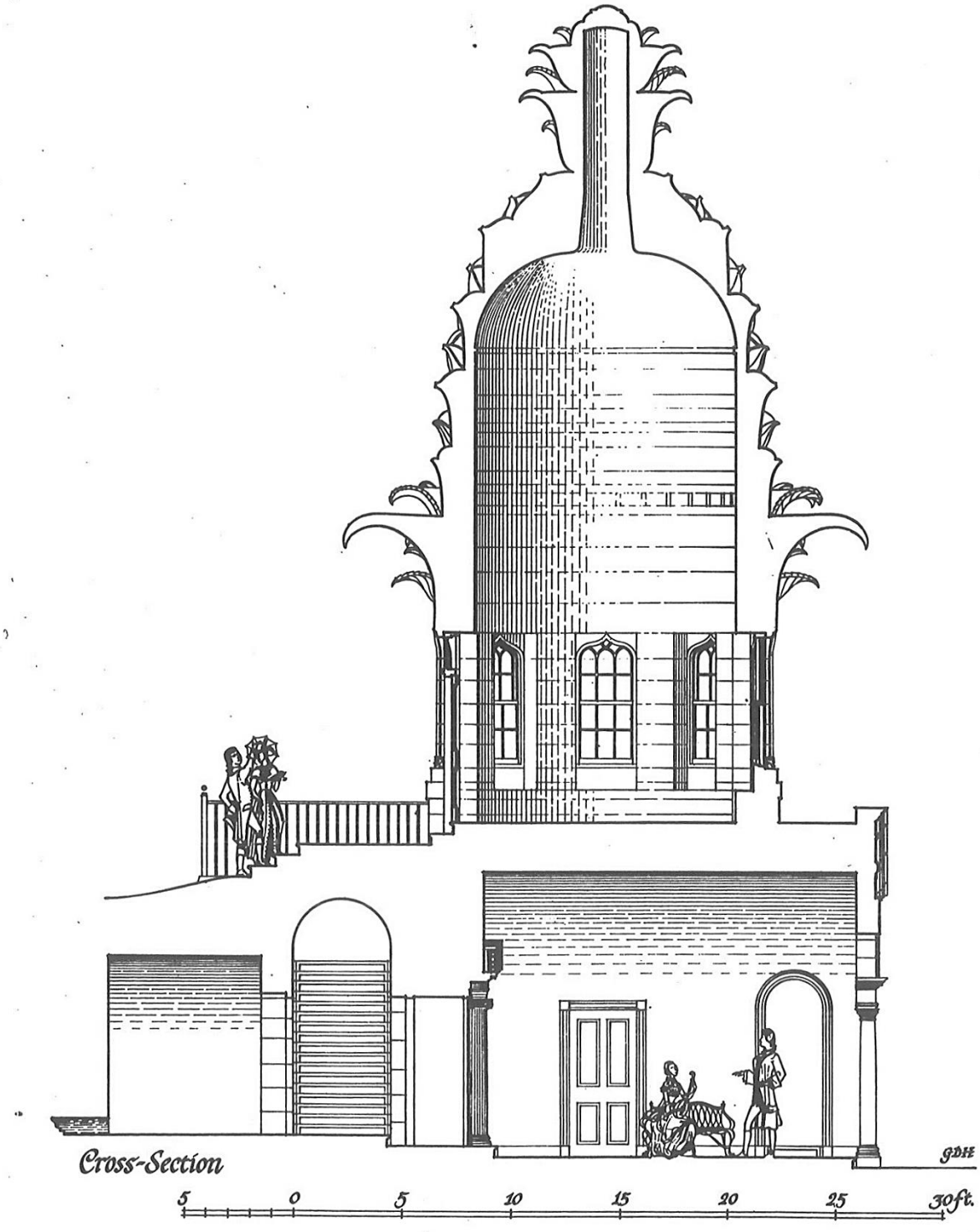
Mrs Sarah Murray, who married Lord Dunmore's younger brother, wrote *A Companion & Useful Guide to the Beauties of Scotland* in 1799. Even she does not mention the Pineapple, having declared that her intention in going to Scotland was not 'to see fine houses, nor dressed places. The simple beauty of nature is my hobby-horse.' From Edinburgh her route to Stirling was not along the south bank of the Forth but North to Kinross and Loch Leven and Dollar then Stirling, and Crieff and Blair Atholl.

In the absence of a known architect at Dunmore, it may be relevant to investigate who was working at Blair Castle, 75 miles to the north which was the seat of the 3rd Duke of Atholl and cousin of John Dunmore. The Duke commissioned George Stueart (c1730-1806) to build him a house in Grosvenor Place in London in 1770 and although this commission set him up as an architect, it apparently upset Robert Adam who is reported to have said that it was taking the bread out of his mouth. (Stueart's brother, Charles, had already provided some landscapes for Blair Castle). In 1777 the year of Dunmore's return to Britain, perhaps already with the idea of building his pineapple uppermost in his mind, George Steuart was building greenhouses and lodges at Blair and Dunkeld for the 4th Duke. Perhaps the Duke suggested Steuart to John Dunmore for his garden commission?

Accounts differ as to where George Steuart was born but it was either near Blair, or Dunkeld, which was not far from Taymount where Lord Dunmore was bought up. We know remarkably little about his early career but his most famous country




**RCHM (Scotland) Inventory of Stirling**




**RCHM (Scotland) Inventory of Stirling**

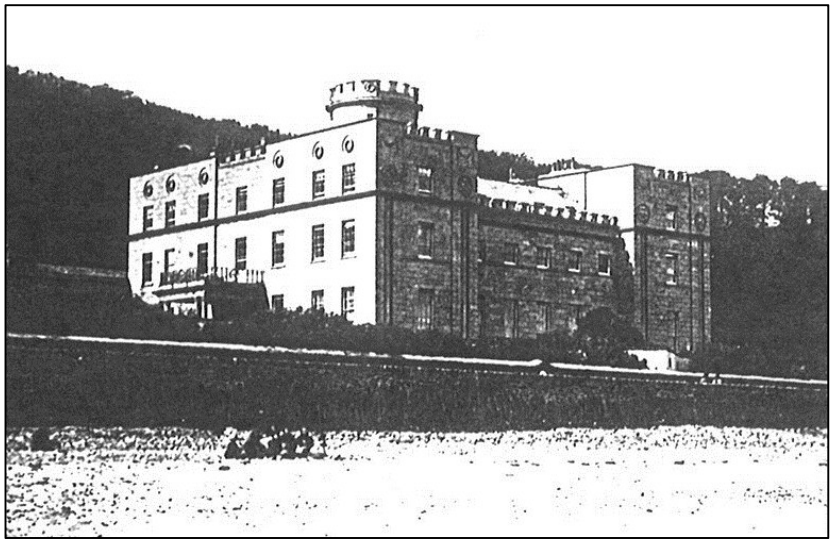
**St Chad's, Shrewsbury**


**Castle Mona, Isle of Man**

house is Attingham Park, in Shropshire (1782) and he also designed St Chad's in Shrewsbury (1790 – 1792), a most unusual church. In the St Chad's guide book, Professor Norton has written:

> George Steuart's leaning towards the eccentric never left him as various incidents throughout his life show, and one might guess this characteristic from his designs. Not one is without its peculiarities.

The originality of the tower at St Chad's displays a wilful clash of form with its square base, hexagonal centre and circular top; likewise Castle Mona on the Isle of Man, begun for the 4th Duke of Atholl in 1801, is a bizarre classical building surmounted by a castellated gothic tower. Both buildings are products of a mind of considerable originality, which could well have conceived the form of the Pineapple, so different from its little pavilion beneath.



Castle Mona, Isle of Man

George Steuart also worked under Abraham Swan at Blair Castle in the 1750s, doing decorative plasterwork and painting and therefore Lord Dunmore might have known him from those earlier days. It seems unlikely that the Pineapple itself can be attributed to Mylne as it does not appear in his Diary of commissions which was begun in 1762 and continued until his death. The quality of the Pineapple's masonry is however, of the standard to be expected of the Mylnes. As the RCHMS Inventory of Stirling remarks:

> The ingenuity of the design, however, becomes fully apparent only in the upper part of the structure, in which the massive leaves and fruit that give the Pineapple its realistic profile are cantilevered out from carefully executed, coursed masonry.

Stewart Tod believes that the stone used in the construction of the Pineapple could have come from Dunmore itself. It is exceptionally hard and contains glints of what looks like glass, giving it an appearance almost of granite.

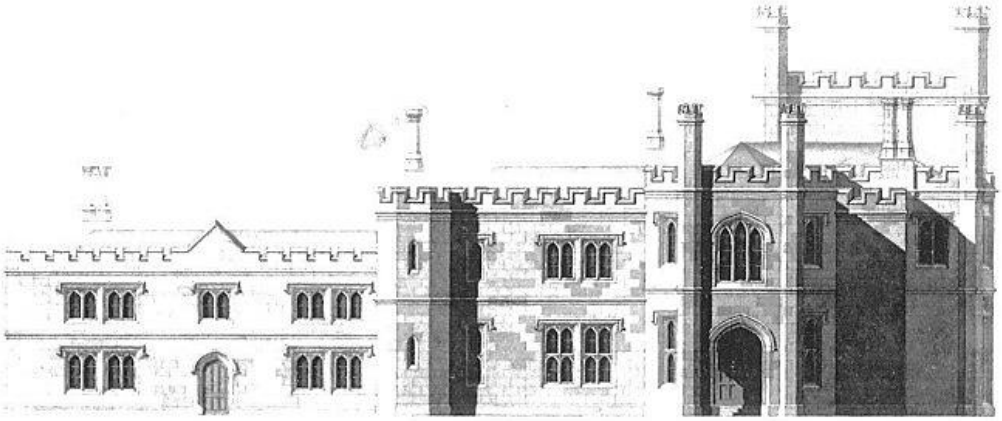
There is a local tradition that the Pineapple was built by Italian workmen because the standard of craftsmanship is so high. Certainly the drainage is ingenious: the stones are graded in such a clever way that water cannot collect anywhere. The base of each leaf is in fact higher than it appears when the Pineapple is viewed from below so that rain water drains away easily from these higher parts. At one time it seems that the Pineapple was painted.

Another designer, who should not be over-looked in connection with the Pineapple, is Abraham Swan. He ran a firm of London decorators and also published a number of books of architectural designs between 1745 and 1768, which were particularly popular in America. Like Robert Mylne and George Steuart, he too was working at Blair Castle, where he designed the front staircase, later published in his book *A Collection of Designs in Architecture* of 1757.

By 1777 he would have been nearly 70 and may have been too old to have designed the Pineapple. But it could be that Lord Dunmore cam across his books in America, and the author's connection with Blair where Swan had also designed some Chinese bridges, caught his eye. What is particularly relevant to the Pineapple is that in his *Designs in Carpentry* (1759), Swan gives a number of designs of domes, trussed roofs and various cupolas, including a section of St Paul's.

Such construction knowledge would have been useful to the builder of the Pineapple, but the fact remains it does not appear in his books and if he did build it, it seems strange that he did not publish such a natural candidate for engraving.

The possibilities for the architect of the Pineapple are endless but one person it does not seem to have been is Robert Adam, the Scottish architect used by Lord Dunmore's friend, Lord Shelburne. A master of public relations and self-advertisement, had Adam designed such an unusual building, he would surely have trumpeted the fact to the world.



RCHM (Scotland)

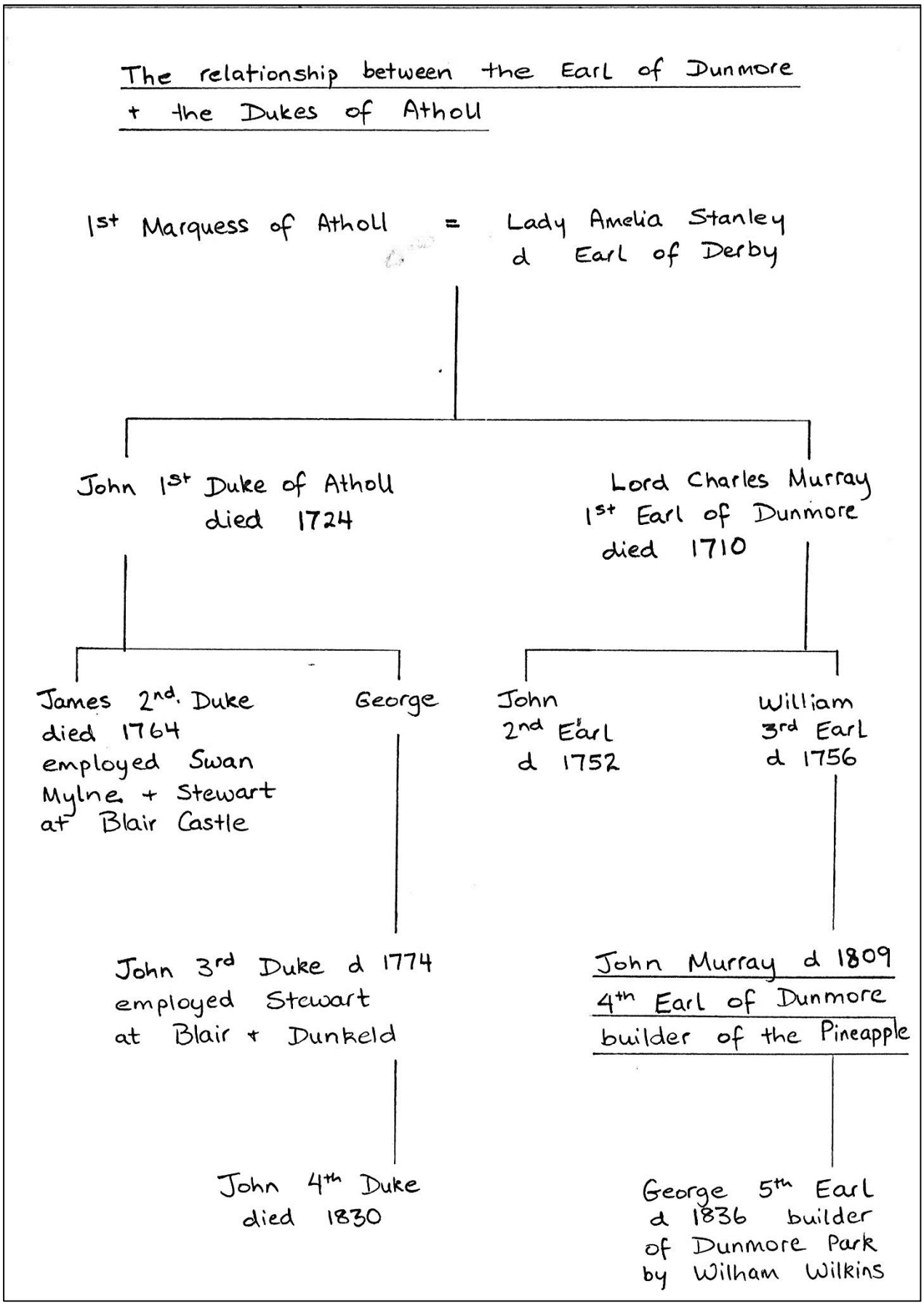
43. Dunmore Park, Stirlingshire. 1820–2.

