

GALLOWAY

A Report on Galloway's Cultural Heritage
for the
Galloway National Park Association



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August 2023

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Introduction

Taken as a whole, Galloway may not be unique within the UK in the range of its cultural facets, but the local diversity of its culture is remarkable, while at the same time a common heritage provides a contextual network linking district with district, town with town, and parish with parish. Remote from the Central Belt and relatively unknown to most Scots, it retains an air of difference and mystery, even to Gallovidians, where relatively small resident populations can be separated from their neighbours by tracts of landscape, largely empty of people.

Geographically, Galloway looks away from much of the rest of Scotland towards the waters of the Solway Firth, the Irish Sea and the North Channel, and beyond to the visible lands of Cumbria, the Isle of Man and Ulster, all neighbours on the margins of the "Irish Sea Province". A land apart from the rest of Scotland, separated for much of its history by the Southern Uplands, outward-looking and independent. An attitude which helped shape the history of the region up until the coming of the railways in the later 19th century brought Galloway closer to the rest of the UK. Yet the region's diversity is still evident in the landscape for those who choose to see, hear and sense it. This report focuses broadly on those cultural features which are still visible or otherwise evident and provides an historical context for them, with the interested visitor in mind. This selection of cultural features is presented in the following twenty-five sections.

Archaeology

The archaeology of Galloway is rich and varied and includes some of the most important sites and monuments in Scotland. Recent excavations at Dunragit have revealed the earliest evidence for occupation in south-west Scotland, a Mesolithic settlement dating from around 8,000 BCE. Other Mesolithic sites, the temporary camps of hunters, gatherers and foragers, have been discovered along the Machars coastline and also at inland locations such as Kirkcowan and Loch Doon. During the Neolithic period, 4000 – 2500 BCE, people came together to erect huge timber ceremonial monuments at places like Dunragit near Stranraer and Holywood in the Nith Valley on Galloway's western border. These same people buried their dead in impressive stone tombs, some of which can still be seen at Cairnholy, Glentrool and New Luce, and they also created the beautiful and enigmatic cup-and-ring rock carvings for which Galloway is famous. During the later prehistoric period, from around 2500 BCE to 400 CE, there was extensive settlement across Galloway which has left an astonishing array of archaeological sites. Field boundaries, hut circles and burial mounds on Garheugh Fell, and Auchenmalg form parts of fossilised landscapes where Bronze Age farmers lived and worked. The Galloway coast has the largest concentration of Iron Age forts anywhere in the country as well as some unusual sites such as the brochs at Stairhaven and Ardwell and the dun at Castlehaven, Borgue.

For a couple of decades after 80 CE and again from 139 to 161 CE Galloway was on the edge of the Roman Empire. As the Roman army advanced into south-west Scotland it built temporary camps at Lochrutton, Glenlochar, Glenluce and Girvan. Later a road was constructed from Carlisle towards Stranraer with a large, permanent fort controlling a crossing of the Dee at Glenlochar. Smaller forts were built at Gatehouse and Bladnoch.

Language and Place-names

The wide variety of place-names found in Galloway is the result of a complex multilingual history when different languages were spoken across Galloway, often at the same time and in the same areas. The original Brittonic language spoken in Galloway was probably the common language spoken across Britain in the pre-Roman era. Old Welsh developed from it and the place-name “Threave” near Castle Douglas is an example of an Old Welsh survival, meaning “The Farm”. Anglo-Saxon or English-speaking Northumbrians from the east took control of much of Galloway in the later 7th century CE, bringing names such as “Twynholm” to the area. A little later, the *Gall-Ghàidheil*, (the foreigner Gaels) arrived from Ireland via Argyll or directly from Ulster, speaking Gaelic influenced by the Norse language, the result of a cultural mixing following the Norse settlement of Dublin in the 9th century CE. It may be these people who gave the place-names “Borgue” and “Rascarrel” – both hard-sounding Norse-derived names. Quite probably all three languages – Old Welsh, Gaelic and Northumbrian English - were in use in different parts of Galloway at this time. It is unclear when the Brittonic language ceased to be spoken in Galloway, but probably long before Gaelic is believed to have gone out of use in the 16th century.

The legacy of place-names from this linguistic mix provides evidence for the settlement of Galloway by people of different ethnic origin in the early medieval period. This is a period of Galloway’s history which is currently the subject of close attention following the discovery of the Galloway Hoard, believed to have been deposited around 900 CE. A complex picture is emerging where multilingualism and multiculturalism may have been the norm implying an intermingling of peoples in Galloway from several origins, each bringing different customs and beliefs into the area.

