The Landmark Trust

SADDELL HOUSE
History Album

Written and collated by Caroline Stanford,
based on work by Clayre Percy, 2004
Re-presented in 2015

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BASIC DETAILS

Acquisition of the Saddell Estate

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

Saddell House

Built:	**1774 by Colonel Donald Campbell. Seriously damaged by fire in 1899 and largely refurbished by Colonel Macleod.**
Listed:	**Category B**
Restored by Landmark:	**2004**
Building analysis & survey:	**Alan Clyde of Hurd Rolland, Edinburgh**
Landmark team:	**Reg Lo-Vel, John Brown, Ernie Dowding, Mark Smitten**
Contractor:	**Roly Mauchline of Campbeltown**
Decorators:	**Mackay Decorators of Perth**
Electrician:	**Jim Martin Supplies of Campbeltown**

The refurbishment of Saddell House in 2004 was made possible by the generosity of two private donors, who prefer to remain anonymous.

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Summary

In1508 James IV, King of Scotland, granted the lands of Saddell Abbey to David Hamilton, Bishop of Argyll, with licence to "build castles ... and fortify them with stone walls". Saddell Castle was the result, a tower-house typical of the period. It was probably completed by 1512, and used by the Bishop as an occasional residence.

In 1556 Saddell was transferred to James Macdonald, who had been busy annoying the English army in Ireland. In retaliation the Earl of Sussex mounted a raid on Kintyre in 1558, during which he burned and sacked the Castle, which he described as "a fayre pyle and a stronge". The Castle seems to have been left as a ruin for the next hundred years, even after it was granted to Archibald Campbell, Earl of Argyll, in 1607. Then in 1650 the Earl, in turn, granted Saddell to William Ralston of that Ilk, a fugitive from religious persecution in the Lowlands, on condition that he made it habitable within two years, which he did. William Ralston soon moved elsewhere, and by the end of the 17th century the estate had been granted to a junior branch of the Campbell family, who became known as the Campbells of Glensaddell.

During the 18th century the Campbells tried to make the Castle more comfortable, but must have felt they were fighting a losing battle, because in about 1774 Colonel Donald Campbell (1726-84) decided to build a new and more convenient home, which he called Saddell House. Colonel Campbell had served in India with distinction but was wounded in 1771 and it seems likely that a reward from the Nawab of Arcot provided the funds to build Saddell House. The Colonel's new house was Classical in style and is typical of the country seats built by the merchants and military men returning after a successful career overseas during this time of prosperity in Scotland.

With three storeys, generously proportioned rooms, large windows, a porch and an attic, Saddell House was in marked contrast to the castle, with its small, defensive windows and turnpike stairs. The house commands perhaps the best position right at the centre of the bay and was carefully aligned to centre its outlook across the Kilbrannan Sound onto the Ailsa Craig and back up Saddell Glen. A natural change in level allowed the house to be entered at piano nobile level on the landward side, while originally also affording the basement rooms views across the beach. The house was always approached along a carriageway over the bridge across the burn, but its original front entrance was centrally positioned through a portico beneath the pediment. An early drawing shows two small pavilions flanking the house but we have found no physical evidence of these. Sometime in the first half of the 19th century, the sunken area was created all around the house, and then in the later Victorian period, the Classical symmetry of a central entrance was sacrificed for a roomy, two storey porch block, added to the western end.

In 1899, however, there was a disastrous fire. This was during the tenure of Colonel Macleod, great-great-nephew of the builder of Saddell House and who had also just refurbished Saddell Castle. The house was let at the time to an English shooting party and while they were out a fire in the kitchen chimney is thought to have spread to joists in a lumber room. The house was gutted, only walls and porch block remaining. This led to extensive refurbishment, so that internally today the house presents more of a late Victorian than Georgian appearance. A complete set of servants' rooms remains on the basement floor, including a game room and kitchen with range - this floor was left relatively undamaged by the fire.

On the ground floor, the butler's pantry has survived with all its Edwardian fittings, and on each landing is a maid's cupboard with sturdy shelves for bedlinen and a sink, all providing a fascinating record of existence in such country seats. The reception rooms and bedrooms are all large, some with bay windows looking out across the shore.

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

The Landmark Trust's involvement with the estate and buildings at Saddell Bay on Kintyre dates back to 1975 when Landmark bought Saddell Castle, Shore Cottage and Cul-Na-Shee from Colonel and Mrs Moreton to enable them to survive. The rest of the estate was bought in 1984 and Mrs Moreton was given a life tenancy of Saddell House, which came to an end in 1998.

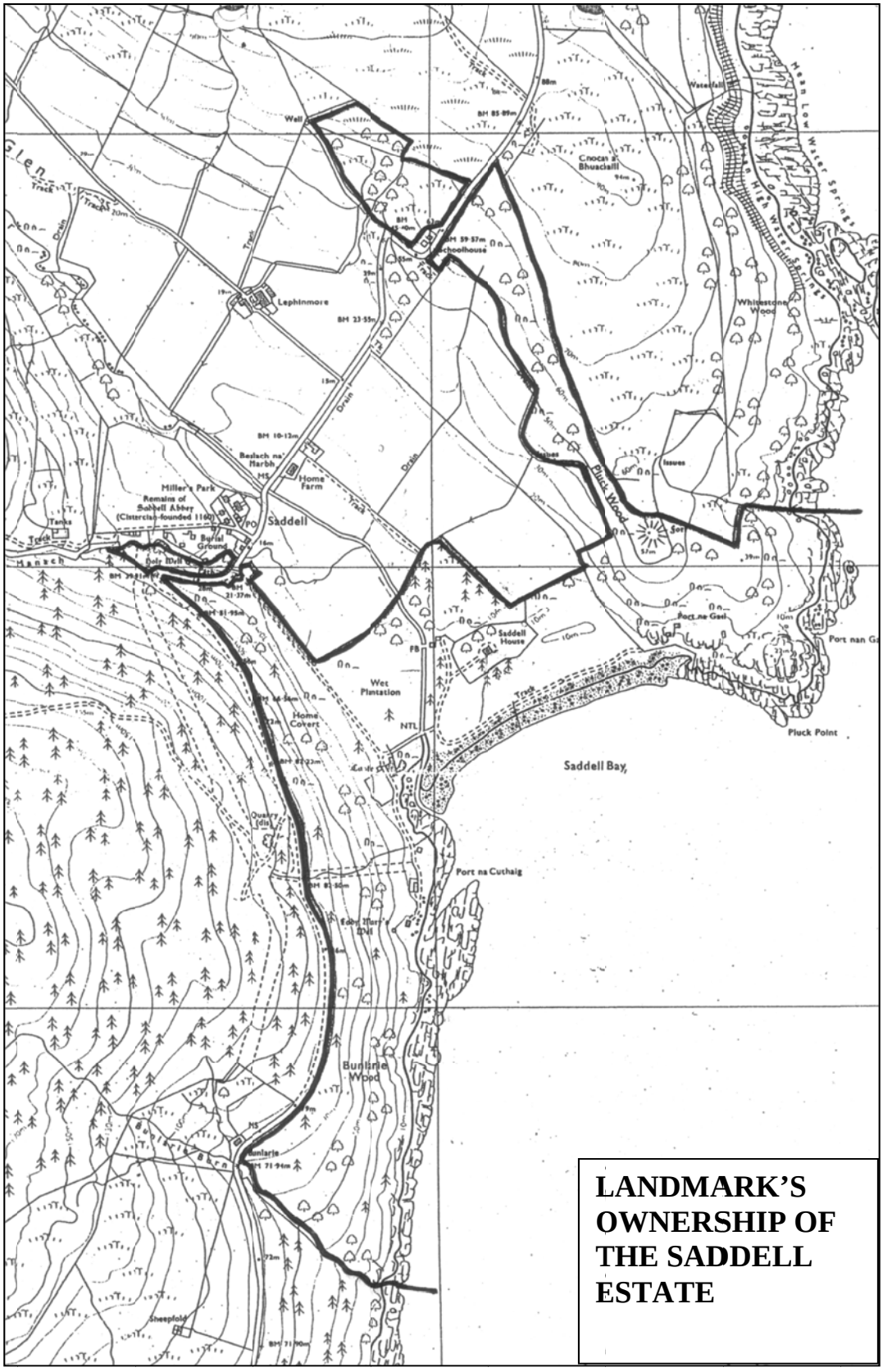
Restoration

Landmark refurbished Saddell House in 2004, with the help of two very generous private donors. Externally, the windows were repaired and overhauled. The present harling is cemetitious and was probably applied after the fire in 1899. It has been left for now and repainted to match traces found of the original 18th-century colour. In time, we will hope to replace it with a more traditional lime harling. The stone dressings have also been repainted, as have the window dressings and portico in a darker grey as is traditional in Scotland, specially mixed by our decorator. The railings around the area (or basement well) have been extensively repaired and overhauled. Electrical cables were buried and new drainage installed. There is no doubt that Colonel Donald Campbell originally intended the view towards Arran to be enjoyed and so we also felled some of the conifers to the front of the house, planted by the Moretons in the 1930s but grown so tall that they were hemming the house in.

Internally, the work done was almost entirely ordinary maintenance, repair and redecoration, carried out mostly by Landmark's own small internal team of craftsmen, togther with local contractor Roly Mauchline and electrical contractor Jim Martin. The original dining room and Colonel Moreton's Rod Room on the ground floor were made into bedrooms (as indeed the former may originally have been) and the 18th-century entrance hall or Trophy Room became the dining room. The house was completely rewired and a new central heating system installed. A shower was added to the porch, to aid recovery for those brave enough to bathe in the Kilbrannan Sound and also to provide ground floor bathroom facilities. Much of the panelling and joinery was regrained and a replacement sink put in the butler's pantry.

We altered the location of the bathroom on the attic floor to provide better views. Otherwise, the attic floor was made weathertight but is not furnished. The basement, which was largely untouched by the fire and so retains much of its 18th-century form, has been left unfurnished for Landmarkers to explore the large kitchen, game room and laundry room.

Today, the house once again offers the perfect base for house parties, just as it did a hundred years ago.