**The New House at Dunmore**

At first, our Lord Dunmore's son, the 5th Earl, and his family do not appear to have lived at Dunmore. They rented Glen Finart House in Argyll and Charles Murray, his second son, wrote 'We have no hothouse fruit at the Glen, but a supply was sent every fortnight from Dunmore Park, where my father had no house but an excellent garden.' This situation changed when Lord Dunmore commissioned William Wilkins to design him a new house at Dunmore in 1820.

William Wilkins was one of the most important architects of his day. He went on to build the National Gallery in London and the old St George's Hospital (now the Lanesborough Hotel) on Hyde Park Corner. Dunmore Park, as one can see from the back of the Pineapple, is today derelict and ruinous. It was built in the Tudor Gothic style similar to Lord Rosebery's house nearby at Dalmeny.

The house at Dunmore is quadrangular with wings joined by a continuous corridor or enclosed cloister with a dining room, library and drawing room along the main front. As at Dalmeny, Wilkins used the products of the Coade factory in Lambeth, by then run by Mrs Coade's cousin William Groggan, who had introduced scagliola to their products in the 1810s. In one of their Day Books there is and entry: 'Lord Dunmore, ordered by Mr Wilkins, Dunmore Castle, Falkirk, Ireland (sic) four columns, four pilasters giallo antico, £249 5s 0d.' There were also 13 scagliola columns in the library. It was obviously a happy family home for Charles Murray, receiving a letter from his brother Hal written from Dunmore, replies thanking him for his letter 'written from the dear old shop.'

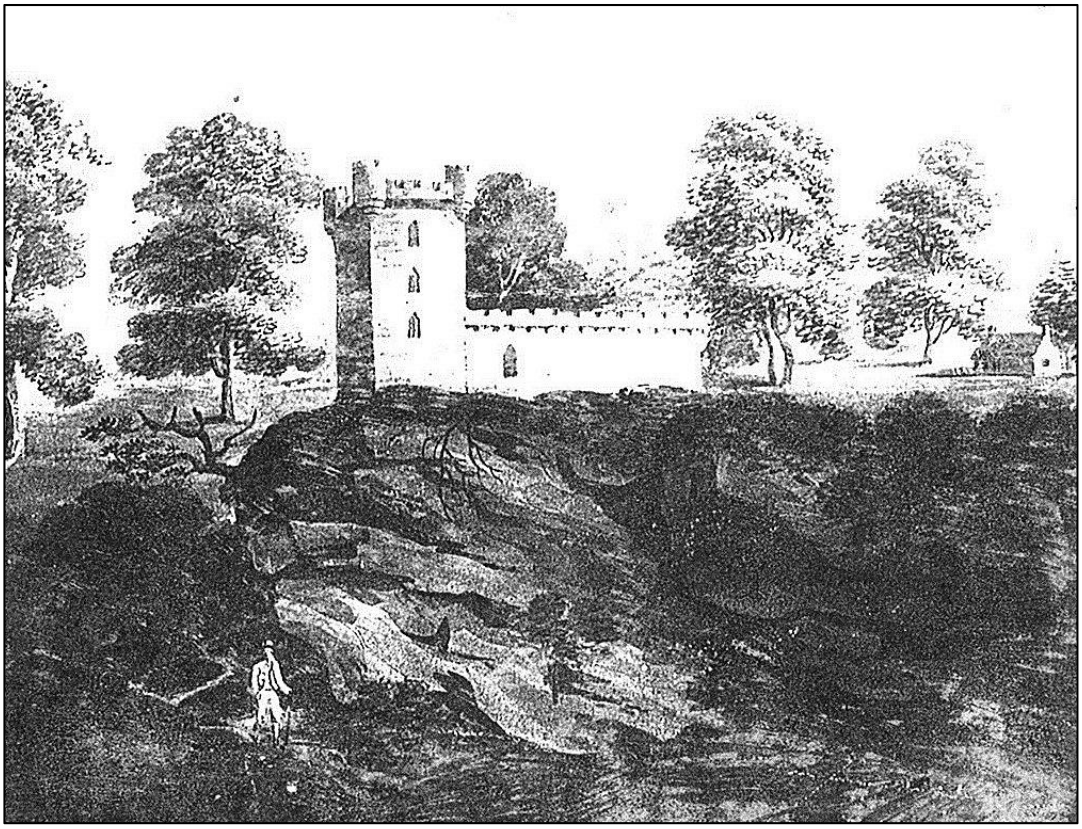

The relationship between the Earl of Dunmore + the Dukes of Atholl
1st Marquess of Atholl = Lady Amelia Stanley d Earl of Derby
John 1st Duke of Atholl died 1724
Lord Charles Murray 1st Earl of Dunmore died 1710
James 2nd. Duke died 1764 employed Swan Mylne + Stewart at Blair Castle
George
John 2nd Earl d 1752
William 3rd Earl d 1756
John 3rd Duke d 1774 employed Stewart at Blair + Dunkeld
John Murray d 1809 4th Earl of Dunmore builder of the Pineapple
John 4th Duke died 1830
George 5th Earl d 1836 builder of Dunmore Park by Wilham Wilkins

**The Family Mausoleum**

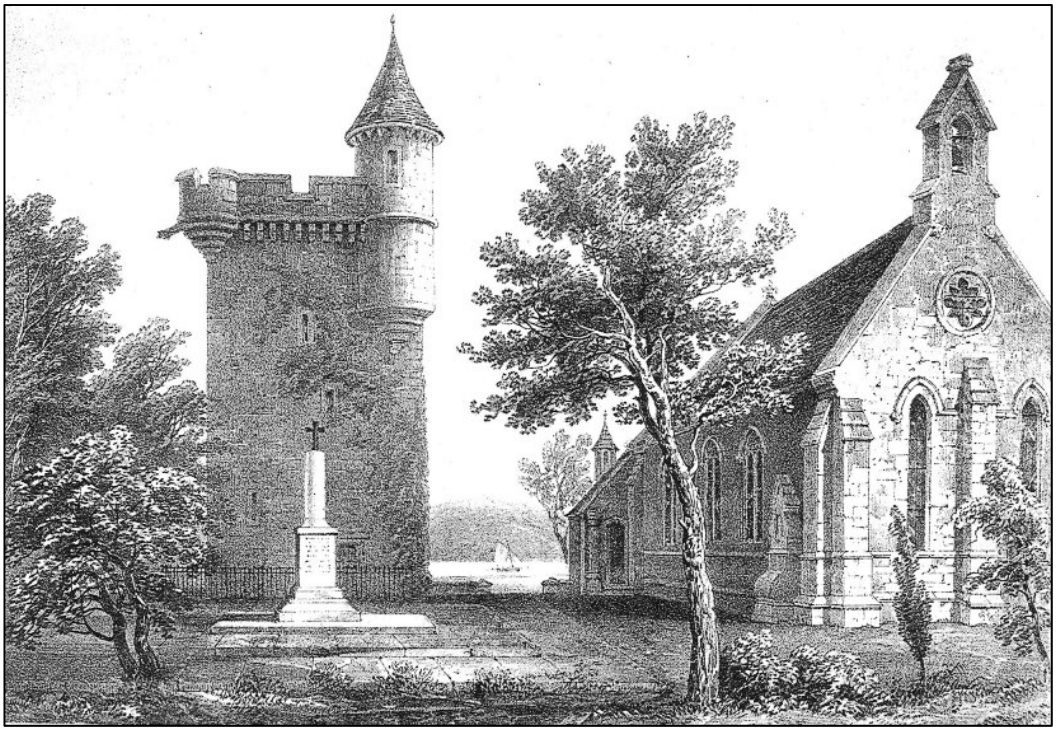
The 5th Lord Dunmore died in 1836 and that year the old wing was removed from Elphinstone Tower and the ground floor was consecrated as a family burial place with its high barrel-vaulted chamber. After the 6th Earl's death in 1845, his wife Catherine, built St Andrew's Episcopal Church next to the Mausoleum and it was consecrated in 1850. It is a tragedy that the church has been demolished and the tower has been vandalised and is in such a ruinous condition.

**A Description of Dunmore in 1851 from Samuel Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Scotland***

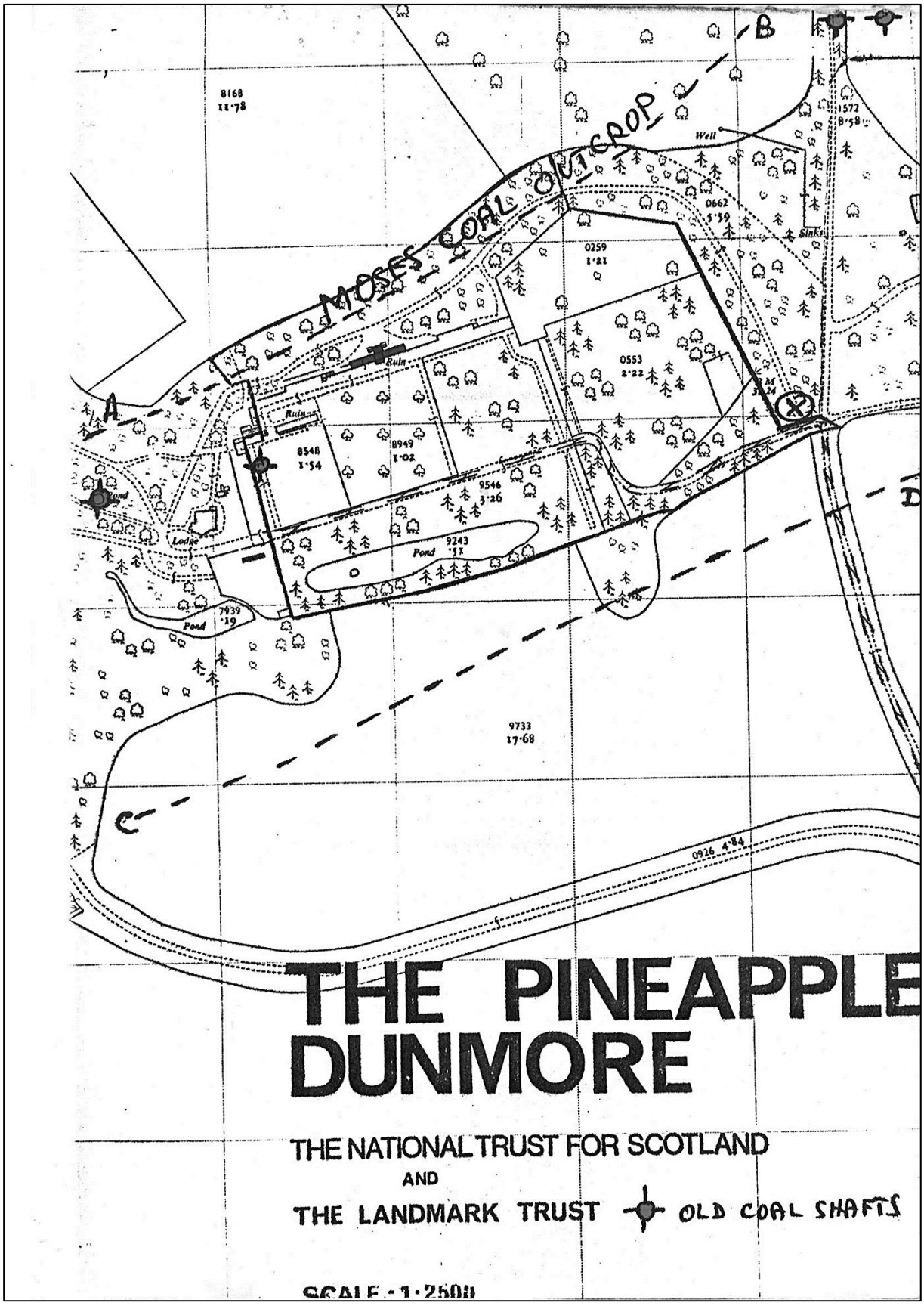
> Dunmore is situated on the south side of the Firth of Forth and has a harbour, now a calling-place for the Stirling streamers. The village is small and of rather mean appearance but the scenery around it is peculiarly beautiful, and the high grounds in the vicinity finely contrast with the almost level plain of the rest of the parish.
>
> Formerly there was an extensive coalmine in operation but the works were relinquished about the year 1810, when more than 30 families removed from the neighbourhood.
>
> Dunmore Park is the handsome seat of the Earl of Dunmore. The present mansion… is a large building in the Elizabethan style, and stands on an extensive lawn, surrounded by grounds richly planted with timber of various kinds and growth. On the summit of Dunmore Hill which is of considerable height, are the remains of a strong fortification; and in digging a few years since, an anchor was found embedded in soil, at least half a mile from the present course of the river.



**Elphinstone Tower before the wing was demolished**



**Romantic Reconstruction. Elphinstone Tower consecrated as a family burial place, A.D. 1836. St Andrew's Episcopal Church, built by Catherine, Countess of Dunmore and consecrated A.D. 1850.**


MOSES COAL OUTCROP
A
B
C
D
Well
Ruin
Ruin
Pond
Lodge
Pond
Pond
Sinks
8168
11·78
1572
8·58
0662
1·59
0259
1·81
0553
2·22
8548
1·54
8949
1·02
9546
3·26
9243
·51
7939
·19
9733
17·68
0926 4·84
THE PINEAPPLE
DUNMORE
THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND
AND
THE LANDMARK TRUST
OLD COAL SHAFTS
SCALE - 1·2500

Lewis's reference to the mine at Dunmore is of interest. Coal was an important industry in the area and in his introduction to his architectural guide to Clackmannan (just across the Forth), Adam Swan says:

> Coal and local wealth were synonymous. First gathered on the Forth banks by monks, coal was the raison d'être for Gartmorn Dam, Sauchies and industrial Alloa. Extracted by the Earls of Mar, Robert Bald, Bruce of Kennet and the Alloa Coal Company, who prospered… John Ramsay of Ochtertyre recorded 'It is said that Clackmannanshire colliers, in their Litany, used to pray for heavy rains in July, to spoil the west country people's peats; for the Stirlingshire tenants otherwise relied on Alloa coal for warmth and for fertiliser via their limekilns.'