Castles and Tower-houses

Medieval castles and other defended buildings are a feature of Galloway's historic environment. Their scale and design reflects the social, political and economic conditions prevailing at the time of their construction. The physical security of their occupiers against perceived or actual external threats and the desire to project power and authority within their immediate locality, are at least two factors which influenced the design of defended buildings.

In Galloway, at least three types of defended buildings can be identified spanning the period from 1150 to 1600. It has the highest density of surviving 12th-century timber castle mounds or mottes in Scotland. Many are relatively small, for example those adjacent to Parton and Twynholm churches, but the Motte of Urr near Dalbeattie is very large and one of the best surviving motte-and-bailey castles in Scotland. It is thought that many of the smaller mottes were erected rapidly as places of security for the Anglo-Norman knights brought into the area by the Lords of Galloway specifically to reinforce their local control, and not therefore necessarily popular!

Larger castles, on the scale of the Motte of Urr, were constructed in stone in the 13th-century by the leading feudal families in the area, for example at Buittle near Dalbeattie for the Balliol family and Threave near Castle Douglas for the Douglas. The latter was besieged by the royal forces in 1455 as part of a nationwide crackdown on the overmighty Douglas family. The extensive ruins of this nationally important castle are now managed by Historic Environment Scotland.

The defeat of the Douglas family and the power vacuum which it left is thought to have prompted the building of tower-houses - smaller multi-storey defended houses, often on an L-plan, built by local lairds. These are still very evident across Galloway, and prominent examples are Cardoness Castle near Gatehouse of Fleet and the Castle of St John in the centre of Stranraer, both open to the public. As a more secure and peaceful environment prevailed in the later 16th century, the previous emphasis on defensive needs gave way to the provision of more comfortable living spaces in the design of these structures, for example at Dunskey Castle, near Portpatrick and MacLellans Castle in Kirkcudbright.

The Wars of Independence

Galloway played an important role in the first war of independence (1296-1328), mainly because many of the key families – the Bruce, Balliol and Comyn – held estates in south-west Scotland. Much of the story relates to Robert the Bruce. After his self-coronation and subsequent exile in 1306, Bruce returned to Scotland and carried out a guerrilla operation against the English in the Galloway hills: this culminated in a successful fight at Glentool in 1307, an encounter that changed the fortunes of Bruce and his supporters and led ultimately to victory at Bannockburn in 1314. But Galloway remained a centre of opposition to Bruce and in 1308 the region was ravaged in a savage attack led by Robert's brother, Edward.

Many sites associated with the wars of independence can still be seen, including Bruce's castle at Loch Doon, the remains of the royal castles at Kirkcudbright and Wigtown, the Balliol stronghold at Buittle and the Comyn family castle at Cruggleton. Edward I used Kirkcudbright Castle as a base for his campaign in Galloway in 1300, sheltering a fleet of 58 supply ships in the Dee estuary. Bruce's Stone at Glentool commemorates the skirmish of 1307 and Bruce's Stone at Clatteringshaws traditionally marks the site of another battle against the English. Whithorn too has connections with the wars of independence: Edward Prince of Wales – later King Edward II of England - visited Ninian's shrine in 1301 during the English campaign into Galloway and Robert the Bruce made a pilgrimage there just before his death in 1328.

The Medieval Bruce Trust promotes this important period of Scottish history in Dumfries and Galloway region and has published self-guided tourist trails around Galloway and placed a series of information panels at key sites in the area.

Monasteries and Churches

After the fall of Roman Britain, Galloway provides rare evidence for the survival of the Christian Church in Scotland in the form of three Latin-inscribed memorials at Kirkmadrine in Wigtownshire dating from the 6th century. Nine later memorials dating from the 8th century onwards suggest a well-established Christian community, which continued into the early medieval period. Tradition states that the Christian community at Whithorn was established by St Ninian in the early 5th century, and certainly Whithorn became a major ecclesiastical centre and bishopric when Galloway became part of the kingdom of Northumbria around 700. Probably by 800 an early stone church dedicated to the Northumbrian St. Cuthbert had also been erected on a site in the present St Cuthbert's Cemetery near Kirkcudbright, a significant enough building to give its name to the later burgh and county capital of Kirkcudbright. Most recently, the discovery of the remarkable Galloway Hoard at Balmaghie and subsequent archaeological investigation of the site has suggested the existence of a fourth major Christian centre, linked to the Northumbrian church and in existence by 900.