Saddell
Saddell House
Saddell Bay
Pluck Point
Port na Cuthaig
Lephinmore
Home Farm
Miller's Park
Remains of Sabbell Abbey (Cistercian-founded 1160)
Burial Ground
Wet Plantation
Home Covers
Bunlarie Wood
Pluck Wood
Whitestone Wood
Schoolhouse
Bunlarie
Sheepfold
LANDMARK'S OWNERSHIP OF THE SADDELL ESTATE

EARLY HISTORY OF SADDELL CASTLE AND THE ESTATE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

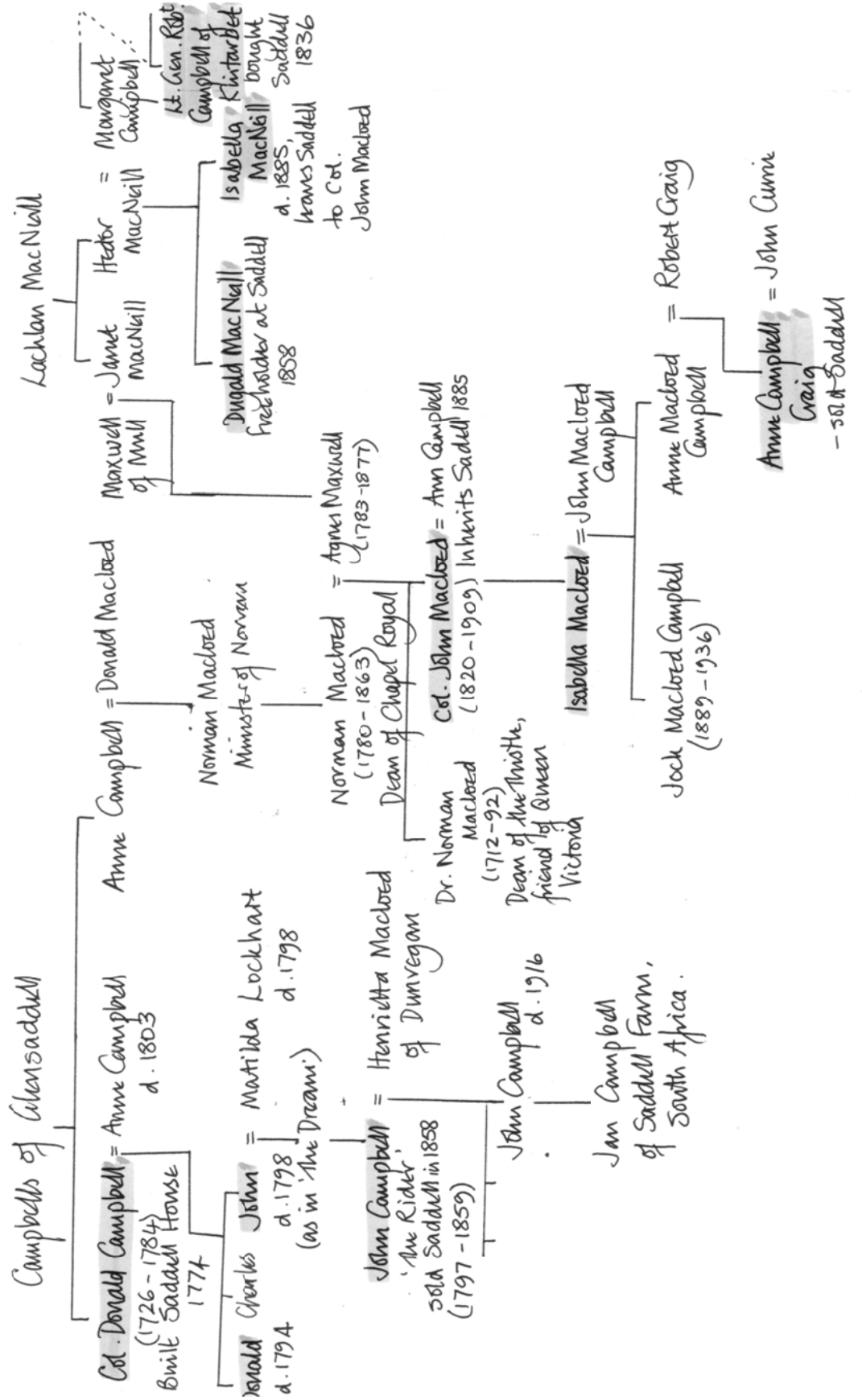
Ralston was a Covenanter of the extreme sect known as Remonstrants. Argyll made him tacksman of Saddell, with 23½ merklands. A tacksman was a head tenant who paid rent to the chief, in this case to the Marquis of Argyll, while the working farmers paid rent to him. A tack usually lasted for 19 years.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

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

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

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

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



The Campbell, MacNeill and Macleod connection. Owners of Saddell are highlighted.

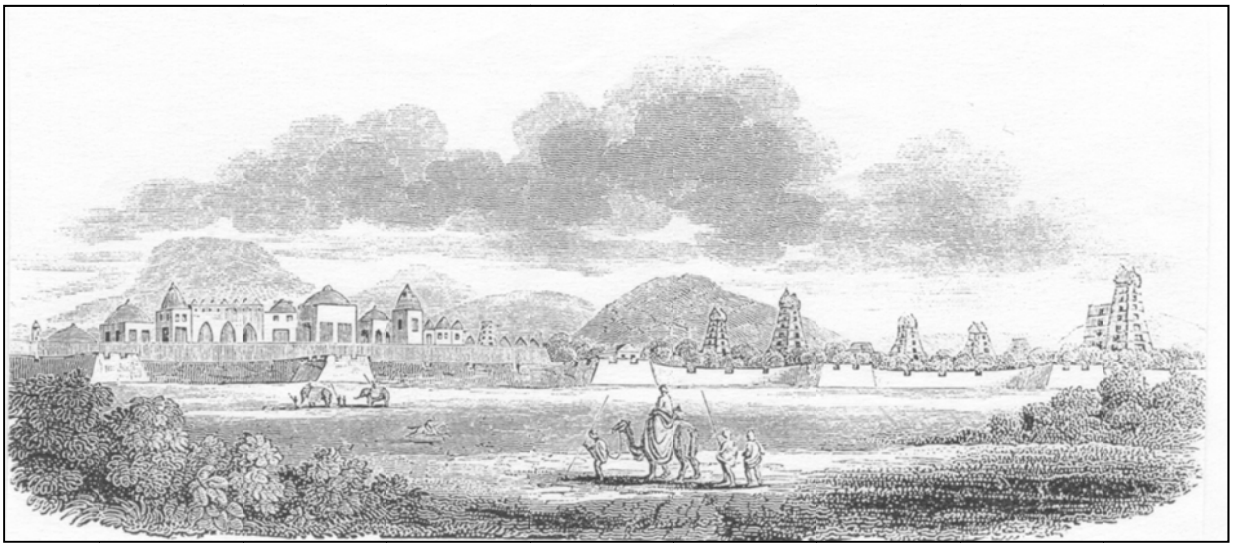
THE CAMPBELLS AND THE BUILDING OF SADDELL HOUSE

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

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

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

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



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

There was an ever-growing Scottish expatriate community in India and in1762, aged 36, Donald found an eminently suitable bride, another member of the far-flung Campbell clan. He married Anne, daughter of John Campbell, in July at Fort George in Madras. Anne was to bear him three sons and five daughters.

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

Donald's wounds continued to trouble him and in 1771 he returned to Scotland. In 1772 he asked permission of the Government to take a reward from the Nawab of Arcot; this was granted and his widow continued to receive an annuity until her death in 1803. In 1774 he built Saddell House and it seems very probable that the Nawab's reward and the building of the house were connected. His return from India as a rich man would also explain his being in a position to build the house before inheriting the estate, which became his only in 1781.

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

The Campbell portraits at Saddell Castle

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

David Martin (1737-1797)
Portrait of **Colonel Donald Campbell** (1726-84), half-length, in uniform with a red sash, holding a cane in his right hand.

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

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

David Martin (1737-1797)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

David Martin (1737-1797)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

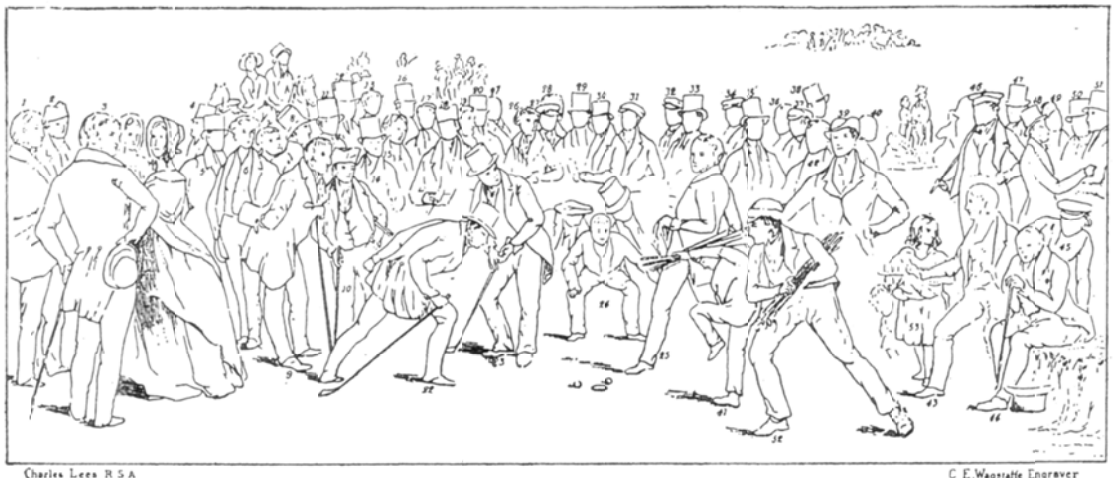
The orphan, another John Campbell, grew up to be fun loving and a big spender. For his twenty-first birthday party he filled Saddell Castle and Saddell House with his guests, and no one was allowed to cross the burn between the two without partaking of a dram.

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

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

In 1839 John prepared to take part in the Eglinton Tournament, going as the Black Knight, on a black horse, dressed in black armour with four black-suited retainers. Unfortunately, at the rehearsal he bravely but foolishly allowed himself

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



Charles Lees R S A — C E Wagstaffe Engraver

THE GOLFERS,
A Grand Match Played on St. Andrews Links,
By Sir David Baird Bart. & Sir Ralph Anstruther Bart. against Major Playfair & John Campbell Esq of Saddel.

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

to be charged to test the force of a spear. Sitting motionless on his horse, with only a breastplate for protection, he received a direct blow from a lance, which glanced off the breastplate, pierced his elbow and unhorsed him. He was so badly hurt that he could not take part in the tournament itself. A wit remarked that he had lost his family seat, which was of course all too true. He was the only casualty of the tournament.