Marked to the North of the Elphinstone estate on Roy's Map is a small group of buildings called 'Coalgateside.' The plan below shows the location of old shafts – from very shallow coal workings, almost certainly in use before the Pineapple was built.

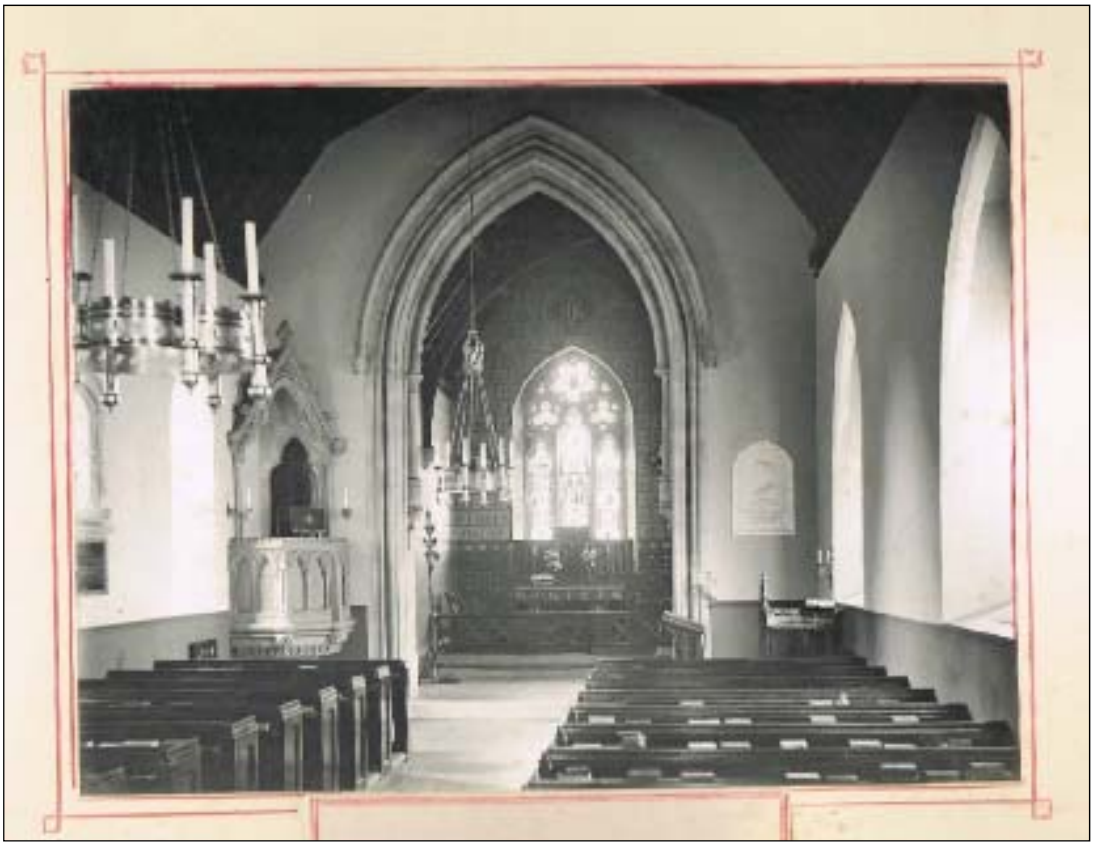
These gave access to the 'Moses Coal' seam, which actually outcrops (i.e. is visible on the surface or immediately below soil level) along line A – B. This seam is 24' to 34' thick. The proximity of this coal was obviously extremely convenient for heating the hothouses in the walled garden and the gardeners used to barrow the coal from the back of the garden to the wall furnaces. There is also a seam to the South East which outcrops along C – D. In the 1970s the Coal Board carried out a survey and found coal at a depth of 1,800 feet. There are however, no plans to mine it, particularly as the rock strata in the Airth/Dunmore area are subject to great faults – often a 'throw' of 700 feet vertically, which would make such deep mining uneconomic.

**Charles Murray's Last Visit to Dunmore in 1886 Described in a Letter to his Wife:**

> Yesterday the weather was lovely, and Mrs Murray of Polmaise drove me to Dunmore. The old housekeeper knew me, not from old time, but from our last visit, and we went all over the house, which, although of course wearing a cold, deserted look from being so long uninhabited, was very clean and tidy, and might be made again comfy in a very few days. You may imagine what old recollections the visit evoked, especially the library, where the old books repose on their old shelve, uncovered by glass or paper, and many of them exactly in their old places; so that I could see the book which my father took down and read by the fireside. My mother's boudoir, which had been so pretty and cosy, was quite meconnaisable from the changes made in it during successive occupations; but I went on to the room beyond, which my parents occupied during the latter years of my father's life, and where he breathed his last exactly fifty years ago (1836). Thence we went through the wood, which looked as beautiful as ever and the garden and to the dear old tower and church. I found a few faded flowers and chaplets on my elder brother's tomb: who placed them there I know not, but the whole scene and its associations moved me exceedingly, and called up feelings and recollections which you can more easily imagine than I describe! Mrs M was very kind and showed great tact in leaving me, both in the house and at the church, for several minutes alone'

There is no mention of the Pineapple; perhaps Lord Dunmore's very respectable grandson regarded it with both embarrassment and derision.

**Dunmore House, 1899**



**Dunmore Chapel in 1899. The window is now in Australia**

## The Walled Garden

### The Scottish Type

EHM Cox's: *A History of Gardening in Scotland* shows that the estate at Dunmore was typical of its type in the second half of the 18th century. The house was of moderate size, unpretentious in architecture with walled gardens and nearby orchards, lawns either closely scythed or left rough shaded by fine trees, with the surrounding park laid out in grass with belts of timber sheltering the policies. In Scotland the vogue for landscape gardening, as the English know it, with lakes, vistas, garden buildings in various styles, and 'natural' planting, did not take off.

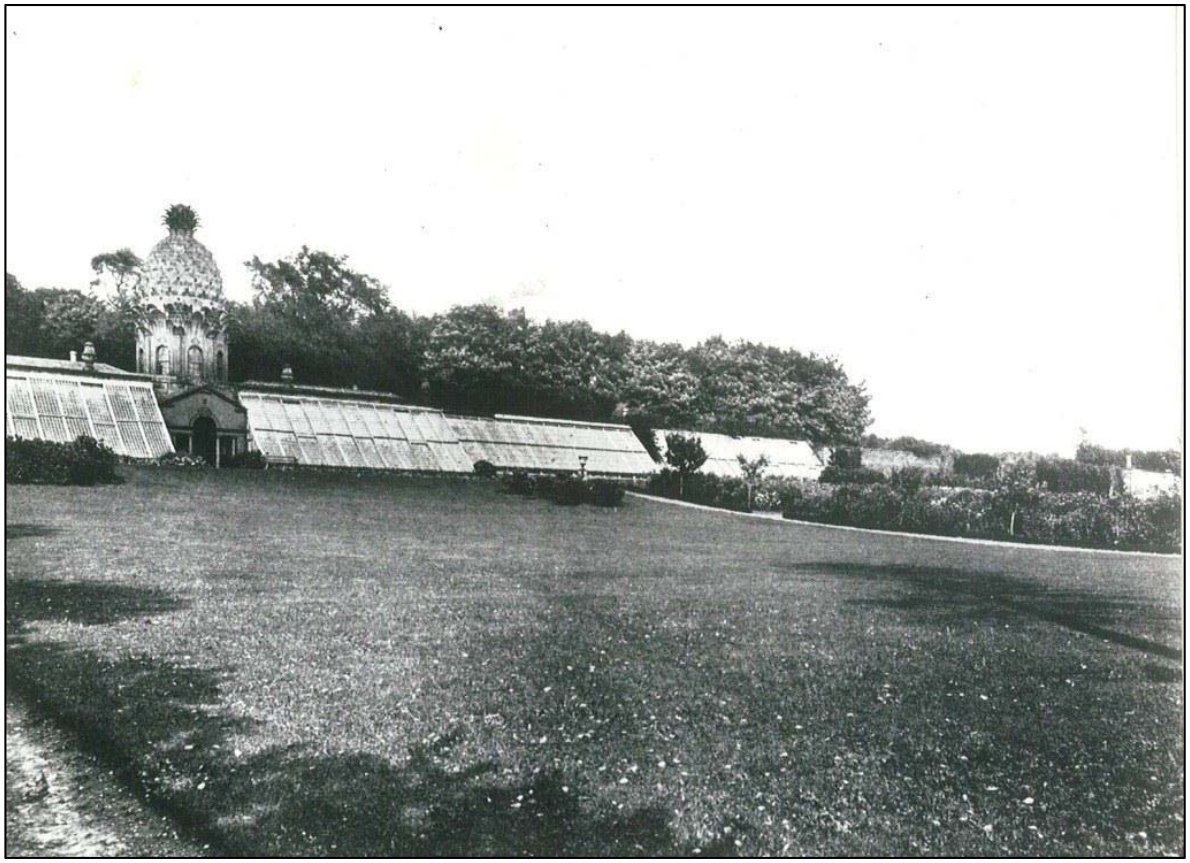

**The garden in 1899**.

The walled garden - most typical of the components of the Scottish estate – occupied quite a different place in garden hierarchy from its English counterpart. It was much more complex than merely supplying the house because it was ornamental as well as useful. The Scottish type of walled garden was originally conceived in the middle of the 17th century and it was a pleasant mixture of flowers, fruit and vegetables. It was a compact area enjoyed by the whole household, rather than merely the work place for the kitchen gardeners, and much attention was paid to it.

This garden was usually at a distance from the house often only one or two hundred yards but sometimes as much as half a mile. However, it was never treated with contempt, firmly kept away from the eye of the owners. Indeed many of those existing are in full view of the house.

Cox describes the Scottish garden, of which the walled garden forms the most important part:

> By the end of the century, the walled kitchen garden, the lawns about the mansion, the shrubbery's and the attendant policies were so common in the lowlands as to warrant their being called a national type of garden. The general layout followed no extremes either of formality or of the landscape type of garden architecture. From the aesthetic point of view it probably lacked the completeness that goes with a house and garden designed by one hand. Both house and garden were separate entities found by no close ties of design; as such it might be imagined that they would be unsuited to further treatment, that the house would always remain the house and that the house would always stand boxed off in its own watertight compartment. But that is not the case. This method of individual planning has suited the country admirably: it has formed a solid groundwork, which has proved capable of infinite adjustment and infinite variety at the hands of gardeners of succeeding generations.
>
> The very simplicity of the layout of most 18th-century gardens and policies has proved a saving grace; there were no mannerisms, which offended the sensibilities of the Victorian gardener with his meticulous bedding displays... Shrubberies have proved easily adaptable to hold the increasing number of varieties of flowering trees and shrubs. Wild gardens have been made from policy woods... Through all these (later) changes the walled kitchen garden has quietly held the premier place, unaltered and, really, unalterable. Of all forms of gardens it appears to be the solitary example,



**Photographs from the 1917 Sale catalogue. Copyright Scottish Record Office.**

> which will not bear improvement except in details of cultivation. It uses and appearance are very much the same today as they were two centuries ago.
>
> The usual form has main paths running parallel to the walls and separated from them by borders about 8' wide. Two other main paths run through the middle of the garden at right angles to each other. With the advent of greenhouses they were often placed (the lean-to type) on the south side of the north wall. The amount of ground devoted to flowers depends on the individual taste of the owner, but there is usually a flower border or beds in front of the greenhouses, and almost always flower borders flanking the two main paths crossing the centre of the garden.

Unfortunately we have no record of what the Dunmore garden was like in the time of the 4th Earl. We do however, know that the most popular flower at this time was Clove Pink and other favourites were stocks, anemones, ranunculus, hollyhocks, jonquils, sweet williams, tulips and cockscomb. Vegetables which were commonly grown were peas, broad beans, yellow turnips, beetchard and asparagus; and parsley, balm, sage, peppermint thyme, horseradish and rosemary were the usual herbs. All the inner wall space was utilised for espalier fruit or for vines and in some cases the outer walls were used too. If this was the case, the thick plantation normally surrounding the walled garden helped protect them from the wind. Plums, peaches, nectarines, apples, cherries and pears were not uncommon whereas the pineapple certainly was.

Photographs of the walled garden at Dunmore taken in 1917 show that there was a path running east-west across the garden flanked on each side by herbaceous planting. The Pineapple lay at the top of wide lawn which appears to have been bordered by fruit trees. It ran down to the bottom of the garden and was intersected by the main long ways path. Glass houses ran all the way along the north wall.

**The Cultivation of Pineapples – First Success**

In 1661 John Evelyn recorded in his diary that King Charles II had been presented with a queen pineapple which had been imported from Barbados. He added that the first of this fruit to be seen in England had been sent to Cromwell four years before.

There is a particularly confusing picture which is supposed to represent Joseph Rose, Royal Gardener, presenting a pineapple to the King. The house in the background has never been identified and it seems unlikely that the fruit had been grown in England as we have no record of its cultivation until after the death of Charles II. It has been mentioned that the house could be in Holland which was more advanced in pineapple propagation than England.

Miles Hadfield has shown that there is little doubt that it was Henry Telende who was the first to fruit the pineapple in Britain. Telende was the gardener of Sir Matthew Decker (of Dutch origin) who had a famous garden at Richmond Green. There is a painting in the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge by Theodore Netscher of a pineapple with a memorial table bearing a Latin inscription. Translated it means:

> 'To the perpetual memory of Matthew Decker, baronet, and Thoedore Netscher, Gentlemen. This pineapple deemed worthy of the Royal table, grew at Richmond at the cost of the former, and still seems to grow by the art of the latter. H Watkins set up this inscription, AD 1720.'

Since its first importation into England, the pineapple had caught the fancy of the public and there must have been some competition among gardeners to see who could first grow this high priced luxury here. Telende's secret was the use of a hot-bed made of tanner's bark rather than horse dung. The brick-lined pit, rather more than 5' deep, 11' long and 7'6' wide was covered with glass. At the bottom a foot of hot dung was shovelled, over which was laid 300 bushels of tanner's bark. If this was made in February, the bed was hot in 15 days and the heat would last until October.

A pineapple could take as long as two and a half years to fruit and ripen and they required a steady temperature of 75 degrees F. This had been almost impossible with the sole use of horse dung which lost its heat quickly and was very variable. The heat from fermenting tanner's bark was far more even and long-lasting.

**The Heated Wall**

In 1754, the year that Lord Dunmore acquired the Elphinstone estate, James Justice published *The Scots Gardener's Director* in which he fully described the kitchen garden with its complement of flowers, vegetables and fruit. The walls were commonly of stone and the fact that those at Dunmore are of brick is unusual for this material was rare in Scotland before the 19th century.

The practice of hot walls had been practised in England before 1720 by heating the backs of walls at intervals with ovens. In 1728, 4 years before the birth of Lord Dunmore and intriguingly at Knowsley, near Liverpool, the family home of his great grandmother, a new system was discovered whereby a fire was lighted inside a hollow wall on cold nights. James Justice's system, described by Cox, was an improvement on the latter method:

> Furnaces were built at intervals below the ground level of the back of the wall. Instead of the wall being hollow throughout, where supply of sufficient draught must have been a difficulty, a system of flues built into the walls branching out from a central chamber above the furnace and running at various angles to the top of the wall.

Justice, a principal clerk at the Court of Sessions in Edinburgh was an amateur gardener and is known to be the first to grow pineapples in Scotland. Recognising his achievements, The Royal Society appointed him a fellow in 1730 and named the genus Justicia after him.

It seems to be Justice's system adopted by Lord Dunmore as the north wall of the garden is of double construction containing cavities through which hot air was circulated. Flued back walls however, gave heat with certain disadvantages. The heat was difficult to regulate, it was not easy to keep the fire burning all

night, it was impossible to cope with sudden frosts and cold spells and the heat was dry thereby encouraging pests.

**The Final Solution**

The obvious solution was to move the bark pit into the glasshouse to keep the heat study and the air moist. At that time, as David Jacques explains, glass houses were designed specifically for the needs of a particular crop and it was easy to tell the difference between a melon house, vinery, pine house or peach stove. The pine house was often split into three sections each warmer than the last:

1. This part was for rooting the suckers and crowns. The suckers were removed from the fruited plants but the crowns being such a decorative part of the fruit, were cut from it at the dinner table and later returned to the gardener. (In towns they were labelled and returned to the nursery because the rooted crown would produce another fruit in two years).
2. This part was for the growth of the plants.
3. This section for the fruiting of the plants.

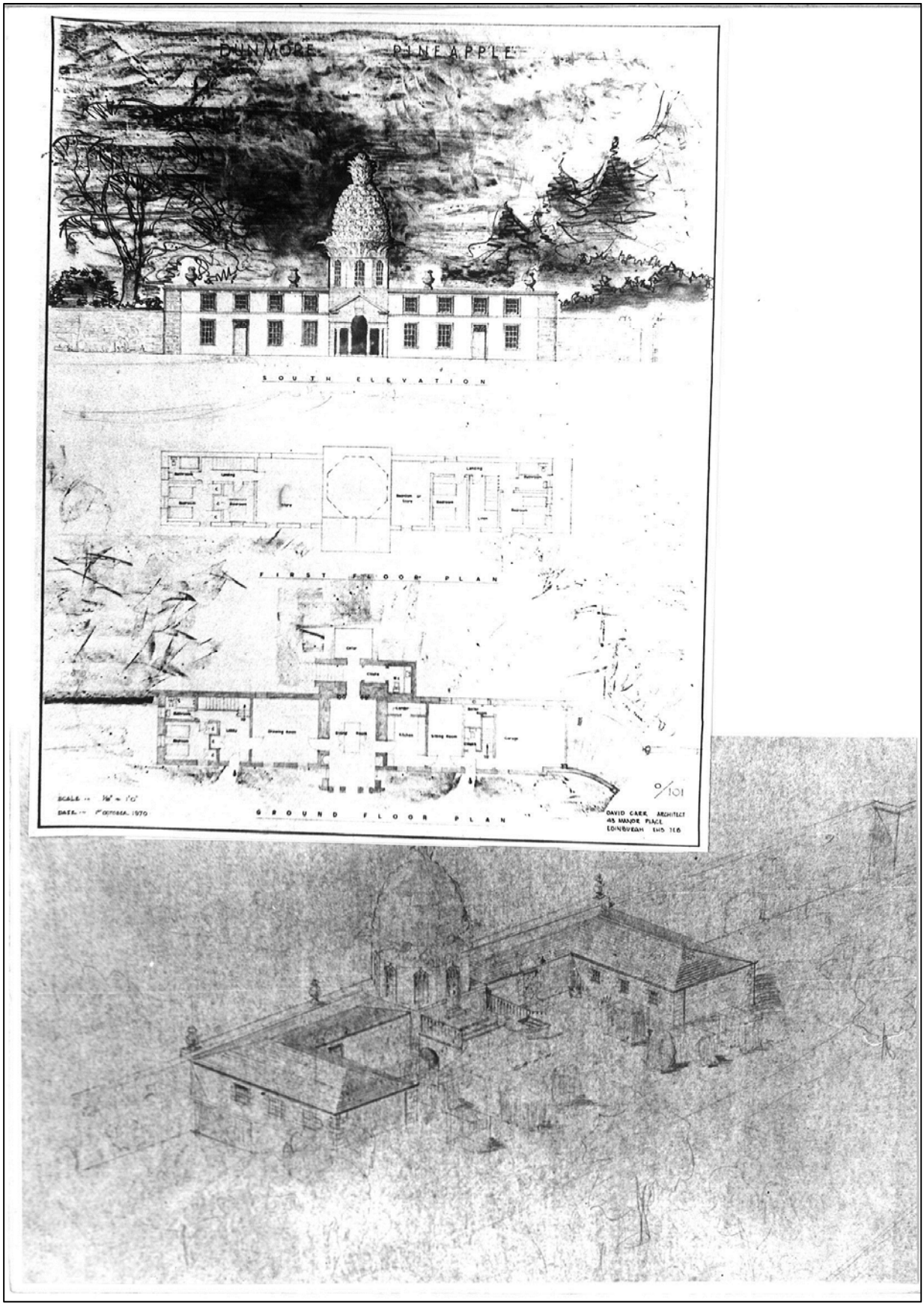
If too many were appearing at one time, some plants would be moved to a cooler part to slow them down a bit.

An estate with only four horses could produce sufficient dung to produce its own pineapples. In the 1730s a well constructed pine house might cost £48 and if near a source of coal, which Dunmore certainly was, would cost about £5 a year to run. The house could produce about 100 or more fruit requiring about three to four hundred plants at different stages. The average weight was about 4lbs and the fruit was cut just before full ripeness otherwise the flavour weakened, with about 4’ of stalk for ease of handling. At the table the footman held the fruit while a slice was cut onto each plate, all with a certain amount of ceremony.

The pineapple was a symbol of luxury and delight and was commonly sent as a gift to friends. The Dunmores held a grace and favour apartment at Holyrood in Edinburgh which had been in the family since the 1st Earl's time. Lord Dunmore would have enjoyed impressing his dinner party guests by presenting them with pineapples grown on his own estate. In view of the fruit's status and the complications of its propagation in the 18 century, Lord Dunmore's building is without doubt an Epicurean celebration. Perhaps growing pineapples for the Edinburgh market was also a way of making a modest sum of money.

**1970**

**1970**




**Two schemes drawn up for the Perths.**

## The Restoration of the Pineapple and Walled Garden

When the Earl and Countess of Perth decided not to go ahead with their plans to make the Pineapple into a house, an alternative solution was needed. Discussions with the National Trust for Scotland led to the involvement of the Landmark Trust and a lease was duly agreed in 1973. The Landmark Trust had already approached the architect, Stewart Tod, of David Carr Architects in Edinburgh as he had worked on the Perths' plans and therefore he knew the building.

The idea was to make a dwelling on either side of the Pineapple but on a less grandiose scale than previous plans and work got underway in November 1973. The purpose was the first phase was to carry out essential maintenance and repair work to stabilise the building, which had been severely neglected. The buildings on either side of the Pineapple were in a dangerous condition with the porch at the front and steps at the back fast deteriorating. Only after that work had been carried out could work begin on the accommodation and the garden.

First of all an access road for the builders was made from the main drive to the Pineapple and a water supply was brought in to serve the site. Three of the chimney pots, designed to look like decorative urns, were removed as were any precarious coping stones (the forth chimney pot was lying in pieces around the site). All doors and windows with their frames and sashes were carefully removed and stored for later use, together with the carved wood entablature behind the portico. The building had almost disappeared behind vegetation so one of the first jobs was to clear all this away.

**Work in progress on the garden building on the west side of the Pineapple.**

**The East and the West Wings**

The structure of the south wall of the West Wing was made good and then the derelict roof was replaced using tanalised timber. The roof was slated using the best of the old slates with new slates to match and the pots were replaced. Then the existing first floor joists and flooring were removed and all timber lintels were replaced. On the East Wing, the structure of the walls, up to and including the wall head level, was made good and the coping stones were removed and carefully re-set with the roof being repaired in the same way as its counterpart. One of the chimneys of this wing had fallen down and broken into many fragments – these were found in the East Wing and beneath the portico in the entrance hall and were stuck together and the urn replaced.

**The Portico**

All the weeds and saplings were removed and any that were still alive were treated with the chemicals to kill them off. The slates were removed and laid aside for re-use. Then the cornice was carefully taken down, rebedded and re-set because it had become displaced. Like the wings, the roof was re-slated with old and matching new slates.

**The North Entrance and Steps**

Having removed all the greenery, any stonework that needed it was re-bedded and re-set where it had become dislodged by roots etc. The metal railings were refixed and repaired.

**The Pineapple**

First of all, scaffolding was erected to give access to all parts and to facilitate the removal of plants. In fact the stonework, considering its neglect, was in remarkably good condition – testimony to its good design and drainage system. All the open joints on the upper part were raked out and carefully filled with mastic. This particularly applied to the joints sloping downwards into the stone work. All other joints were treated with silicote applied with a small brush locally over the pointing. In April 1974 a trial panel was cleaned by hand using water and a churn brush and this was the method used for cleaning the whole of the Pineapple.

By May 1974 the job of making the Pineapple structurally sound was well advanced and at this stage the architects and contractors were waiting for local authority approval for the second phase which included the finishes, and restoration of the joinery and the plaster features.

Inside the portico, the walls and vault were treated for damp and waterproofed. The walls were replastered on expanded metal mesh. The two panelled doors and frames leading into the original hothouses were repaired. The wooden Ionic columns and broken entablature were restored and refixed with the plaster niche and the stone slab floor was overhauled with paving from the natural stone quarries.

In the Pineapple room the existing windows were repaired and the others were replaced to match exactly the sash cases and shaped heads and panes. The stonework and plaster work was cleaned and redecorated and window seats were supplied and fitted. The second phase was also mainly concerned with providing the Landmark: bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room and kitchen in the two wings.

**East Wing before restoration – N.B. the urn in the foreground.**

**Re-roofing the East Wing.**


**Sir John Smith making an inspection.**

 .

The electricity cabling was laid underground down the west side of the garden where it eventually meets up with the overhead cable and the septic tank was positioned towards the centre of the bottom of the walled area. We were fortunate enough to receive a grant from the Historic Buildings Council for this work. The saga of the installation of the public lavatories has been described in the Landmark Handbook.

By 1970 the garden was a jungle, covered with rosebay willow herb. The Landmark Trust is grateful to the Scottish Tourist Board which gave a grant towards its restoration. The garden area was cleared, prepared for trimming and the grading of the slopes, ready for seeding in autumn of 1974 with the first cut in spring 1975. At this time we also cleared and put in order the south pond, re-erecting the perimeter railing on the south side. We also rebuilt the stone doorway in the east garden wall. The walls were repaired where necessary with bricks from the Swanage Brick and Tile Company in Dorset which supplied 4,000 larger bricks and 10,000 smaller ones in a colour to match the existing bricks. A simple tree planting scheme has been carried out based on a formal orchard layout.


**Portrait of the 1st Earl of Dunmore by Godfrey Kneller now at the National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh**

## The Dunmore Family

**The First Three Earls of Dunmore**

The Dunmore family is a branch of the house of Atholl and the title is associated with the Atholl district of Perthshire, Piltlochry to be precise. The first Earl of Dunmore was born Lord Charles Murray, the second son the Marquis of Atholl and his wife, Lady Amelia Sophia Stanley, daughter of the Earl of Derby. He was born in 1661, the year after the Restoration of the Stuart Monarch, at Knowsley, Lord Derby's seat in Lancashire.

He was a soldier and a courtier, becoming Master of the Horse to Princess Anne and to her step-mother, James 11's second wife, Mary of Modena. In 1686, the King created Lord Charles Murray, Earl of Dunmore, Viscount Fincastle, Baron of Blair, of Moulin and Tillemot (two parishes close to Blair). However, he was deprived of all these titles only two years later, when James11 was forced to flee the country, and his daughter Mary and her consort William of Orange, came to the English throne.

Lord Dunmore was suspected of intriguing against the new government and in 1692 was committed to the Tower of London. After the accession of Queen Anne, he was pardoned and became a Privy Councillor in 1703. He was succeeded by his second son, John, in 1710.

John Murray, the 2nd Earl, was born in 1685 and was also a professional soldier. His career is one of steady advancement in both social and military spheres. IN 1704, at the age of nineteen, he fought at the Battle of Blenheim as an Ensign; in 1743, during the War of the Austrian Succession, he fought with the English army at Dettingen in support of Maria Theresa against the Prussians. He died unmarried in 1752 and was succeeded by his younger brother, William.

The 3rd Earl was never crowned with laurels for in 1745 he came out in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie in the Scots Rebellion and was tried for high treason in 1746 at the court in Southwark. He pleaded guilty and obtained the King's pardon. He was succeeded by his eldest son, John, in 1756.