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

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

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

LATER HISTORY OF SADDELL HOUSE, AFTER THE CAMPBELLS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Colonel Macleod was one of the last of the Gaelic-speaking lairds, a scholar, and the owner of an important Celtic library. In September1899, Colonel Macleod was living in his other house at Tarbert and had let Saddell House to an English shooting tenant, a Reverend Mr. Bramwell from Chertsey, when it was gutted by a bad fire. According to the contemporary newspaper reports, the fire was thought to have started in the kitchen chimney flue and spread to the joists in the roof.

Account of the fire at Saddell Castle in September 1899, from The Campbeltown Courier, 16th September 1999.

16 Sept.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT SADDELL.

MANSION HOUSE GUTTED.

DAMAGES ABOUT £5000.

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

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

Like all similar outbreaks, its origin is not very apparent, but the very probable supposition is put forward that the conflagration arose in the kitchen chimney, and that some of the joists caught fire and spread. At anyrate, about three o'clock in the afternoon smoke was seen issuing from the roof directly above the kitchen. The servants quickly raised the alarm, but their attempts to reach the source in one of the attic apartments were retarded by the door of the room being locked. This door was, however, burst open, when it was discovered that the fire was pretty well advanced. A burst of flames met the entrants, and soon a tongue of fire shot through the roof. By this time the employees on the adjacent fields and the villagers had gathered, and a band of eager and willing hands engaged in the work of combating the flames. Mr James M'Lean, overseer, directed the operations, and his practical measures were ably carried out. By breaking in the roof and pouring down water it was thought that the fire would be got under. There were no adequate appliances, but water was obtained from a tank about 600 yards off. The female servants, assisted by the boys of the village, carried it in buckets from the tank. By means of ropes these were raised to the windows in order to save them being carried upstairs. All hands wrought strenuously to cope with the conflagration, but despite their untiring energies the flames rapidly spread, and soon the whole suite of rooms in the upper storey was ablaze. Fire forked out at the windows, the woodwork crackled and blazed, and showers of sparks rose and fell. Unfortunately the supply of water in the tank became exhausted, and having no other resource the workers had now to let the fire take its course. Attention was then directed to saving the furniture, and the large staff of assistants actively engaged in the work of removal. Everything that could be secured was taken outside, and the greater part of the furnishings was saved from the devouring element. Still, a considerable portion perished in the flames. The library, which is considered one of the largest and best of the private libraries in the country, suffered most, and the loss here can never be repaired, numerous volumes of considerable historic and intrinsic value being destroyed. The butler who remained in the library until the intense heat forced him to evacuate, managed to save a number of the pictures and more valuable books by throwing them out the window. A quantity of silver plate was included in the destruction, while the servants were deprived of the greater part of their belongings, one poor woman being left with nothing but the clothes she stood in.

Shortly before five o'clock a telegram was received here calling for the Fire Brigade. About a dozen men responded to the summons, but a considerable time elapsed before they took their departure, a brake from the White Hart Hotel conveying them to Saddell. The fire engine, which is not equipped with a brake, could not be taken because of the dangerous nature of the road. On arrival the brigade found that their services were of little avail. Even had there been proper appliances at hand it would have been impossible to engage in any serviceable work at this stage, and the brigade left at ten o'clock. The fire had quickly burned itself downwards, and the whole of the fine old structure was in possession of the raging element. As the roof fell in, a dense volume of smoke and flame shot up into the air, and care had to be exercised that the falling sparks did not ignite any of the furniture outside. By ten o'clock the fire had dwindled to within the confines of the walls. Parts of the wood work were still blazing, but two or three hours after midnight the fire had practically burnt itself out, although it continued to smoulder away during the night and all the following day. The whole building has been completed gutted, and nothing is left but the bare walls standing gaunt and grim. There is an exception in the kitchen which remains intact. It is arched by solid masonry.

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

Mr Bramwell and most of the servants found refuge in the castle.

16

DISASTROUS FIRE AT SADDELL.

MANSION HOUSE DESTROYED.

A BRILLIANT SPECTACLE.

A disastrous fire occurred at Saddell on Thursday, and resulted in the almost total destruction of the mansion house owned by Colonel J. N. Macleod of Saddell and Kintarbert, and which was such a prominent landmark from its open situation in front of the bay. The outbreak, which originated in a lumber room in the upper part of the premises, above the kitchen, and is supposed to have been caused by the overheating of the kitchen flue—although several theories are advanced as to the probable origin of the fire—was first noticed at three o'clock by a servant, who immediately raised the alarm. The neighbours were first apprised of the affair and telegraphic messages were as soon as possible despatched to Campbeltown and Carradale. A large number of willing helpers—men, women and children, the juveniles being greatly added to on the dismissal of the school—were speedily on the scene, being drawn from the village, the fields, and all around for a considerable distance, and steps were taken to save the house furnishings, it being apparent almost from the outset that the building was doomed. The door of the lumber room was locked, but was subsequently burst open, and access was sought by a window. The rush of air gave the flames impetus, and, there being no appliances at hand to cope with the outbreak, the fire afterwards spread throughout the building with remarkable rapidity, steadily and swiftly eating its way downwards to the basement. The work of saving the furniture was an extremely hazardous and perilous one—indeed, Mr Grimword, the butler, was hurt by a falling beam while thus engaged, but not seriously—but was notwithstanding carried out with a promptness and vigour on the part of the many volunteers on the ground that was commendable in the highest degree. Fortunately the bulk of the furniture, pictures, bedding, &c., were thus saved. A large iron safe was also removed outside the principal entrance. The household articles were laid on the lawn in front of the house as they were brought outside, and the wind fanning the flames and carrying the showers of sparks arising from the falling timber within the burning building in a north-westerly direction these goods enjoyed comparative immunity from further danger. A large collection of books was got safely out of the smoking room, and these were piled on the grass beside the furniture, but unfortunately the library, containing one of the finest and most comprehensive and valuable collection of books in the country, and including many standard volumes and works of the greatest rarity, was almost completely destroyed, only some two shelves of books having been saved. This library alone, it is stated, was worth thousands of pounds. The other losses included a quantity of silver-plate which was stored in the lumber room and the jewellery and belongings of a lady visitor—Miss Slidden—as also some of the belongings of the housemaid and kitchen maid, the men who tried to enter the apartments containing these articles being driven back by the suffocating smoke and fumes which were belching forth from the rooms. It was some considerable time after the flames had burst through the roof before the roof itself fell in, but then "the devouring element" rapidly swallowed up everything inflammable as it spread across the house and downwards to the lowest flat, ceiling after ceiling crashing in as the fire consumed the woodwork, or, half burned, giving way as the iron bedsteads, baths, beams, or other heavy articles fell from above, until only the bare walls, with the entrance way and porch, arched passage, and pantry remained standing. From the south-east portion of the premises, where the outbreak occurred, the fire swept completely round and throughout the building, and at midnight was still raging in the servants' quarters in the sunken flat. The wines, &c., were removed from the spirit vault and taken to the Castle about eight o'clock under the direction of Constables D. Munro, Carradale, and M'Lean, Campbeltown. Constable Munro arrived at Saddell on his bicycle from Carradale about seven o'clock on being informed of the departure of the firemen from Campbeltown, and Constable M'Lean proceeded to the scene of the fire along with the members of the brigade. Both constables remained on the ground over midnight.

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

Argyllshire Herald *cont.*

ground over midnight.

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

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

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

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

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

And a postscript in the same edition:

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

The appropriately named butler, Mr Grimword, heroically saved as much as he could of his master's famed library as the fire took hold, but in those days the volunteer fire brigade (such as it was) had to be summoned from Campbeltown by telegram and this message was not received until two hours after the alarm was first raised, when the wagon could not be sent because it had no brakes. The Carradale brigade failed to set out at all because their captain was out fishing and so unable to give his consent. In effect, the fire was left to burn itself out, the roof eventually collapsing to leave 'the bare walls standing gaunt and grim.'

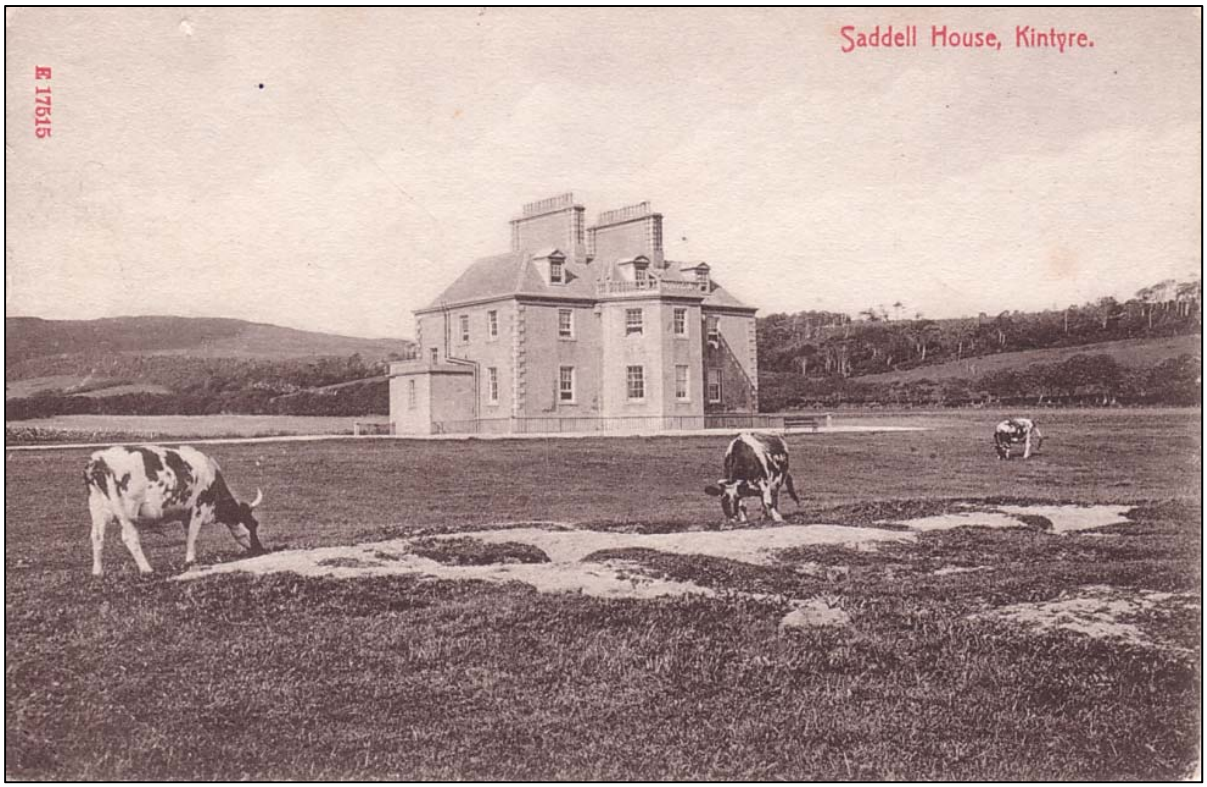
Luckily, as the Courier subsequently reported, the walls were found to be strong enough to carry a new roof and the plasterwork to be 'scarcely affected.' Colonel Macleod rebuilt the house and it is largely this refurbishment that we see today internally. While the house was being rebuilt, Colonel Macleod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

Isabella's husband, who was a Campbell cousin, died young and Isabella lived in Saddell House with her son Jack Macleod Campbell, known as Jack the Laird.