**The 4th Earl of Dunmore, builder of The Pineapple by Joshua Reynolds(Scottish National Portrait Gallery).**

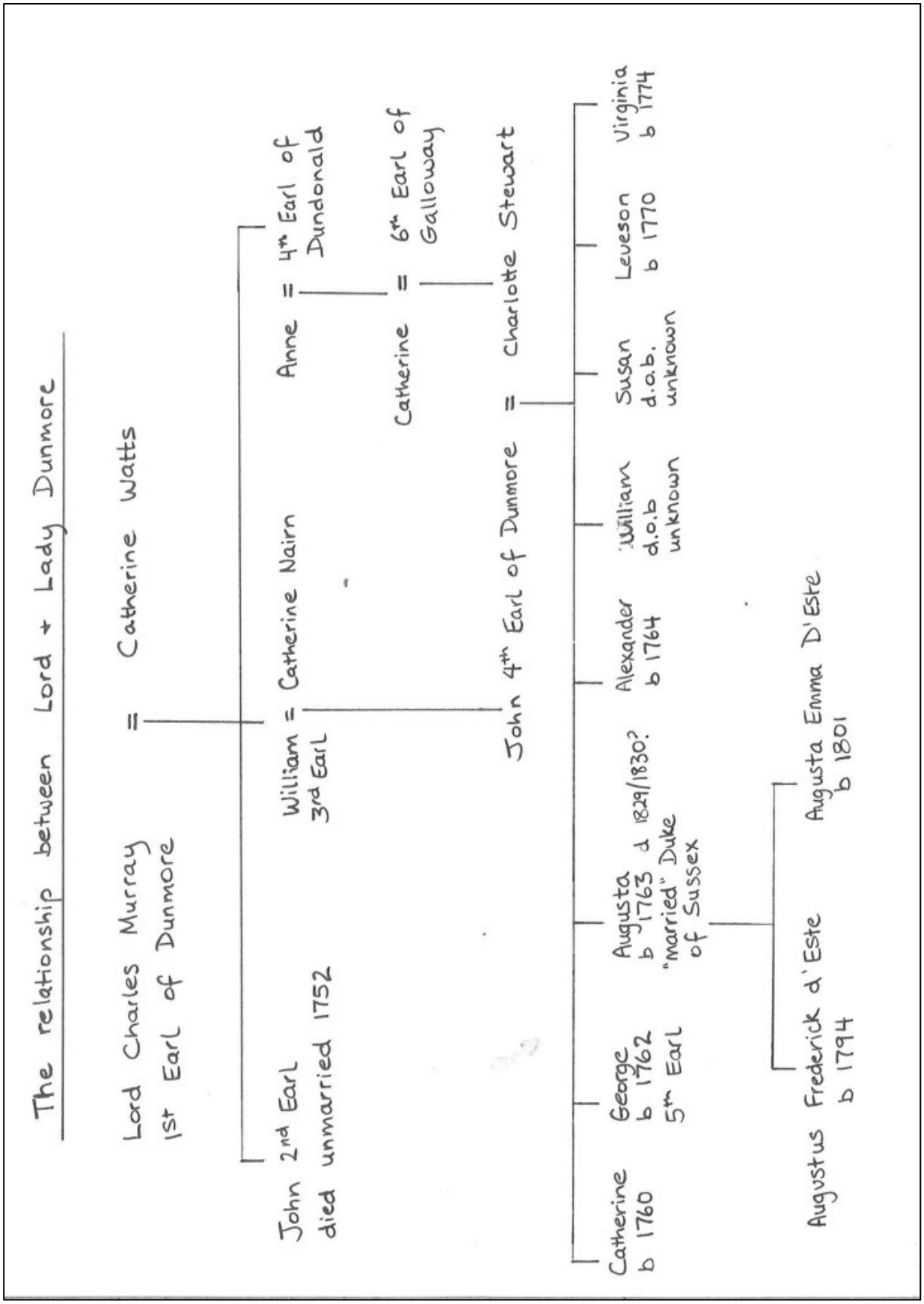
**John, 4th Earl of Dunmore**

The 4th Earl was quite an extraordinary character, as indeed we can guess from his building such an original and amusing folly. He was high spirited and at times boisterous, reckless but personally brave, stubborn and certainly tenacious. Seemingly the empty headed aristocrat, one of his closest friends was the serious and ambitious politician, William, Lord Shelburne. As the last Governor of Virginia, it is not an exaggeration to say that he was a disaster. His portrait at the age of 33, painted by Reynolds, does not show him to have been dazzlingly handsome – unfortunately he inherited a particularly unattractive nose from his grandfather, the first Earl.

Details of his early life are few and far between. He was undoubtedly well connected, descended in the female line from the Royal House of Stuart, with ancestors related to most of the crowned heads of Europe. Born in 1732, he would have been at the impressionable age of 13 at the Rebellion of '45 when his father was so disgraced. His entry in the Dictionary of American Biography says that he was a 'sturdy youth, accustomed to life in the open but not without knowledge of the amenities of good living, nor without a wide acquaintance with the men of his day.'

Although there is no documentary evidence that he travelled in France and Italy as so many of his contemporaries did and he does not appear on the list of Pompeo Batoni's list of British patrons, he may well have undertaken the Grand Tour. If so, it is likely that he did so about the year 1750.

In 1754 he acquired the Elphinstone Estate (where the Pineapple now stands) on the south bank of the River Forth. Five years later, he married Lady Charlotte Stewart, the daughter of the Earl of Galloway in Edinburgh. Local tradition has it that the Dunmores went to Italy on their honeymoon, and in the Vatican garden they saw a vast stone pinecone and he promised her that he would erect a similar one at Dunmore. That interpretation certainly fits the date 1761, carved


The relationship between Lord + Lady Dunmore
Lord Charles Murray
1st Earl of Dunmore
=
Catherine Watts
John 2nd Earl
died unmarried 1752
William = Catherine Nairn
3rd Earl
Anne = 4th Earl of Dundonald
Catherine = 6th Earl of Galloway
John 4th Earl of Dunmore = Charlotte Stewart
Catherine
b 1760
George
b 1762
5th Earl
Augusta
b 1763 d 1829/1830?
"married" Duke
of Sussex
Alexander
b 1764
William
d.o.b
unknown
Susan
d.o.b.
unknown
Leveson
b 1770
Virginia
b 1774
Augustus Frederick d'Este
b 1794
Augusta Emma D'Este
b 1801

on the keystone of the portico, but as we have seen it, it looks more likely that the Pineapple was built later.

Lord Dunmore spent the greater part of the 1760s in London living at the family house in Lower Berkeley Street. It was at this time that his friendship with Lord Shelburne – five years his junior – flourished. It seems that Lord Dunmore and Shelburne had known one another from 1756 when Shelburne was touring Scotland. We know a little of the life of Lord Dunmore in London from the diaries of Sophia, Lady Shelburne, who got married in 1765. On 28th February 1766 the Shelburnes held a party at which 'Lord Dunmore, Mr Hume, the author and Mr Cambridge' (the poet) attended.

As well as enjoying intellectual gatherings with the Shelburnes, Lord Dunmore was capable of the odd prank. In March 1766 Lord Dunmore and Lord Shelburne played a trick on Mr Parker and Col. Barre by leaving them behind at Mr Townshend's house at Tottenham 'because they were not ready to come away when they did.' Lady Shelburne adds that 'they would be in great distress as they depended on them to bring them home.' The next year while at Bowood 'Lord Dunmore drew the elk (from the menagerie) up to the windows in the chaise; they were attempting to make [the elk] draw and brought him at last to be tolerably manageable!'

It seems that the two men may have discussed their respective building projects together. On 14th January 1766 'Lord Dunmore breakfasted here, and went afterwards with Lord Shelburne to the new house at Berkeley Square.' This is now the Lansdowne Club, which was originally designed for Lord Bute by Robert Adam but sold to Lord Shelburne. Next month Lord Dunmore dined with the Shelburnes in London and the morning after all three set off for their house on the edge of High Wycombe (now Wycombe Abbey School). They spent the journey very pleasantly 'in planning Lord Dunmore's Settlement in North America where he has a scheme of going some time or other … after tea Lord Shelburne read us

some very curious accounts of the Indians in North America and after supper drew a plan of Lord Dunmores (sic) habitation on the banks of the Ohio.'

In 1766 Lord Shelburne became Secretary of State for the south which gave him full responsibility for all the colonies. Lord Dunmore seems to have had it in mind to go to America and perhaps his friend helped him lay plans for an American appointment. Two years later however, Shelburne was relieved of his duties by the Earl of Hillsborough so that it was he who in the end appointed Lord Dunmore, Governor of New York.

**Lord Dunmore in America**

Lord Dunmore was appointed Governor of the Royal Colony of New York in 1770. He was, according to a contemporary description 'short, strong built, well shaped with a most frank and open countenance, easy and affable in his manners, very temperate, and a great lover of field sports, indefatigable and constant in pursuit of them.' Soon after he arrived he was described as being 'affable, polite and good natured, a very active man, loves walking and riding and is a sportsman.' Conversely, one of his second-in-commands thought him a 'capricious, ignorant Lord.'

He and his family reached the port of New York on 19th October and they were quartered at the castle, part of the battery fortifications. The post promised to afford both honour and profit because it was decided that the governor's salary should be paid from the revenue from duty on tea. The new Governor entertained lavishly and the Dunmores were popular. Their happiness there was short-lived however, as after only eleven months, the Governor was promoted to Virginia. He was not pleased.

Despite the higher salary available and the larger and more prosperous colony, Lord Dunmore did all he could to avoid the office. 'Damn Virginia. Did I ever seek it? Why is it forced on me? I asked for New York – New York I took, and they

robbed me of it without my consent.' On the grounds that the climate was unhealthy and the social life inferior, he tried to have the appointment changed. He did not succeed.

The Virginia Gazette dated 26th September 1771 reported that:

> Yesterday arrived in Town, between ten and eleven o' clock, the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Dunmore, our Governor … he repaired to the Palace (at Williamsburg) where he was sworn in to the Administration of Government… In the evening there were Illuminations etc as a Testimony of our joy at his Excellency's safe Arrival, and in Gratitude to his Majesty for appointing a Nobleman of his Abilities and Good Character to preside over us.

It was in this atmosphere of hope and goodwill that the last Royal Governor began his term of office in Virginia.

Lady Dunmore and the family did not join him until the spring of 1774. The Gazette informs us on 3rd March:

> Last Saturday Evening the Rt. Hon. the Countess of Dunmore, with Lord Fincastle, the Hon. Alexander and John Murray, and the Ladies Catherine, Augusta and Susan Murray…arrived at the Palace in this City; to the Great Joy of His Excellency the Governor and the inexpressible pleasure and satisfaction of the Inhabitants who made a general Illumination upon this Happy Occasion, and with repeated Acclamations welcomed her Ladyship and Family to Virginia.

Soon after she arrived, Lady Dunmore conceived and on 8th December at the Palace, she was safely delivered of a fourth daughter and eighth child. The newspapers reported that 'Her Ladyship continues in a very favourable situation, and the young Virginian is in perfect health.' Six weeks later, on 21st January, we read that 'Wednesday last being the Day for celebrating the Birth of Her Majesty, his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore gave a Ball and elegant Entertainment at the Palace to a numerous company of Ladies and Gentlemen. This same day his Lordship's youngest Daughter was baptised by the name of Virginia.'

Perhaps it was just as well that the Countess had had the baby to look forward to, as there were whispers of domestic strife at the Palace. The Italian Philip Mazzie, a friend of Thomas Jefferson, was much impressed by Lady Dunmore but he said: 'It seemed to me that she deserved a better husband, and I soon learned that I was not mistaken.' One young officer, Lt. Augustine Prevost reported that:

> The Governor was a consummate Rake and does not pay that attention to his Lady that she seems to deserve. She is extremely jealous of a young lady, whom it was reported was very Dear to him previous to her Ladyship's arrival.

Despite the elegance of the official residence, perhaps it was not altogether surprising that Lady Dunmore stayed away so long.

**The Governor's House at Williamsburg**

The Governor's House stood at the end of a broad tree-lined avenue to the north of the main street. Built to a double pile plan between1705-18, the Palace was at the centre of the social life of the colony. Lord Dunmore no doubt made the Palace interior extremely comfortable. He brought with him a large stock of furnishings including a collection of paintings of which several were by Peter Lely, a library of 1,300 volumes, a large collection of arms, assorted musical instruments, three organs, a piano and a harpsichord, not to mention blacksmith's tools, and a supply of mahogany and tools for four cabinet makers. At his departure his cellar held: 42 pipes and hogsheads of wine, mostly Madeira, 12 gross bottled wines, claret, burgundy, champagne, port, hock, sherry and other, 480 gallons of old rum and much common rum. In the Palace park he held 154 head of cattle and 150 sheep, 19 horses and two coaches, a chariot, a phaeton, two one-horse chaises and carts and wagons. To service his house and grounds he had 12 indentured servants and 56 slaves.

Inside there was an elegant staircase and amongst other rooms, a supper room which Lord Dunmore had papered in the latest fashion in 1771, the family dining room, and a south east chamber with panelling. Here the Dunmores entertained the colonial gentry including George Washington and other leaders of the Patriot Party.

**Governor's Palace, Williamsburg**

**Lord Dunmore as Governor**

Although Lord Dunmore's governorship in Virginia was a particularly unfortunate episode, it should be remembered that he faced conditions and events which were more violent and desperate than had any of his more popular predecessors. He was not fitted for Revolutionary times; he had no vision of the American cause and met emergency with force rather than finesse. Whilst personally brave, he was weak during a crisis and brought about his own downfall by certain rash measures.

At first Lord Dunmore was popular and his charming wife and children were much admired. But his approach to his Office does not seem to have been assiduous even at the beginning. In September 1772 the South Carolina Gazette reports that:

> In Virginia their new Scotch Governor began his Government with Negligence and Disregard to the Duties of his office. His Lordship was hardly ever visited, very difficult of Access and frequently could not be spoken with … at last he agreed to name office hours … since which time all things have gone on very peaceably.

Sadly this state of affairs did not last very long. In 1773 he dissolved the House of Burgesses for proposing a committee of correspondence on colonial grievances and he was soon opposed by the whole colony.

One of the main causes of the American Revolution was resentment over taxation. The War of the Austrian Succession and The Seven Years War had drained the resources of the British Government and one of the ways it attempted to recoup its losses was by taxing the American colonies. The Americans retaliated by boycotting British goods and the British then suspended all trade and blockaded the colonial ports to starve the Americans into submission.

With the news of sealing of the port at Boston, the House of Assembly at Williamsburg voted to set aside 1st June 1774 as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer. Incensed by their activities, Lord Dunmore dissolved the Assembly.

On the night of 20th April 1775 as hostilities got under way, Lord Dunmore authorised a most unwise plan. Writing to the Secretary of State back in London, he explained that he considered 'it prudent to remove some Gunpowder which was in a magazine in this place, where it lay exposed to any attempt that might be made to seize it. Unbeknown to Lord Dunmore, the removal of the gunpowder at dead of night had been observed.

There was an uproar. The disturbances were not confined to Williamsburg alone and troops were raised in many places. 150 men marched to the city and demanded the return of the powder or settlement. Accordingly the Governor complied with a Bill of Exchange for £330 before the men dispersed. The public treasury was under guard by the citizens, the Governor's dispatches were intercepted and published and loyalists began to settle their affairs and leave the colony. Meanwhile the Dunmore's and their young family were held hostages in the Palace. At the beginning of May, Lady Dunmore and the children sought refuge aboard the Fowey in the York River but on the 12th they returned 'to the great joy of the inhabitants … who have the most unfeigned regard for Her Ladyship, and wish her long to live amongst us.' The inference is obvious!

On 15th May, Lord Dunmore wrote to Lord Dartmouth 'the Commotion in this Colony … has obliged me to shut myself in, and make a Garrison of my House, expecting every Moment to be attached.' On 10th June the Virginia Gazette reported that 'Last Thursday Morning, about two o'clock, our Governor and his Family decamped from the Palace, and are now on Board the Fowey Man of War at York Town.'

On 29th July, 1775 Lady Dunmore and her children sailed for England. Despite the unpopularity of her consort, she was much loved by the Virginians.
'A Planter' bid her farewell in the Gazette:

> Your illustrious character fills the breast of this Virginian with love and admiration … Permit me, with real concern, to lament your departure … Had your Lord possessed half the engaging qualities that embellish your mind … he would have been the idol of the brave and free people, and not drawn upon himself their detestation.

It seems that she was well away from the worsening situation.

On August 12 the Gazette reported:

> It is certain that the Earl of Dunmore's Ship is now completed for an expedition, and that his Lordship has fitted up thirteen Field Pieces for Service. It is apprehended he intends to commence hostilities upon York or James River very soon.

The Earl spent the autumn and winter of 1775 hanging around Norfolk and on 7th November he issued his notorious 'Emancipation Proclamation' in which he declared free all slaves and indentured servants who would rally to his standard: a desperate measure which did nothing to help his cause. On 9th December he was severely beaten in an encounter with colonists at Great Bridge not far from Norfolk. He continued his unsuccessful sallies and burnt the wharves at Norfolk on New Year's Day 1776, when much of the town was destroyed.

At the beginning of February, Horace Walpole wrote with contempt in his *Journal of the Reign of George III:*

> Accounts came from New York that overturned the triumphs which the Ministers and the Scots had so ridiculously coined for Lord Dunmore. The Virginians had entirely demolished his diminutive army, obliged him to take refuge on board a man-o-war off the town of Norfolk. It was the more disgraceful to the Earl, as he sacrificed the men of a very brave regiment (General Keppel's) in an unequal engagement with a much superior force, and had not risked his own person.

On 1st June, Dunmore occupied Gwynn's Island in the Chesapeake but he was dislodged on 8th July. At last he sailed for New York in August 1776.

The Virginia Gazette had the last word in a scathing and sarcastic note of 3rd January 1777 :

> There is certain Intelligence of our Quondam Governor, Lord Dunmore, that celebrated Chief, having at last taken his departure for England, to enjoy the Smiles of his Sovereign for the many signal services rendered to his August House while Commander in Chief in Virginia.

**After Virginia**

In January 1776, Lord Dunmore had been elected to the seat in the House of Lords left vacant by the death of the Earl of Cassilis and he was re-chosen at the general elections of October 1780 and May 1784. In 1787 he was appointed Governor of the Bahamas.

His bank account at Drummonds show a payment in July 1787 for £376 15s 6d for his commission as Governor of the Bahama Islands and Vice Admiral of the same. In the Gentleman's Magazine the next year, there is a note: 'By a letter from Nassau, in New Providence, advice has been received of the arrival there in the Mercury packet, of his Excellency the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Dunmore, Governor in Chief of the Bahama Islands.' We do not know anything about his time in the Bahamas although it seems unlikely that it was as eventful as that in Virginia. Perhaps his son, Alexander, accompanied him as on 18th May 1811 he became engaged to Miss Deborah Hunt at Nassau. It is not certain whether Lady Dunmore was with her husband at this time, for she spent some time in the early 1790s in Italy with her daughters. Lord Dunmore left the Bahamas in 1796.

He died aged 78 in March 1809 at Ramsgate in Kent which, on these shores, is just about as far away as possible from his Pineapple at Dunmore. He was buried in what is known as the D'Este Mausoleum in the churchyard of St Lawrence. It was erected by Lord Dunmore's grandson, Augustus Frederick D'Este, son of Lady Augusta Murray, who caused a stir at the court of King George III by her marriage to the King's son in 1793.

**Charlotte, Countess of Dunmore and her Daughter, Lady Augusta Murray**

Lady Charlotte Stewart, later Countess of Dunmore, was born in 1739, the 6th daughter of the 6th Earl of Galloway. She and her husband had eight children. The first child, Catherine, was born in 1760 and the heir, George, Lord Fincastle appeared two years later. There were three more sons: Alexander (b 1764), William and Leveson (b 1770) and three more daughters, Ladies Augusta, Susan and Virginia.

As we have seen, Lady Dunmore and the children sailed home from America, with what must have been a great sense of relief in 1775. The next year she and her eldest daughter, Catherine, were in Paris but we do no hear any more of her until 28 September 1781. That night she and her daughters attended the gala held at Fonthill Splendens to celebrate the coming of age of young William Beckford where 'all the world danced like demoniacs.'

'All the world' included a number of Lady Dunmore's relations and friends: Lady Margaret Gordon, who became the wife of William Beckford a couple of years later, was her niece. Also at the party were the Hamiltons: another of Charlotte's sisters; Harriet had married Archibald, 9th Duke of Hamilton in 1765.

Lord Dunmore arrived in the Bahamas as Governor in 1788; four years later, Lady Dunmore, accompanied by Lady Augusta, was travelling in Italy. In Naples she became friends with Emma, the young, beautiful and notorious wife of Sir William Hamilton. Writing to her ex-lover, Charles Greville, whilst Sir William was lying sick at Caserta in December 1792, Emma mentions that she has:

> 'great obligations to the English ladies and Neapolitans, although we are sixteen miles from Naples, Lady Plymouth, Lady Dunmore, Lady Webster and several others sent twice a day and offered to come and stay with me.'

One of the causes of Sir William's ill health had been the great numbers of English staying at Naples and all requiring his attention. One of the most important of these was young Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex and sixth son of George III and Queen Charlotte, who had been sent abroad as a cure for his asthma, and was staying in an apartment in the Hamilton's Neapolitan house, Palazzo Sessa. His meeting in Rome with Lady Augusta Murray was to cause a scandal of royal repercussions.

**Prince Augustus Frederick, the Duke of Sussex and 6th son of George III and Queen Charlotte**

After four months of intimacy, the Prince offered Lady Augusta his hand. But being some years older than he, (it seems that she was in her late 20s) she at first declined 'from regard to his interests.' However, on 21st March, 1793 they pledged eternal constancy to each other in a solemn written engagement and on 4th April, not withstanding the Royal Marriage Act, they were married in Rome. To guard against any objection to the marriage having taken place in Roman jurisdiction, Augustus and Augusta repeated the ceremony back in London at St. George's, Hanover Square on 5th December. The bride by now was heavily pregnant, their son, Augustus Frederick D'Este, being born on 13th January, 1794.

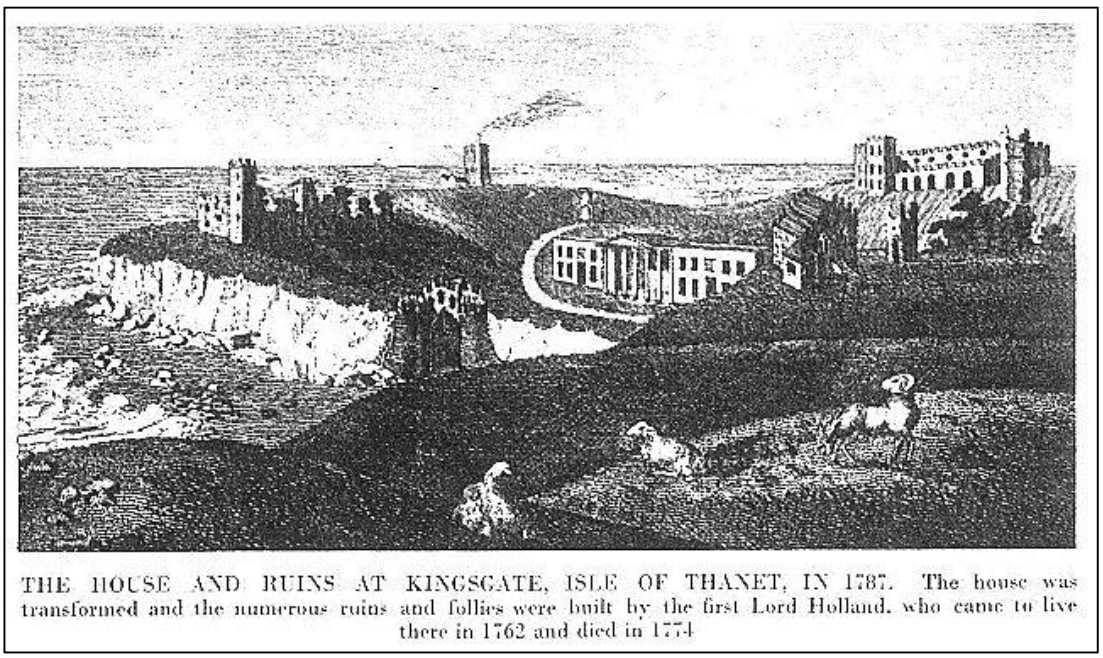
Later that year, George III invoked the Royal Marriage Act for the first time and declared his son's marriage null and void. However, the Duke of Sussex and his 'wife' were devoted to each other and for some time he ignored the decision of his father. Their second child, Augusta Emma D'Este, was born in 1801. The children took the surname D'Este which belonged to some common Italian ancestors of both their parents. With two children to her name, Lady August was obviously in an embarrassing position. Her situation was improved when a Royal Licence was granted: 'Augusta Murray … authorised, out of respect to her descent of the family De Ameland, to take and use the surname of De Ameland, instead of her present surname of Murray.'

By the summer of 1804, we know that Lady Dunmore had moved to Ramsgate – a place popular for the newly fashionable pursuit of sea-bathing. Emma Hamilton wrote to Lord Nelson that she was going to visit her old friend, Lady Dunmore, who had crowned 'a string of peccadilloes' by turning in her old age to religion. This reference may well be due to a misunderstanding of the name of her residence, i.e. the 'Nunnery' at Kingsgate, just outside Ramsgate.

Kingsgate was the sea-side mansion of Lord Holland who built it in 1762 to the designs of Thomas Wynne and John Vardy. On the hills all around his home he

built a number of bizarre follies, on of which was the 'Convent' erected behind the house. Inside there was room for additional guests where Lady Dunmore would have been accommodated. In this setting, perhaps she was reminded of her own Pineapple far away in Scotland.

By 1807 Marianne Stanhope writing to her brother John Spencer Stanhope describes the mansion (not the convent) at Kingsgate as 'splendid and deserted.' In the same letter she goes on 'Tomorrow we are going to a party (at Lady Conygham's) where we shall meet EVERYBODY, for you must know that even in this small society there is an improper set. Lady Dunmore and her daughters, Lady Virginia Murray, and the married one, Lady Susan Drew, sisters of the Duchess of Sussex, .... Are visited by very few proper people. 'Their house is the 'rendezvous of the officers and Lady Susan Drew had a ball the other night.'



THE HOUSE AND RUINS AT KINGSGATE, ISLE OF THANET, IN 1787. The house was transformed and the numerous ruins and follies were built by the first Lord Holland, who came to live there in 1762 and died in 1774

**The 'Convent', where Lady Dunmore lived, may well be the large building at the top right.**


**In 1806 Lady Augusta Murray was granted the title D'Ameland and a Crown allowance, with which she bought Mount Albion House in Ramsgate in 1817 (above).**

**The D'Este Mausoleum at St. Lawrence, Ramsgate, houses the remains of Lady Augustus, her parents the Earl and Countess of Dunmore and her two children: Augusta Emma D'Este and Augustus Frederick D'Este.**

6th Earl of Galloway = Catherine d 4th Earl of Dundonald
Lord Garlies
Patron of
Robert Mynne
Catherine
m James Murray
of Broughton
Susannah m
1st Marq Stafford
Margaret m
Earl of Aboyne
Harriet m
9th Duke of
Hamilton
Charlotte
m 4th Earl
of Dunmore
Margaret = William Beckford of Fonthill
connoisseur, author & eccentric builder
of Fonthill Abbey and Beckford's Tower,
Bath (includes a Landmark apartment).
Susan Euphemia Beckford = Alexander 10th Duke of
Duchess of Hamilton
Hamilton
Susan = George 5th
Earl
Charles
Harry
Alexander
6th Earl of
Dunmore

Philippa, Lady Knight, had attributed the Dunmore daughters' 'free' manners to the 'mixture of Scotch and American education.' This seems a harsh judgement on the part of Lady Knight, for the upheavals of their childhood in America cannot have been exactly stabilising. Virginia was still a babe in arms, but dashing on and off war ships whilst the family home was under siege by American revolutionaries, must have been an unsettling and terrifying experience for the older children.