Jack predeceased his mother Isabella, as did her daughter Anne, who had married Colonel Robert Craig MC. Their daughter, another Anne, who married John Burrie, inherited Saddell from her grandmother. Anne Currie sold Saddell to Dr Andrew Macleod of Johannesburg.

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

**Jack Macleod Campbell,
Laird of Saddell,
outside Saddell House
c.1920.**
(Photo: Norman A. Campbell)



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

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

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

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

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

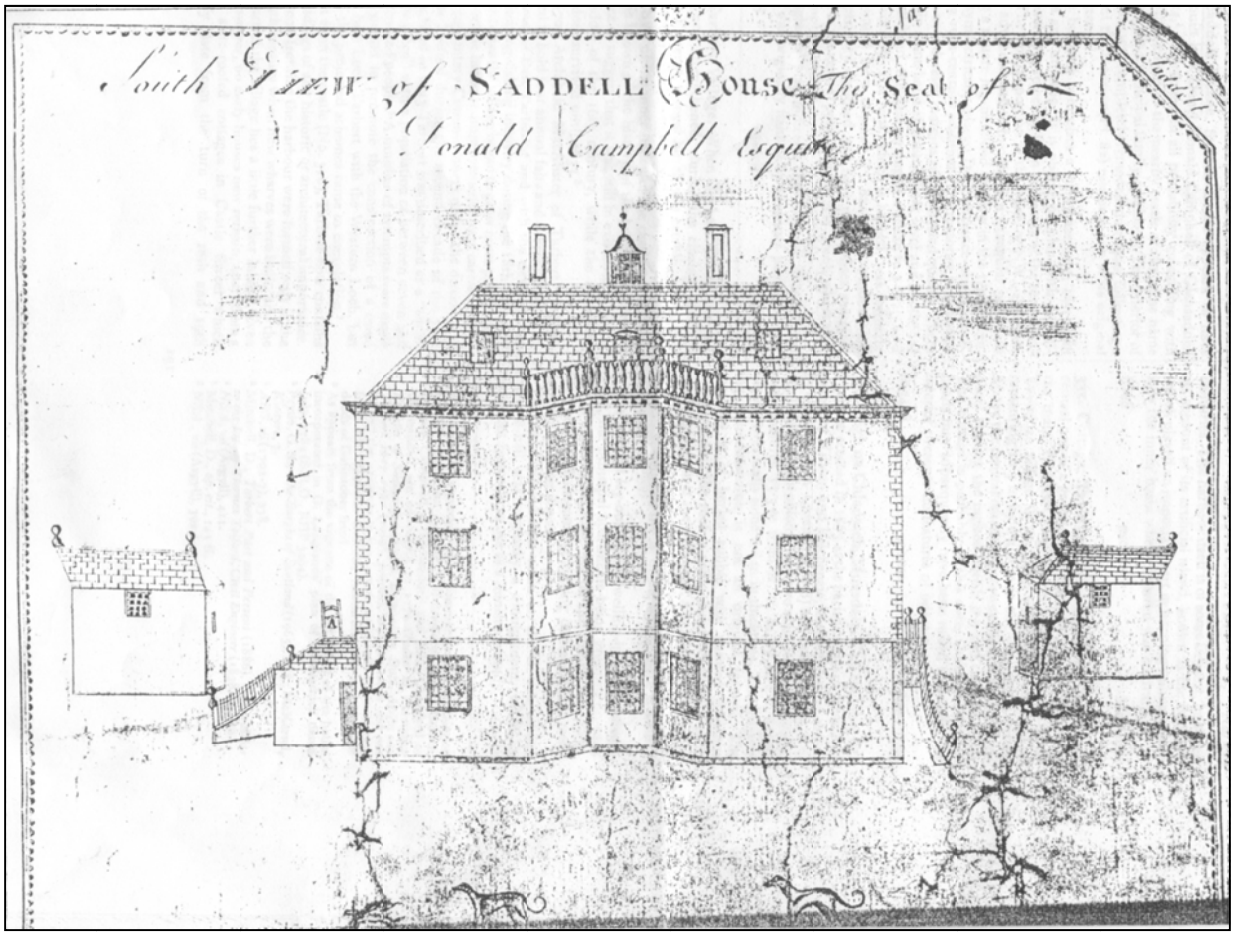
While Captain Moreton was away during the war his wife Rosie provided a home both for her own four children and for up to twenty evacuees at a time from Glasgow. The boys slept in the big room at the top of Saddell House and the girls in the middle room on the first floor, on mattresses placed around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

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

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

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

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



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

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

SADDELL HOUSE: THE BUILDING & ITS DEVELOPMENT

Building analysis and documentary research give four main phases in the life of Saddell House: the late 18th century, primary phase; the early to mid-19th century, before 1867; the late 19th century and post 1900.

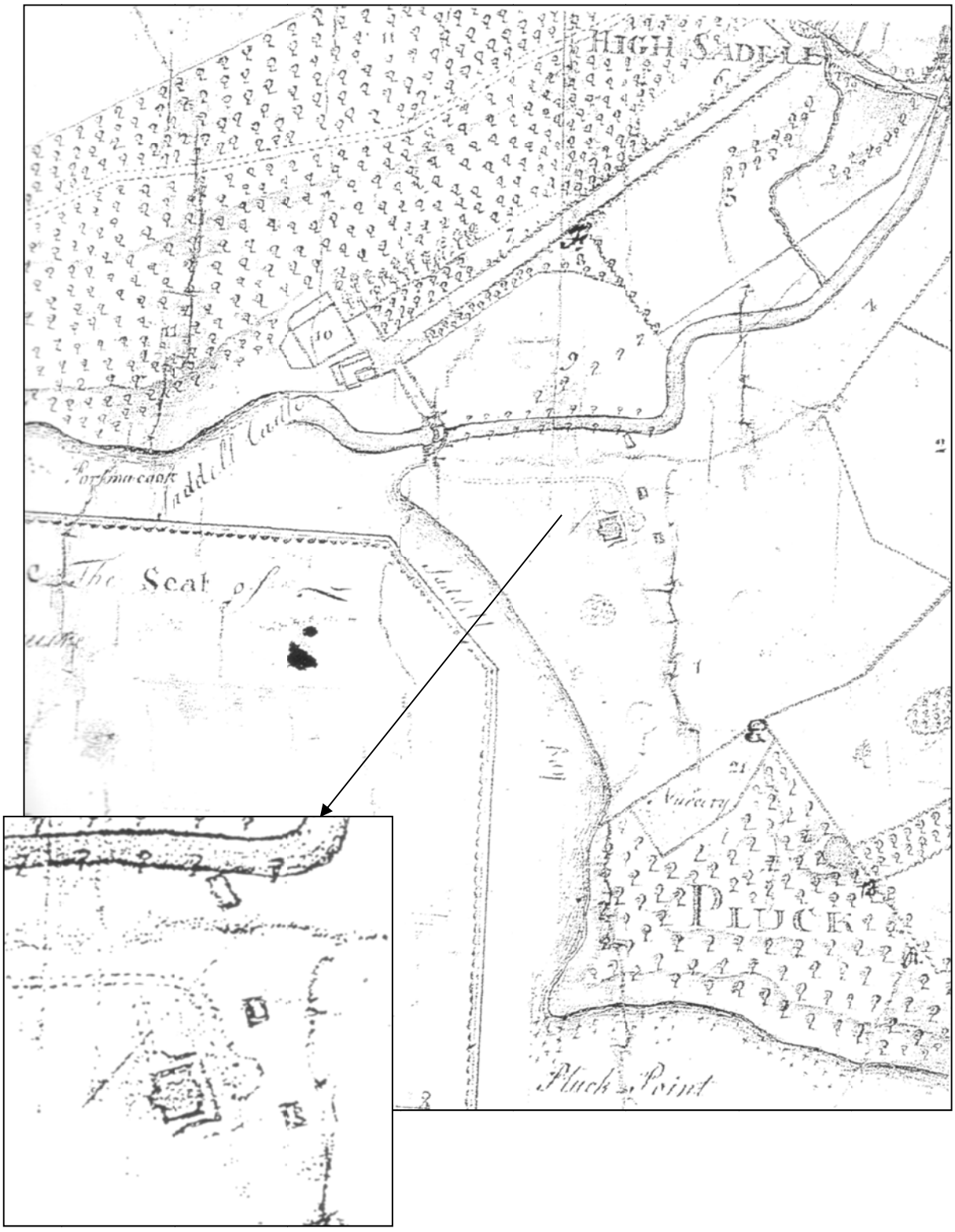
Phase 1: The late 18th century

The earliest known depiction of Saddell House is a drawing by G Langlands, from his Map of Saddell Estate, dated 1784. This is only ten years after Colonel Donald Campbell built the house, on the proceeds of his successful military career in India, and it shows various features that no longer survive today.

Colonel Campbell's new house is shown with two storeys and an attic above a basement distinguished by a string course and masked by higher ground on the landward side, where the retaining wall was topped by railings. A semi-octagonal bay projects from the rear elevation, topped with a stone balustrade accessed by a door from the attics. The attics are lit by flush rooflights. By building the house on a natural rise in the ground level, the ground level on the opposite, front elevation is elevated so that the main entrance could be at piano nobile level, as today. The larger windows on this first floor emphasise this. However, the area (or below ground service court) has not yet been extended around the basement floor on this SE elevation, so the servants in the eighteenth century would also have enjoyed views across the beach from their roomy, triple-aspect kitchen.

The house was built during a period of prosperity in Scotland, when the Edinburgh New Town was being built and landowners looked to England and the south for their architecture, rather than the defensive necessities of previous times. Landmark's Auchinleck House (1760), while more polite than Saddell House, has some similarities in style. Saddell House, however, is more clearly an artisan design, its cornice and modillions rather crude and its plain pediment too steep to be the work of an assured hand.