The subject of one of Lady Dunmore's 'peccadilloes', it seems, was Old Q, the fabulously rich Duke of Queensberry. At his death on Christmas Eve, 1810, this most lively, disreputable and unmarried rogue left her £10,000, well over ¼ million pounds today. Despite the slightly irregular nature of their marriage, the Earl and Countess of Dunmore, were together in Ramsgate when he died in 1809. She died at the advanced age of 79 at Southwood House near Ramsgate in 1818. Her obituary notes that

> The remains of the Countess were deposited (by her desire, without parade) in a vault prepared for her late husband … Her second son, the Hon. A. Murray attended as chief mourner in the absence of her eldest son George, the present Earl. Her Ladyship has bequeathed her villa at Twickenham, and all her personals, to her youngest and only unmarried daughter, Virginia.

The countess was a colourful and kindly lady; she was obviously capable of inspiring deep affection: in her children, in the Duke of Queensberry and in the people of Virginia.

**George, 5th Earl of Dunmore**

The fifth Earl was born in 1762 and married his first cousin, Lady Susan Hamilton, Daughter of the ninth Duke and Lady Harriet Stewart in 1803. Soon after their marriage they rented Glenfinart House on the north shore of Loch Long in Argyllshire. It was completely secluded: at that time there were no steamers on the Clyde and access lay through the port of Greenock and then by rowing or sailing boat. The Fincastles spent their summers there, doing the London season

from their house in Lower Berkeley Street in the winter and at times a short season in Tunbridge Wells.

In 1804 their first son, Alexander, was born, soon to be followed by Charles (b 1806) and Henry. Lord Fincastle succeeded his father as fifth Earl in 1809. A close friend of the new Lady Dunmore was the poet Samuel Rogers (1763-1855) who stayed with the family on Loch Long in the summer of 1812. The next year he reminisces about life at Glenfinart, describing a scene of calm domestic felicity in his letter to Lady Dunmore:

> There are you at this moment after a game at play with Charles and Henry on the carpet, sitting at the tea table in peace and quiet, the Thane unplaided and exploring with curious eye the columns of his newsp0aper, the harp by the closet door and a book of travels lying open on the sofa.

With the fifth Earl, the builder of the new house at Dunmore, the family enters a long period of respectability, almost as though George Dunmore wished to banish all his memories of the rackety lives of his parents and provide his own children with a sense of balance and above all, security. They were indeed a particularly close family.

Many of his son Charles Murray's earliest recollections are connected with Hamilton Palace and visits to his uncle and aunt the Duke and Duchess. The Duchess was very gifted musically, a talent inherited from her father, whom Charles Murray described as 'one of the most extraordinary men … that it has been my chance to meet in life.'

Much later, in 1834, Beckford's work was praised by Lord Dunmore who was obviously regarded with some respect in literary circles. On the publication of some of his notes and diaries, Beckford wrote, 'Lord Dunmore, no indifferent judge, says what I really have not conceit enough to repeat. (One hopes that he was not merely being tactful to one of the family.)  The Duke of Sussex's ecstasies also pass all bounds.'

**Alexander, 6th Earl of Dunmore**

Just six weeks before his father's death in 1836, the new Lord Dunmore had married Catherine, daughter of the Earl of Pembroke. They had one son, Charles Adolphus, and three daughters. He was A.D.C. to H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge and he died in 1845.

**Sir Charles Murray**

The 6th Earl of Dunmore's younger brother, Charles, led a very full and eventful diplomatic life. This was published as a memoir by Sir Herbert Maxwell in 1898. In 1830 he travelled to Germany where he introduced himself to Goethe, then Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Weimar, and ended up by explaining some Chaucer to him in his study. In 1834 he was sent to America to investigate his father's title to some property in Virginia, where he visited three places well-known to his Governor grandfather: Richard, Jamestown and Norfolk. In 1837 at the very beginning of the reign of Queen Victoria he became Master of her Household and found himself playing whist with the Duke of Sussex, 'husband' of his aunt Augusta.

One of Charles's courtly duties was a particularly delicate task:

> The Queen's betrothal to Prince Albert … did not command universal approbation for he was suspected of being a Roman Catholic… and the position of his family amount European courts was believed to be inferior to that which ought to be secured in the Queen's choice of consort.

Accordingly Charles was commissioned to write an anonymous pamphlet showing that the house of Saxe-Coburg was Protestant and that their ancestors had suffered the most during the Reformation.

In 1845 he began his diplomatic career in earnest, being appointed Secretary to the British Legation in Naples. The next year he became Consul-General in Egypt in which country occurred a delightful episode, recounted in his memoir:

> Perhaps the event by which the British public at home have most cause to remember Murray's Consul-Generalship is the important part he took in securing a hippopotamus for the Zoological Society – the first that had been in England since the tertiary age of geology, and the first in Europe since the early Roman Empire. Murray persuaded the Viceroy, Abbas

> Pasha, to send a party of hunters in July 1849, specially organised for the purpose, to capture a calf on the White Nile. This they effected on the island of Obaysch: the baby hippopotamus travelled down many hundred miles, escorted by a company of infantry, to Cairo, where it was safely delivered to Murray in the month of November. By the friendly co-operation of the Peninsular and Oriental Company a chamber was constructed on their steamship Ripon, in which the hippopotamus was conveyed to England, and deposited in the Zoological Society's Gardens on 25th May, 1850. Obaysch, for so he was named after the place of his capture, was supplied with a mate, Adhela, in 1853, and lived twenty-eight years in Regent's Park, dying in 1878. Mr Sclater … remembers Murray frequently visited his old pet, shouting to him in Arabic, when the enormous creature would come towards him, grunting loudly in recognition of one of his earliest friends.

**Charles Adolphus, 7th Earl of Dunmore**

In 1845 the 7th Earl succeeded aged four years old. He married Gertrude, the daughter of the Earl of Leicester and from 1874 until 1880 he was Lord in Waiting to Queen Victoria. On 1st January, 1877 Lord Dunmore was on duty when Her Majesty was proclaimed Empress of India.

The seventh Earl was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and in 1892 undertook a remarkable and extremely dangerous expedition which began on the Sub-Continent. He published his experiences in a book entitled: 'The Pamirs; being a Narrative of a year's expedition on horseback and on foot through Kashmir, Western Tibet, Chinest Tartary, and Russian Central Asia.' He left England on Christmas Day, 1891 en route for the steamer at Brindisi and arrived at Rawalpindi in April, 1892. At the end he had travelled 2,200 miles from Rawalpindi to Samarkand and thereby crossed 69 rivers and went through 41 mountain passes many of them amongst the highest in the world.

Lord Dunmore's book is fascinating. He was travelling through parts of the world that today are very little known and in his day even more inaccessible. Why did he go? In his introduction, he declares that the book ''as no pretensions beyond being a faithful daily record of the wanderings of Major Roche and myself' and he concentrates on descriptions of the terrain, flora and fauna, as well as the

customs and homes of the political aspect of affairs, in that much vexed district.' He was travelling through territory disputed by the Chinese and the Russians, yet it appears that he went with the blessing of the Viceroy of India for the book is dedicated to his wife, the Marchioness of Lansdowne.

Was Lord Dunmore involved with the 'Great Game'? Surely the findings of his journey must have been of interest to the Foreign Office but he says cryptically on arrival at Rawalpindi 'I found an official document from the Viceroy informing me of the views held by the Foreign Office regarding my attempting to cross either the Chinese or Russian Central Asian Frontiers, but as the despatch was marked 'confidential', I am not at liberty to disclose its contents.' Perhaps after all, it was simply a private expedition to satisfy the personal curiosity of an amateur geographer. In 1907 Lord Dunmore died and was succeeded by his son, Alexander Edward, aged 38.

**The 8th Earl of Dunmore**

The 8th Earl of Dunmore was the last member of the family to be connected with Dunmore Park. He had been ADC to the Viceroy of India, Lord Elgin, and he was a fine soldier, winning a VC in 1897. Also a courtier, in 1906 he accompanied the Prince of Wales to the marriage of HM King Alphonso XIII of Spain. However, he was unfortunate financially and had to sell the estate at Dunmore in 1911.

Sir Malcolm de Moravia
m. dau. & heiress Sir Geoffrey de Gask
I
Sir William de Moravia
m. Ada, dau. Malise, Seneschal of Strathearn
I
Andrew Murray of Tullibardine
I
Sir William Murray of Tullibardine
I
Sir John Mrray, of Tullibardine
I
Walter Murray, of Tullibardine
m. Margaret le Baird
I
Sir David Murray, of Tullibardine
m. Isabel, dau. Sir John Stewart of Innermeath
I
Sir David Murray, of Tullibardine
m. Margaret, dau. Sir John Colquhoun of Luss
I
William Murray of Tullibardine
m. Margaret, dau. 1st Lord Gray
I
Sir William Murray of Tullibardine
m. Mary, dau. 1st Earl Marischal
I
Sir William Murray of Castleton
m. Lady Margaret Stewart, dau. 1st Earl of Atholl
I
Sir William Murray of Tullibardine
m. Katherine, dau. Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy
I
Sir William Murray of Tullibardine
m. Lady Agnes Graham, dau. 2nd Earl of Montrose
I
Sir John Murray, 1st Earl of Tullibardine
m. Katherine, dau. 2nd Baron Drummond
I
William, 2nd Earl of Tullibardine
m. Lady Dorothea Stewart, dau. & heiress 5th Earl of Atholl
I
John, 1st Earl of Atholl
m. Jean, dau. Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy
I
John, 1st Marquess of Atholl, K.T.
m. Lady Amelia Sophia Stanley, dau. 7th Earl of Derby
I
Charles, 1st Earl of Dunmore

Charles, 1st Earl of Dunmore (1661-1710)
m. Catherine, dau. & heiress Richard Watts of Great Munden
I
William, 3rd Earl of Dunmore (1696-1756)
Convicted of treason in 1746 but pardoned.
m. Hon. Catherine, dau. Lord William Murray, 2nd Baron Mairne
I
John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore (1730-1809)
BUILT THE PINEAPPLE, 1760-1780
Royal Governor of New York and Virginia
(and father of Lady Augusta Murray,
who m. H.R.H. Prince Augustus, Duke of Sussex)
m. Lady Charlotte Stewart, dau. 6th Earl of Galloway
I
George, 5th Earl of Dunmore (1762-1836)
m. Lady Susan Douglas-Hamilton, dau. 9th Duke of Hamilton
I
Alexander Edward, 6th Earl (1804-1845)
A.D.C. to Prince Adolphus, Duke of Cambridge
m. Lady Catherine Herbert, dau. 11th Earl of Pembroke, of Wilton, Wilts.
I
Charles Adolphus, 7th Earl (1841-1907)
Lord in Waiting to Queen Victoria
m. Mady Gertrude Coke, dau. 2nd Earl of Leicester, of Holkham, Norfolk
I
Alexander Edward, 8th Earl (1871-1962), V.C.
Lord in Waiting to King George V
m. Lucinda Dorothea, dau. Horace Kemble of Knock, Isle of Skye
I
Edward David, Viscount Fincastle (1908-1940)
Godson King Edward VII
m. Hon Pamela Hermon-Hodge, dau. 2nd Baron Wyford
I
John Alexander, 9th Earl of Dunmore (1939-1980)
m. Anne Augusta, dau. Thomas Wallace of Dounby, Orkney

His kinsman (descendent of 4th Earl), the present
Earl resides in Tasmania

Peter Flagg Maxson
Austin, Texas

15 March 1994

## A Taste for the Exotic, Pineapple cultivation in Britain by Johanna Lausen-Higgens

Christopher Columbus first encountered the pineapple in 1493, unleashing a flurry of attempts to convey its exotic flavour to uninitiated Europeans. The superlatives and majestic comparisons continued long after. In a work of 1640, John Parkinson, Royal Botanist to Charles I, described the pineapple as:

*Scaly like an Artichoke at the first view, but more like to a cone of the Pine tree, which we call a pineapple for the forme... being so sweete in smell... tasting... as if Wine, Rosewater and Sugar were mixed together.*

*(Theatrum Botanicum)*

Flowering ‘Jamaica Queen’

Parkinson wrote those words before the pineapple had even reached the shores of Britain. Its introduction to Europe resulted in a veritable mania for growing pineapples and parading them at the dinner table became a fashion requisite of 18th century nobility. In Britain and the Netherlands the practice was not the preserve of the aristocracy but also extended to the gentry. The pineapple was a representation of owners’ wealth but also a testimony to their gardeners’ skill and experience. Producing a crop of tropical fruit in the colder climes of Europe before the advent of the hot water heating system in 1816 was a remarkable achievement and was, perhaps not unjustly, described as ‘artistry’.

The founding of horticultural societies during the Victorian period brought new opportunities for the display of pineapples at horticultural shows, a tradition that lasted until the beginning of the 20th century. However, the inevitable demise of the pineapple as horticultural status symbol began with the arrival of imported fruit from the Azores at the end of the 19th century.

## ORIGIN

Pineapples originate from the Orinoco basin in South America, but before their introduction to Europe, the date of which is uncertain, they were distributed throughout the tropics. Later, this led to some confusion about their origin. *The Gardener’s Dictionary* of 1759 by Philip Miller, for example, gives the origin of the pineapple as Africa. The pineapple is a terrestrial, tropical plant but is remarkably desiccation-tolerant as it possesses a range of leaf adaptations that help it to cope with drought. This must explain why the plant’s distribution was so successful long before the invention of the Wardian case (the 19th century forerunner of the terrarium).

## EARLY HISTORY

European pineapple cultivation was pioneered in the Netherlands. The early success of Dutch growers was a reflection of the trade monopoly the Netherlands enjoyed in the Caribbean in the form of the Dutch West India Company, established in 1621. As a result, plant stock could be imported directly from the West Indies in the form of seeds, suckers and crowns, from which the first plants were propagated.

Agnes Block is believed to be the first person to fruit a pineapple in Europe, on her estate at Vijerhof near Leiden. Many eminent Dutch growers joined the challenge, including Jan Commelin, at the Amsterdam Hortus botanical garden between 1688 and 1689, and Caspar Fagel at his seat De Leeuwenhorst in Noordwijkerhout. Pieter de la Court, a wealthy cloth merchant at Driehoek near Leiden, devised his own system for growing pineapples and many British gardeners were sent to his estate to learn about his cultivation techniques.

Dutch methods of pineapple growing became the blueprint for cultivation in Britain, undoubtedly endorsed after the Glorious Revolution of 1688 cemented Anglo-Dutch relations. William Bentinck, close adviser of William III, is thought to have shipped the entire stock of Caspar Fagel's pineapple plants over to Hampton Court in 1692. The fruits were, however, ripened from this stock of mature plants and therefore did not count as British-grown pineapples. Pineapples had been ripened in this way before, as commemorated in Hendrik Danckerts' painting of 1675 depicting Charles II being presented with a pineapple by John Rose, gardener to the Duchess of Cleveland. Danckerts' painting led to the common misconception that Rose was the first to grow a pineapple in Britain.

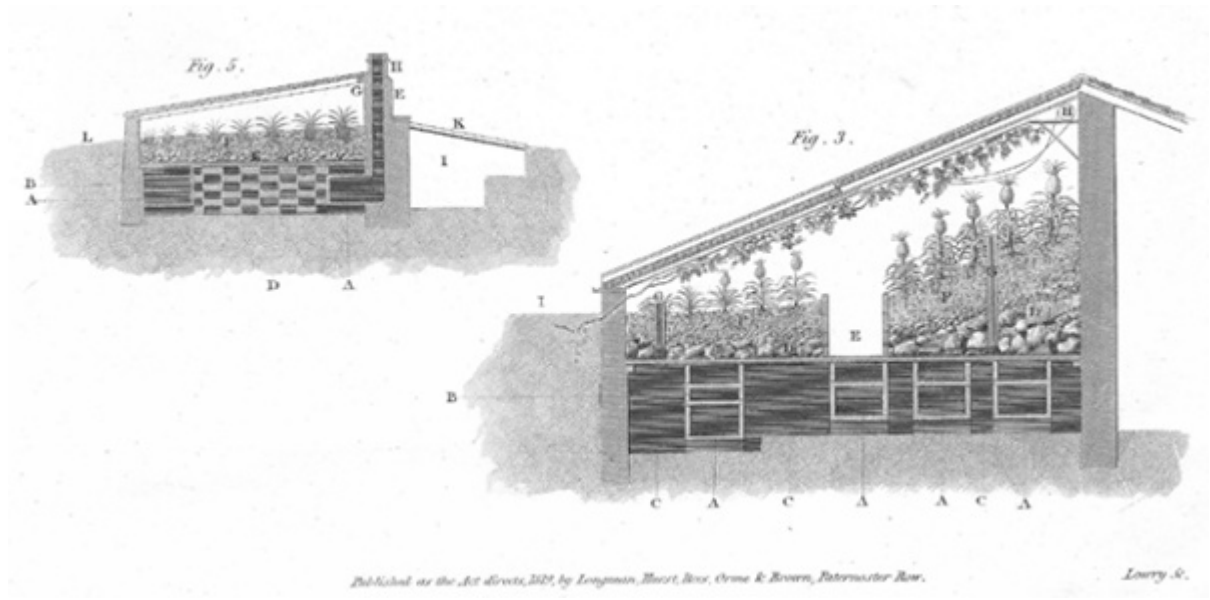



Illustration of hothouse and pinery-vinery from Loudon's An Encyclopedia of Gardening

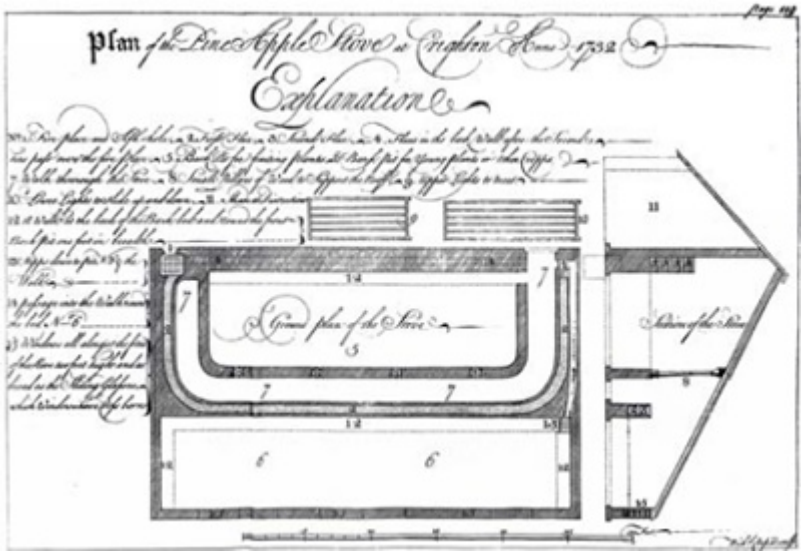
## THE 18TH CENTURY

The first reliable crop of pineapples in Britain was in fact achieved by a Dutch grower, Henry Telende, gardener to Matthew Decker, at his seat in Richmond between 1714 and 1716. Decker commissioned a painting in 1720 to celebrate this feat and this time the pineapple takes pride of place as the sole object of admiration. From this point on the craze for growing them developed into a full-blown pineapple mania. The list of gentlemen engaged in this rarefied horticultural activity reads like a who's who of Georgian society and includes the poets William Cowper and Alexander Pope and the architect Lord Burlington.

The period is mainly associated with the English landscape movement and glasshouse cultivation is a rather neglected subject. The latter was, however, an important part of 18th century horticulture and many of the associated inventions that we now take for granted were developed or refined during this period, such as the use of angled glazing, spirit thermometers and furnace-heated greenhouses called hothouses or stoves.

## STRUCTURES DESIGNED FOR PINEAPPLE GROWING

The appearance of innovations seems to follow no clear chronological order. Early attempts at cultivation were made in orangeries, which had been designed to provide frost protection for citrus fruit during the winter months. Orangeries, however, did not provide enough heat and light for the tropical pineapple, which grew all year round. Heating in glasshouses during the mid-17th century was provided by furnaces placed within the structure, but fumes often damaged or killed the plants. Hot-air flues were then devised, which dissipated heat slowly through winding flues built into cavity walls. These ‘fire walls’ were heated by hot air rising from furnaces or stoves and required constant stoking with coal. This was a dangerous method and many early ‘pineries’, as they later became known, burned down when the inevitable accumulation of soot and debris within the flues caught fire. A light environment with even, fume-free, continuous heat was still only an aspiration.




James Justice’s plan of the pineapple stove published in The Scots Gardiners’ Director, 1754

Henry Telende’s method of pineapple cultivation was published in Richard Bradley’s A General Treatise of Husbandry and Gardening in 1721. Telende grew the young plants, called ‘succession plants’, in large cold frames called tan pits. The fruiting plants would subsequently be moved into the stove or hothouse to benefit from the additional heat provided by the hot-air flues.

The tan pits were lined with pebbles at the bottom followed by a layer of manure and then topped with a layer of tanners’ bark into which the pots were plunged. The last of these elements was the most important. Tanners’ bark (oak bark soaked in water and used in leather tanning) fermented slowly, steadily producing a constant temperature of 25ºC-30ºC for two to three months and a further two if stirred. Manure alone was inferior, in that it heated violently at first but cooled more quickly. Stable bottom heat is essential for pineapple cultivation and tanners’ bark provided the first reliable source. It became one of the most fundamental resources for hothouse gardeners and remained in use until the end of the 19th century.

James Justice, a principal clerk at the Court of Sessions at Edinburgh, was also a talented amateur gardener. On his estate at Crichton he developed an incredibly efficient glasshouse in which he combined the bark pits for succession and fruiting plants under one roof. (Justice published a very elegant drawing of it in *The Scots Gardiners' Director* in 1754.) In a letter to Philip Miller and other members of the Royal Society in 1728, he proudly announces: 'I have eight of the Ananas in fine fruit'. The letter makes Justice the first documented gardener to have grown pineapples successfully in Scotland, which may be one of the reasons why he was appointed fellow of The Royal Society in 1730. The genus Justicia, named after him, commemorates his horticultural legacy.

The extraordinary Pineapple Summerhouse at Dunmore, Scotland was once flanked by hothouses (1761–1776)

An interesting variant growing structure was the pinery-vinery, first proposed by Thomas Hitt in 1757. Here, vines created a canopy for an understorey of pineapples. The vines would have been planted, as was customary in vineries, outside, and fed into the structure through small open arches built into the low brick wall. A fervent admirer of this method was William Speechly, gardener to the third Duke of Portland, and grandson of William Bentinck, who had sent the first batch of pineapples to Britain in 1692. Portland inherited Welbeck Abbey in Nottinghamshire in 1762, and his passion for growing pineapples nearly ruined him. Nevertheless, he sent Speechly to Holland like many before him to study all the latest techniques.

Speechly published his now greatly refined methods in *A Treatise on the Culture of the Pineapple and the Management of the Hot-house* in 1779, with a detailed plan of his 'Approved Pine and Grape Stove'. Overall, however, the structure is very similar to Justice's earlier design of 1730, and Speechly may have drawn important lessons from it. The profile is virtually identical and he also combined the tanners' bark pits for young and fruiting plants into one structure, the former at the front, the latter at the back.

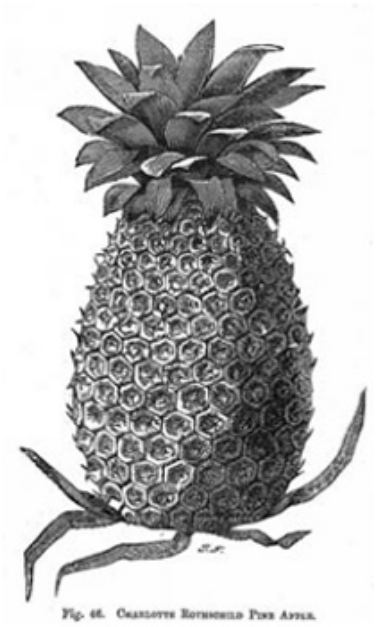
The most stunning setting for pineapple hothouses was in the kitchen garden at Dunmore, Scotland, the seat of John Murray, Earl of Dunmore. The roof of the summerhouse, built into the sheltered south-facing wall, is carved into the shape of a giant stone pineapple and still commands the walled orchard today. Its gothic ogee-arched windows terminate cleverly into the midrib of the leaves that curve outward in beautiful arches four feet wide. Above, the leaf-like bracts and plump fruitlets give it an incredibly naturalistic look. The structure is completed with a spiny-leafed crown. To anyone familiar with pineapple varieties it is immediately obvious that the cultivar 'Jamaica Queen' must have been used as the model, a variety with fiercely spiny leaves, outward projecting fruitlets and a perfectly egg-shaped outline tapering more towards the top.

Although this outstanding work of art survives, the hothouses which would have flanked it have gone; the chimneys for the flues, beautifully disguised as Grecian urns are now the only evidence that this exotic fruit once flourished here. Astonishingly, both the architect and the date of this extraordinary building are unknown, but it is thought to have been carved by Italian stonemasons due to the fine quality of the work. The portico, a pedimented Venetian arch, was built in 1761 but the stone pineapple roof is thought to have been added later, between 1761 and 1776.

Although Philip Miller and John Abercrombie extolled the virtues of tanners' bark while lamenting the flaws of manure, many structures that used dung as a heating method were devised into the mid 19th century. Adam Taylor wrote a tract titled A Treatise on the Ananas or Pine-apple in 1769 in which the use of horse manure was promoted, probably for the first time, as a method of heating a pineapple pit. The difference here is the use of pits compared to hothouses; pits require less heat to warm the air around the pineapples. Crucially, however, the pots were still plunged into tanners' bark to provide bottom heat near the plants, with the added bonus of a slightly better odour. The dung was confined to two outer bays flanking the structure, and the fermenting manure released heat, which was conveyed into the structure through pigeon holes. These glasshouses were effectively large cold-frames and this moderate version of a pineapple hothouse meant smaller estates could afford to serve a pineapple at the dinner table. (Pineapples could be hired for dinner parties but cost a guinea each, two if eaten.)

A restored 19th century manure-heated pineapple pit can be seen in action, complete with steaming dung pits and fruiting pines, at the Lost Gardens of Heligan near St Austell in Cornwall. Unfortunately, tanners' bark can no longer be obtained, making it even more difficult to achieve a healthy crop without the aid of artificial heating. Despite this, large crops were achieved in 1997 and 2002, the latter without the help of tanners' bark. The first fruit was sent to the Queen, thereby honouring the tradition initiated by Matthew Decker over 250 years ago.

'Smooth Cayenne' pineapples fruiting in their clay pots at the Lost Gardens of Heligan, Cornwall



'Charlotte Rothschild' pineapple illustrated in J Wright's The Fruit Grower's Guide Vol V

## THE 19TH CENTURY

Three developments of the Victorian period changed pineapple cultivation radically: the inventions of hot water heating in 1816 and sheet glass in 1833, and the abolition of the glass tax in 1845. From then on glasshouses for pineapple cultivation became very large and grand structures, with up to 1,000 plants packed into them.

Pineapple cultivation had, by this time, spread widely in Northern Europe to places such as St Petersburg, Paris, Warsaw, Berlin and Munich.

One of the most successful pineapple growers was Joseph Paxton, head gardener to the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth between 1826 and 1858. His pineapples were the envy of every estate and regularly won medals at horticultural shows. The pineapple houses at Chatsworth were erected in 1738, but had declined somewhat before Paxton took over. Now quantity as well as size became important, and gardeners were expected to produce fruit all year round; this required a good knowledge of the best winter and summer-fruiting cultivars. If records can be believed, Victorian gardeners grew pineapples of enormous sizes. Cultivation of the pineapple was now the measure of a gardener's skill and a pinery was mandatory for every estate kitchen garden, and remained so for almost another century.

## 1900 TO THE PRESENT DAY

Pineapples were still exhibited at horticultural shows in the 1900s but, ironically, just as pineapple cultivation was being perfected, the demand for the home-grown pineapple began to dwindle as imported fruits started to arrive in much better condition than in the past. The first world war eventually put a stop to this horticultural extravaganza. Sadly, of the 52 varieties listed by Monro in 1835, only two remain in cultivation today, 'Smooth Cayenne' and 'Jamaica Queen'. These are thought to be the two major strains from which most cultivars originated.

From the 1950s onwards, pineapples were bred so that they fitted neatly into a tin. Fruits with a characteristically pyramidal shape such as 'Black Prince' became extinct. Fortunately, however, some traces of Britain's long and sometimes eccentric love affair with the pineapple remain. Two working pineapple glasshouses can be seen in Britain today: the 19th century pineapple pit at the Lost Gardens of Heligan, mentioned above, and the pinery-vinery at Tatton Park, which is a recently restored structure dating from the mid-18th century.

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