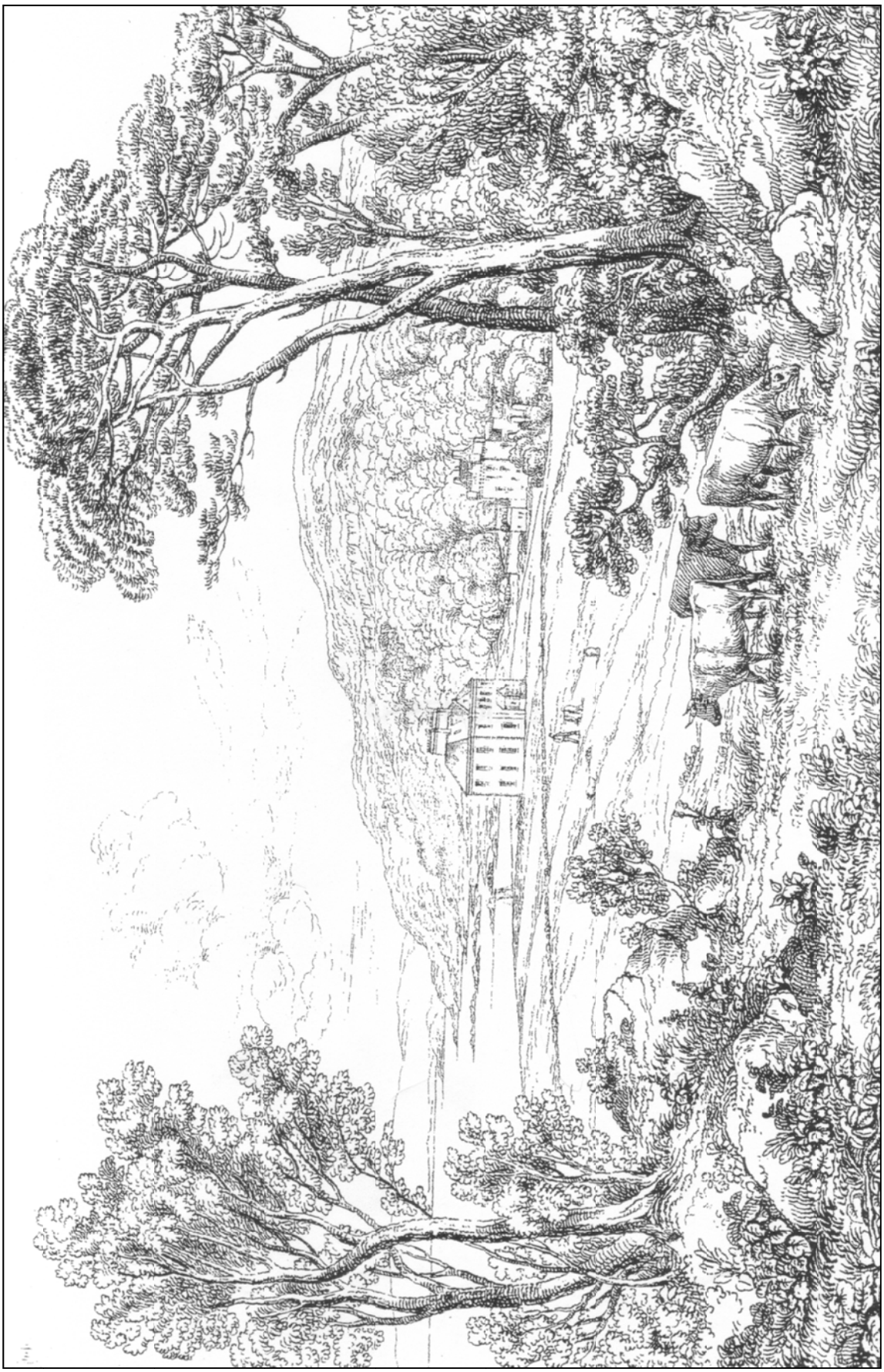
Extract from Langlands' 1784 Map of Saddell Estate, showing access to Saddell House across the burn bridge.



The Langlands estate map is also of interest in showing the access to Saddell House being, even at this early date, as running past the castle and across the bridge over the burn. When Landmark first became involved at Saddell, there was speculation that there had once been a driveway leading directly inland from the front door of the house. The 1784 map shows no sign of this but rather a carriageway from the burn bridge which subdivides as it approaches the house, one branch leading to the service entrance on the west end, the other to the main entrance on the landward side, complete with turning circle. The absence of an approach from the north is also confirmed by Smith's 1835 lithograph (see below). The bridge was probably built specifically to provide this access. Note too the building next to the burn, probably a mill, where a building still stands today.

The site for the house was carefully chosen, and not just for the potential for a piano nobile afforded by the change in ground level. The central window in the bay on the seaward elevation (and therefore also the original front door) is aligned on Ailsa Craig. Local topography also allowed for water to be collected in cisterns on the hillside behind and piped directly to the kitchen, although like Saddell Castle, Saddell House also had a well in its basement.

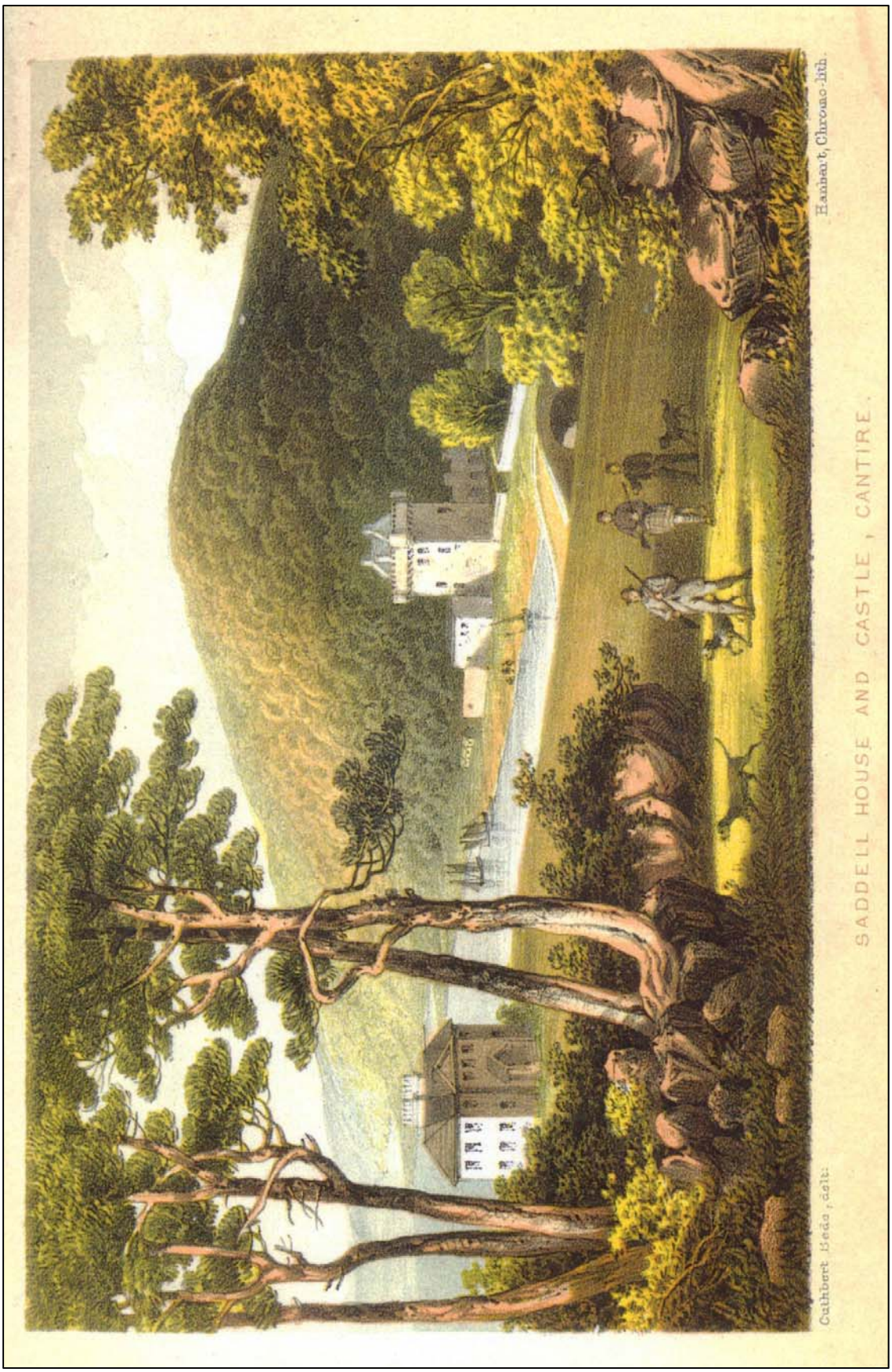
In Langlands' drawing, the external walls of Saddell House were already harled (as render is known in Scotland), with dressed surrounds to the windows. Fragments of the original lime render found beneath at least two later coats of cementitious coating show that the house originally had a cream harling, some 15mm thick. The ashlar quoins were probably left unpainted originally, the yellow sandstone providing a mellow contrast with the cream limewash over the harling. The quoins would probably have stood more proud in 1784 than they do today, after successive maintenance campaigns. The hipped roof was topped by a lantern, already a rather old fashioned feature by the mid 1770s. Today's shallow domed light at the head of the stairwell presents a vestigial memory of this, inserted after the fire in 1899.



Lithograph of Saddell House by William Smith (1835)

Langlands shows all the windows as twenty four pane sashes, also rather old fashioned for the time. None of these survived the fire in 1899, although a single fanlight over the door to the basement landing off the internal stair appears to be primary and therefore probably provides an example of the original window joinery.

Perhaps the most intriguing features in the Langlands drawing are the two detached pavilions, of which we have found no trace. They have no chimneys, suggesting that they were not living accommodation. If they ever existed, they may served as a stable block and coach house. There is a single storey porch at basement level, extending the basement to the west. This has a door to the rear which provided access to the service level, important in establishing that today's double storey block is a complete reconstruction, rather than being built on top of the little lean-to shown in the Langlands depiction.



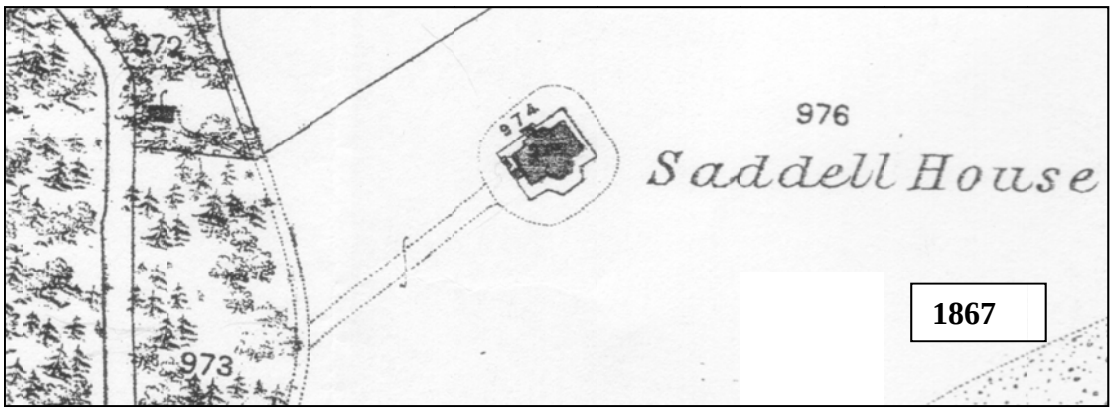
An engraving of Saddell, published in 1861(from Glencreggan, a Highland Home in Cantire by Cuthbert Bede).

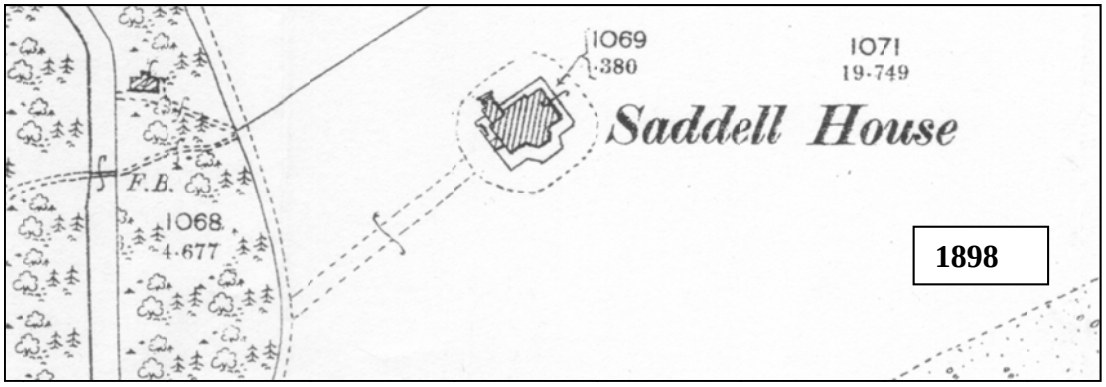
Phase 2: early to mid-19th century (before 1867)

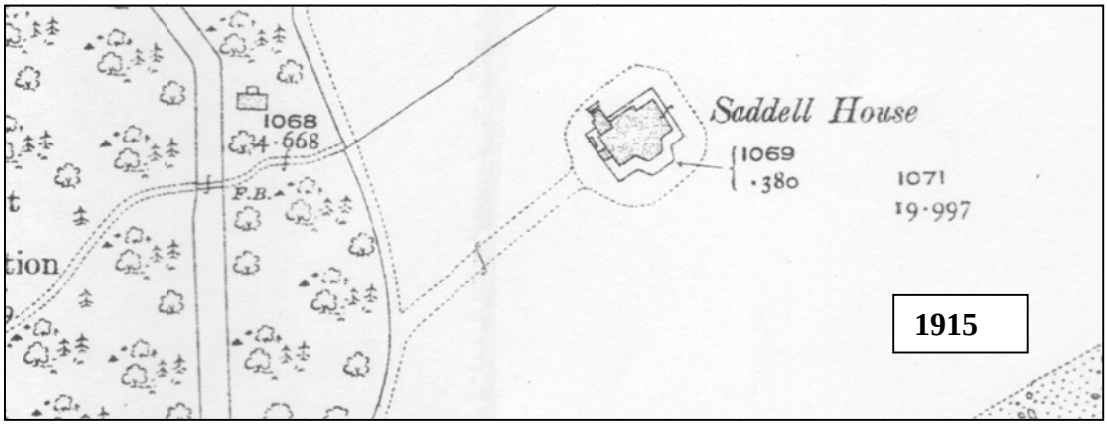
The earliest known depiction of the front, landward elevation is a lithograph from 1835 by William Smith. This already shows significant differences with the Langlands drawing: the pavilions have disappeared (assuming they were not figments of Langlands' imagination all along) and the basement well may now extend all round the building. We also have our first clear view of the original, centrally positioned main entrance, which shows a simple portico beneath the pediment. The lithograph is consistent with the 1784 drawing in showing flush rooflights rather than dormers and no indication of any driveway leading directly inland. All this is consistent with a later engraving by Cuthbert Bede in 1861 and with the 1867 Ordnance Survey map, which shows the basement well surrounding the house, the porch extension to the basement, stairs down into the well and the main entrance to the house still centrally positioned. Although the stairs have since been covered over in concrete, their coping stones and the flagstones used for the basement floor are the same red sandstone, distinct from the yellow sandstone used for the quoins, and may therefore also have been introduced during this phase.

If the 1784 and 1835 depictions are accurate in showing the disappearance of the pavilions and creation of a basement well or 'area' during the intervening years, the most likely owner to have effected these changes is the spendthrift John Campbell ('the golfer'). As he was forced to sell parts of the estate in 1824 and the house itself in 1836 (which suggests a tailing off of interest in Saddell on his part) these changes may have happened at a very early stage in the house's history.

The development of Saddell House as revealed by Ordnance Survey maps







Phase 3: 1867 –1898

The evidence for the timing of the third phase of changes to the building comes from comparing the 1867 and 1898 OS maps, the latter conveniently falling immediately before the dramatic intervention of the 1899 fire. The changes that occur are the relocation of the main entrance to the west, through the construction of the porch block with shallow portico, which built over the new basement well. Traces of the original entrance are still apparent in the tooling of the stone surround to the replacement window and uneven harling at lintel level. It is noteworthy that the window sacrificed to the new front door would anyway always have been partially obscured by the second flight of the main staircase. Even so, it is an interesting sacrifice of Georgian external symmetry to high Victorian practicality, probably by Colonel Macleod, whose tenure at Saddell began in 1885.

Stylistically, the windows and cornice detail also pre-date 1900. We know from the newspaper accounts of the fire that by 1899 it was clearly quite normal for both house and castle to be let to summer shooting parties and it may well be that this more commodious boot- and cloak-room was introduced at least in part for their convenience. Although returning the house to its original appearance was discussed at length at Landmark, we felt in the end that the porch would be similarly appreciated today.

Phase 4: After the fire in 1899

The fire in 1899 was clearly the most disastrous intervention in the house's history. It destroyed the roof and, from the newspaper accounts, seems to have spread throughout the building (even the basement, whose stone vaulting would ironically have been intended to prevent just such a disaster). The only apparent exception was the new porch block. Despite the report that most of the plaster survived, the smoke damage would have been extensive. Little joinery or glazing can have survived, with the result that everything we see today, with the exception of the walls, chimney phalanxes and basic layout, post dates the fire.

Colonel Moreton's rod room in 2003.

The roof was replaced in its entirety, adding dormer windows to both the main elevations and a pitched roof over the bay for additional headroom. New chimney pots were installed and the lantern over the stairwell replaced by a shallow domed roof light. The unsightly external soil and waste pipes also mostly belonged to this campaign. We have managed to reduce these by half by rationalisation.

At basement level, it is likely that all the rooms were refinished in 1900. In the south facing rooms at either end, wood surrounds were introduced to the simple 18thC basket arched stone fireplaces. The grates also date from this period, and these and the wooden floors suggest that these were parlours for the senior servants. The central kitchen was refitted, including a new range which survives today, supplied by Robert Armour & Sons of Campbeltown. The stairs to the ground floor were replaced, although almost certainly in the position of those damaged by fire.

The Armour & Sons range in the basement kitchen.

On the first floor, a new internal staircase was installed in neo-Jacobean joinery, although the evidence is that the stairs were always in this offset position: there is a blocked archway through from today's hall and the stairwell window also appears original. The egg and dart cornice also dates from 1900. The hall was

panelled and the refurbishment commemorated by the fireplace, complete with St Andrew's crosses and the mottoes and arms of Campbell of Glensaddell and Macleod of Kintarbert. The main Latin quotation is the two first lines of Psalm 127 , 'Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.'

We have no firm evidence as to the functions of the main reception rooms, although the 18th-century plan and room sizes seem more or less intact and the old bellboard gives us some clues as to what they were used for, at least after 1899. It seems most likely that the central room with the bay was the drawing room, with the dining room to the west

Bellboard found in the basement at Saddell House.

(now with ribbed neo-Jacobean plasterwork to the ceiling and converted to a kitchen in the 20th century). On the east side was the library and smoking room (which were probably the master bedroom with associated dressing room in the 18thcentury). All these rooms can be entered from the hall and as originally built, it is possible that they could also be accessed from the central drawing room through a form of parade plan (as at Auchinleck). If this was the case, these additional doorways must have been blocked in the 19th century. The small room leading off from the hall at its NE corner was given its stained wood and enriched

plaster ceiling in 1900, when it became rod room. All the fireplaces on this floor belong to 1900.

The first floor rooms all date from 1900 in presentation and some had their proportions changed to permit the introduction of the bathrooms. Just as the basement provides us with satisfying evidence of life below stairs at this period, so too did the discretely placed housemaids' cupboards on the landings, each with their sink.

At the centre of the first floor, a steep flight of stairs rises to the attic. Its position beneath the 18th century cupola suggests once again that it replaces earlier stairs.

So thorough was Colonel Macleod's refurbishment in 1900 that remarkably little seems to have changed in Saddell House during the 20th century. It remains today an eminently practical house with an appealing late Victorian overlay to its Georgian solidity.

One of the housemaid's cupboards.

SADDELL HOUSE BEFORE REFURBISHMENT IN 2004

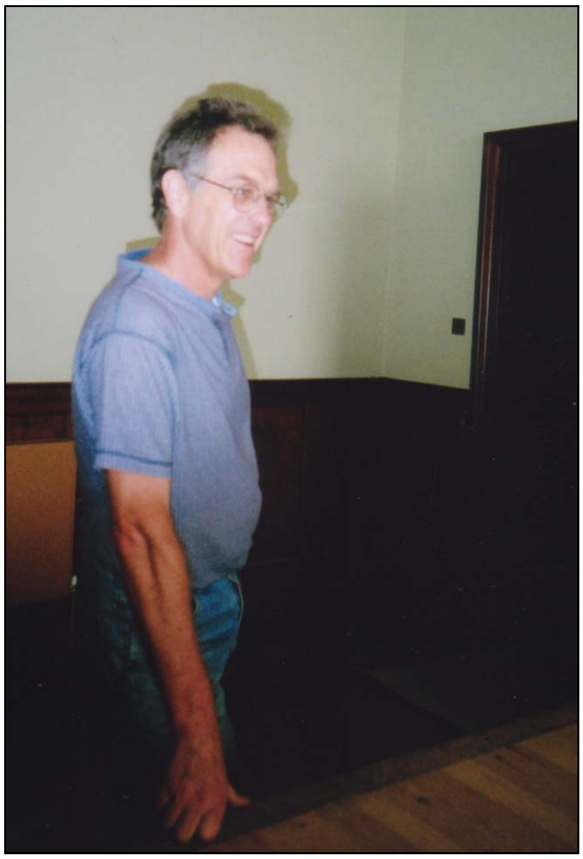
LANDMARK'S REFURBISHMENT OF SADDELL HOUSE

When Landmark acquired Saddell House with the rest of the Saddell Estate, it was agreed that the Morteon family would continue to live there during Mrs Moreton's lifetime. By the end of this time, Mrs Moreton was living there alone, well supported by her family but still a frail old lady using only some of the rooms. The house had begun a gentle decline; the trees planted by her husband and her as a young couple in the 1930s had grown up around the house, screening the view across the sound and making it feel a rather dank and gloomy and gloomy place.

After the house came back into Landmark's care in 1998, it was several years before a final decision was reached on its future while matters of fundraising and the extent of its restoration were weighed. There was a pipe dream to restore it to its original 18th century appearance and ground levels, removing the 'area' or basement well so that it stood fully proud as drawn by Langlands and removing the current portico to reinstate the original central entrance under the pediment. This would have been very expensive and, while Saddell House is a wonderfully robust and honest building, its Category B listing gave it no particular claim for statutory grant aid. In the end, we decided to keep its practical, late Victorian presentation. This resultant relatively uninvasive refurbishment was carried out entirely through the generosity of two anonymous private donors.

While we were reaching this decision, the building had to be made wind and watertight, so in 2002 Reg Lo-Vel, who had just finished the restoration of Ty Uchaf, went to live at the building to deal with this. The windows were overhauled and repaired, the plumbing improved and we made a start on felling the trees between the house and the beach. A very large amount of rubbish material was taken from the vaults and the whole place tidied up, useful preparatory work for the main refurbishment which began late in 2003.

SOME OF THE TEAM WHO WORKED ON SADDELL HOUSE IN 2003-4



Reg Lo-Vel

David McShane

Some of the team from Mackay decorators

Roly Mauchline

The work to be done internally was almost entirely ordinary maintenance, repair and redecoration and so we decided to carry out these elements using our own small team under the direction of Reg and contracting in the skilled trades as required, sometimes calling them in from the mainland. Working on Kintyre relies on a network of local contacts (such as the local farmer who supplied the top soil and turf and the shipyard that sand- blasted the railings for the basement). The logistics of accommodation, transport and scheduling of craftsmen and materials was at times quite a challenge.

First, a new central heating and hot water system was installed. Reg Lo-Vel came back to complete the installation with Ernie Dowding, our reliable plumber from Lundy. They worked through the winter of 2003/4 on what must have been a cold and lonely site, but at least the building was reasonably dry by the time main works started.

The building had to be completely rewired, electrical work running in tandem with the plumbing. There are almost no electricians on Kintyre because the Vestas wind turbine factory now provides work for all the qualified ones. In the way that happens in small communities, we chanced on Jim Martin, an agricultural contractor who mostly installs electric systems in the dairies in Kintyre. His team was able to provide electrical work of the highest quality throughout the rewiring exercise. The renewal of the incoming mains was used as an opportunity to bury the last 150 yards of cable as it approaches the house, thus removing a telegraph pole which used to stand right outside the portico.

Re-landscaping as a whole was a significant task since the entire site needed tidying up. The trees on the seaward side of the house were cleared, their stumps burnt and buried. A new septic tank was put in. The drive and surrounding grass were reworked.

RE-LANDSCAPING WORKS

Roly Mauchline had long been our general building contractor on the Saddell buildings and we were delighted when early in 2004 he was able to step back into this role for us at Saddell House. Roly's long experience of Landmark and his good architectural eye proved invaluable.

Reg and Ernie remained at the core of the Landmark team, visiting Saddell for 2 to 6 weeks periods throughout 2004 to work on the bathrooms and domestic plumbing, carpentry and general tasks. Our carpenter/mason John Brown also helped with the joinery.

For the decorations, we brought in John Nevin of Makay Decorators, who are based at Perth. They were able to provide an aerial hoist, commercial pressure washers, commercial spray guns etc. so that the exterior was redecorated without scaffolding and relatively quickly between Scottish showers.

As the refurbishment progressed, decisions were made about how certain rooms should be used. The ground floor dining room became a double bedroom. It is possible that this represents a return to its original function, ground floor bedrooms being not unusual for a house of this period as we had found at Auchinleck House. The Rod Room, presumably originally a business room (compare the study at Auchinleck House) was also converted to a single bedroom.

The original entrance hall, or more latterly Trophy Room, has become the dining room – as it is next to the kitchen, this makes practical sense for Landmarkers and followed logically from the decision not to reinstate the original main entrance. A shower was put in the entrance porch cloakroom, partly to serve the new ground floor bedrooms and partly to cater for the inevitable sluicing down required after beach activities. One attic bedroom was converted to a bathroom, replacing a former bathroom without windows.

REPAIRS TO THE EXTERIOR

Exterior

The chimney stacks were pressure washed and have been left unpainted as the careful ashlar stonework suggests that a painted finish was never intended. The present harling is a cementitious or possibly hydrualic lime render, probably applied after the fire in 1900. It is perfectly serviceable for now, but in the long term we will hope to replace it with a lime harling, as it would have had originally. The Harling was repainted with a modern paint to match for colour traces found of the original paint.

The house is highlighted with stone window dressings of ashlar, string courses, cornice, bay window and timpanum. The stone is of reasonable quality, but has suffered from having been painted over the years. Modern paint, no doubt applied to hide slight degradation originally, simply causes stone to decay even faster as water is trapped behind the paint. For now, we have simply repainted the dressings as more comprehensive conservation and restoration of the stone must await re-harling. The window dressings and portico have been painted in a darker grey specially mixed by John Nevin, in imitation of the stone beneath and as is traditional in Scotland.

The basement well railings were in poor condition when the house came to us so thorough repair was necessary, not just for reasons of safety but also because they so enhance the building. Roly Mauchline repaired them, retaining as many of the original early 19th-century handrails as possible, aligning their height to read against the string course of the building. The manufacture, galvanising and threading of over 500 bars was a major exercise.

Funds did not allow us to replace the balustrade above the seaward bay window, knocked down by Colonel Moreton's flagpole, but we still have the remnants and hope one day that we will be able to reinstate it. The glass lens above the stair well, which at some point replaced the timber framed lantern shown in the Langlands' illustration, will remain.

Interior

Attic floor
Little was done to the attic floor as it is kept weather-tight but unfurnished. The bath in the new bathroom has been carefully positioned to offer a fine view through the dormer.

Bedroom floor
The bathrooms at either end have been refurbished. The large clay bath is probably original: Ernie Dowding overhauled its complicated mechanisms. The cast iron bath was sent away to be re-enamelled and its cast iron panels and integral soap dish are distinctive details.

Little needed to be done to the bedrooms. We removed picture rails and unnecessary modern plumbing but have retained the door furniture and fire grates. The fireplaces themselves have clearly been worked over in 1900 and probably again in the 1930s. We simply replaced some of the more garish tiles.

The floor of the bedroom corridor was raised to allow the introduction of heating and electrical ducts and the lobby door to the housemaid's closet area reinstated (the closet originally had a large sink but this was so cracked it was removed).

Principal floor
The main changes on this floor were the functions of dining room, Rod Room and former entrance hall as detailed above; otherwise work was confined to simple refurbishment. Today's entrance porch area had suffered badly from damp penetration and therefore needed a more significant overhaul.

The main stairs have always been in their present position, although the current structure dates from 1900. Work around the window revealed a stone arch, which suggests that the window was once even larger. The panelling had been painted so it was regrained by John Nevin to tone with the balustrading and treads.

The kitchen units were worked on by Mark Smitten and John Brown, carefully designed to tone in form and finish with joinery elsewhere in the house. In the butler's pantry, a later cupboard between the windows was removed and a new sink unit installed. The remaining units were simply overhauled.

Furnishing such a large building was a major undertaking and many vanloads were delivered from the furnishing base at Wormington. Much of the furniture came from Mrs Moreton's house originally, having been purchased from the Moreton family, though some ended up at Auchinleck House which was being furnished at the time Saddell House was being cleared.

Basement

The basement floor largely survived the fire and has been left unaltered for Landmarkers to explore as an atmospheric 18th century remnant. It includes the large kitchen, game room and parlours or offices for senior servants. The original well for the house, with a mill stone cover, is in an external vault. The laundry room still contains the remains of a copper boiler and perhaps a sink. By the basement entrance doors there are two internal vaults, with an ancient ceramic WC and a bull's eye, porthole window.

Our only intervention has been to make a boiler room and linen store in the two parlours. These rooms (kept locked) seem to have been refitted after the fire in 1900 so are already more compromised than the rest of the basement floor.

SADDELL CASTLE Brief notes on the building and its restoration

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

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

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

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

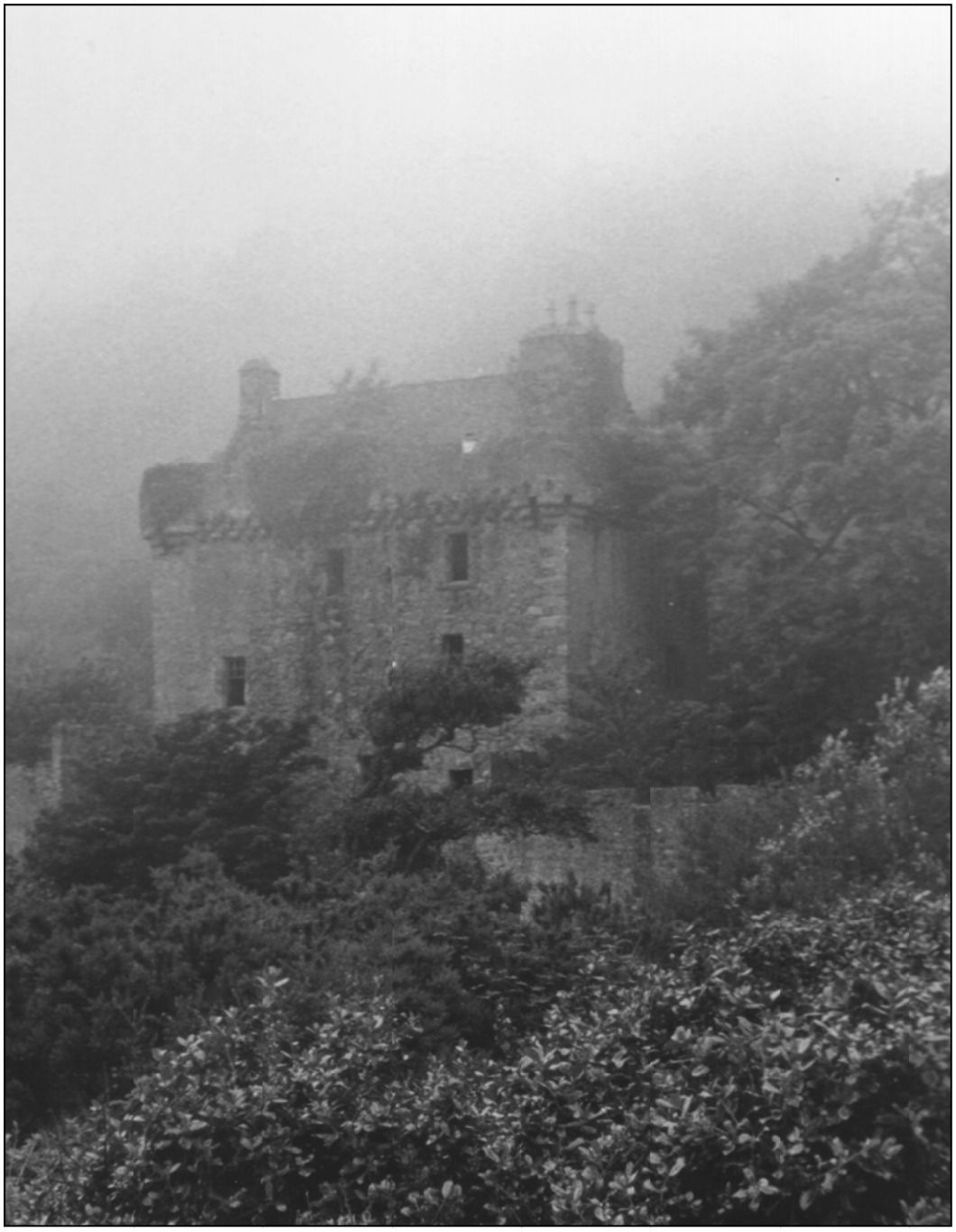
By 1833, in a drawing of the castle by William Dobie in his Perambulations of Kintyre, the farm court had replaced the barmkin and the picture shows a stable crenellated in the gothic manner attached to the north side of the Castle. There are two large doors in the wall that now has the cupola above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

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

In 1889 McGibbon and Ross described Saddell Castle in their Castles and Domestic Architecture in Scotland Volume III, with both a drawing and a plan. It is interesting because it shows the Castle as it was before the restoration of 1891. The then laird, Colonel Macleod, made some quite minimal alterations in 1891-3, mainly romanticising the interior, but he also put a cupola over the arch as you arrive and housing for his flagpole on the roof. The front door, with its cable moulding and date (1508) above it was renewed; the human head on the stone corbels in the cellar were carved, as were the corbels re-dressed as shields on the second floor bedroom. He also made various internal alterations. In 1899, Colonel Macleod, moved into the Castle while Saddell House was being repaired after a fire. He was a keen antiquarian, delighted no doubt at having an excuse to live in his castle.

In 1938 the Castle was re-roofed but by then it was superfluous to the needs of the estate and it gradually deteriorated. In 1971, when Saddell Castle was described in detail in the Kintyre volume of the Argyll Inventory by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland, it was noted that "the tower house and out-buildings are derelict and rapidly becoming ruinous" (the detailed description is appended). The Landmark Trust bought the Castle in 1975 and work started on its restoration in May 1976, lasting for just under two years. It was furnished and let by Easter 1978.

On the outside, trees were removed from the roof of the Castle and it was re-slated. When first built it would probably have been roofed in turf – thatch was



Saddell Castle in 1974, before restoration.

too easy to set alight to use in a fortified house – but ever since the restoration of 1650–52 the Castle roof had been slated, the slates laid on boards of Scots fir.

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

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

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

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

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

SADDELL LODGE

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

SADDELL ABBEY

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

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

In 1794, the church was recorded as being 41.5 metres (136 feet) long, although only remnants of the presbytery and north transept survive today. Nineteenth-

century drawings suggest that the present transept was a thirteenth-century replacement of a slightly smaller twelfth-century original. A few carved stones from the abbey are in the Campbeltown museum and a detailed description of these and the Abbey site from Ecclesiastical Monuments is appended.

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

Further evidence of the monastic period survives in the finely carved tombstones to be found on the site, which is run by Argyll & Bute District Council. Several schools of stone carving flourished in the West Highlands between about 1350 and 1500, one of which was based at Saddell and clearly served this burial ground. It was the Macdonalds' burial ground until they forfeited their lands under James IV. There are several examples of elaborately carved grave slabs and crosses at the Abbey site. Their decorative intricacy is reminiscent of monastic manuscripts and clearly derives from much older Celtic traditions of design. While many of the effigies are of mediaeval origin, of particular interest to us is the gravestone that commemorates Colonel Donald Campbell of Glensaddell who died in 1784. He, of course, is the builder of Saddell House and pillager of Abbey stone.

Detail from the Campbell monument.

THE HOLY WELL

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

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

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

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

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Mr John Moreton, for information on the recent history of the Castle and the cottages,Mrs Clare Normand, for the notes on family history by her uncle Ian Campbell, Mrs Catherine Tarwind, for family trees and Mrs Vivienne Tod, for notes on the buildings. Mrs F D McAuley (nee Moreton) and Mr Norman C Campbell for photos and memories of Saddell House.

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

THE SPRIGHTLY TAILOR

Joseph Jacobs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

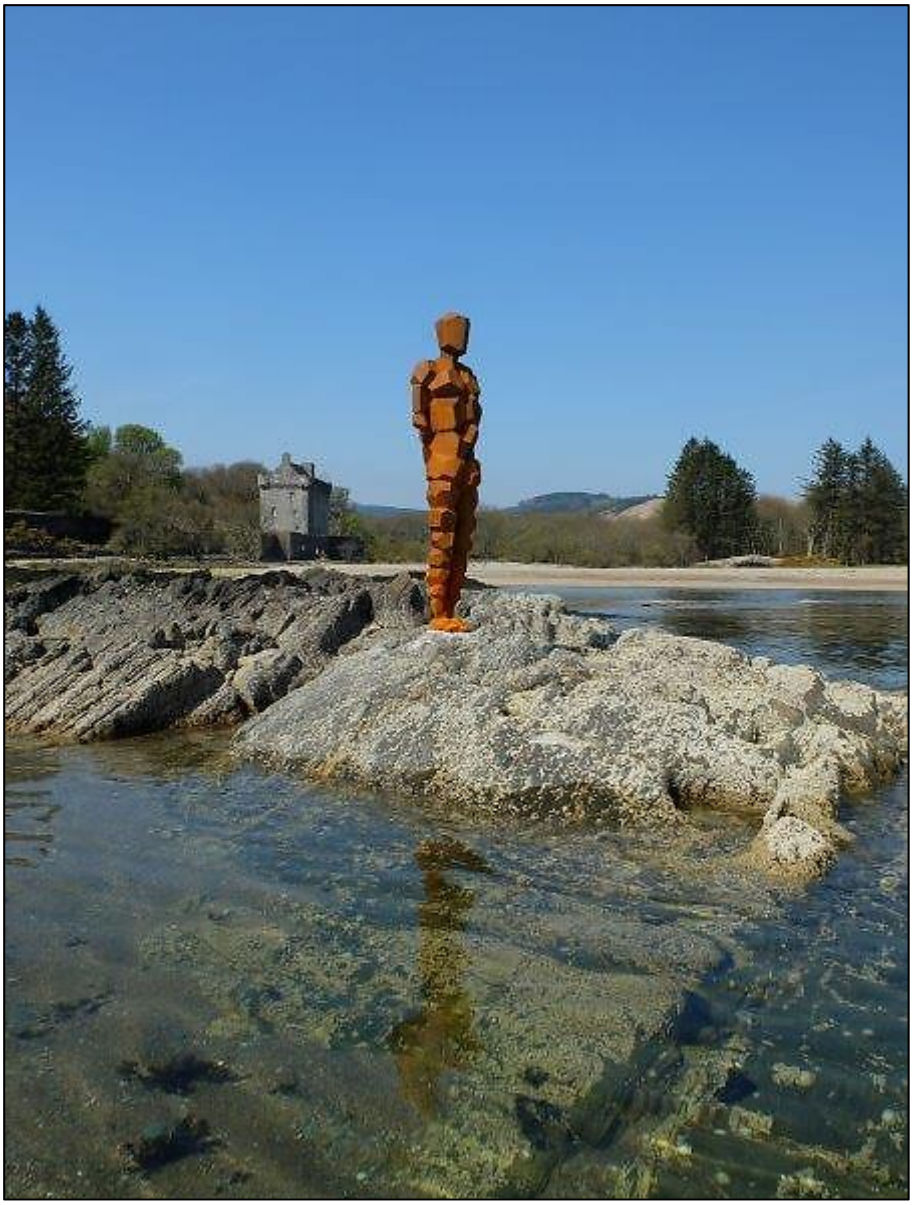
The sprightly tailor was doing the long stitches, when he saw the monster gradually rising and rising through the floor, until it lifted out a great leg, and stamping with it upon the pavement, said in a roaring voice: 'Do you see this great leg of mine?'

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

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

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

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



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

LAND

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

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

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

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

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

LAND – Artist's Statement Antony Gormley

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

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

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

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

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

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