Against this nationally significant background for the history of the early Church in Scotland, the Lords of Galloway oversaw the continued development of Church organisation in the establishment of deaneries and parishes from the late 12th century, and the development of Whithorn as a pilgrimage centre of national importance. At parish level churches and chapels were built. Mirroring the establishment of abbeys in the Scottish Borders, particularly by the Kings of Scotland, the Lords of Galloway founded abbeys across the region particularly for the Cistercian and Premonstratensian orders, the ruins of which survive as significant historic sites, notably at Glenluce, Dundrennan and Sweetheart and Whithorn. The agricultural impact of these foundations is as yet poorly understood but probably significant in extensive sheep farming for wool production and possibly also river and estuary fishing for salmon.

Whithorn and Scotland's first saint

Whithorn, despite its small size, is one of the most significant towns in Galloway. Tradition links Whithorn with St. Ninian, Scotland's first saint, who is said to have built a stone church here by the mid-5th century. Archaeological excavation has confirmed that there was a settlement, perhaps a royal centre, here by the 450s and the 5th-century Latinus Stone, now displayed in Whithorn's Priory museum, is the earliest known Christian memorial in Scotland. By the 10th century Whithorn was one of the largest towns in the region, made rich by its trade with Viking Dublin and the Isle of Man. During the Middle Ages the town became a centre of pilgrimage, with people travelling from across Scotland and beyond to visit Whithorn Priory and the relics of St Ninian. Among the pilgrims seeking the saint's healing powers were Robert the Bruce and James IV. Pilgrimage was banned in Scotland in the 1560s and Whithorn quickly went from being one of the nation's most important religious centres to the small town we see today. Whithorn still retains its medieval streetscape and the Priory Museum and Whithorn Trust's visitor centre tell the story of the town and church.

The concept of a pilgrimage route has been revived recently by the Whithorn Trust, with 'The Whithorn Way' – a 143 mile walking and cycling route from Glasgow Cathedral down the west coast of Scotland to Whithorn.

Towns and Burghs

One of the characteristics of Galloway is its small towns, spread across the landscape but largely located on the Solway / Irish Sea coast or in the fertile lowlands of the south rather than the northern uplands. Most were formally established with their own burgh charter, conferring varying degrees of self-government and rights and privileges designed to establish and maintain regular markets for the exchange of goods. These provisions encouraged trade and manufacturing. Burghs were established by the Crown (Royal Burghs) or local landowners. While most succeeded, there are several examples of failures and abandonment, for example at Innermessan (15th century and probably earlier) near Stranraer in the west and Preston (1663) near Kirkbean in the east, where the market cross is all that remains of this former burgh. New Galloway (1630) had the distinction of being the smallest Royal Burgh in Scotland.

Burghs established by the Crown are amongst the earliest and include Wigtown (1292), Whithorn (1511), and Kirkcudbright (1455, but possibly earlier in 1330). Dumfries (1186), just outwith the traditional boundary of Galloway on the east bank of the River Nith, was the earliest foundation in the present Dumfries and Galloway Region. Wigtown and Kirkcudbright became the county towns for Wigtownshire and Kirkcudbrightshire (more exactly The Stewartry of Kirkcudbright). Royal Burghs had the privilege of conducting foreign trade, enabling ports such as Kirkcudbright to export wool and sheepskins and import French wine in the 16th century.

The economic initiative of local landowners established burghs in the 17th and early 18th centuries – Stranraer (1617), Glenluce (1705), Newton Stewart (1677), Minnigaff (1619). Several present-day towns were also established by their landowners in the later 18th and 19th centuries, for example Creetown (1791), Gatehouse of Fleet (1795), Castle Douglas (1791), and Dalbeattie (1862).

Local Government reform in 1975 saw the abolition of the burghs as local government units and their replacement by District Councils. Nevertheless Community Councils in former burghs have retained the right to use the burgh title 'Provost' for their Chairmen, and the use of the ceremonial robes and insignia of their former burgh. This has helped to maintain civic pride and a sense of particular identity in these towns.

The Covenanters

Civil unrest marred the latter half of the 17th century in Galloway, driven by religious discord which brought the Scottish Presbyterian church into conflict with the Stuart monarchy over the organisational structure of the church in Scotland and its forms of worship. The signing of the National Covenant in parishes across Scotland in 1638 demonstrated grass-roots opposition against the aim of the Stuart monarchy to establish a uniform church across Britain, based on the English church. The restoration of the monarchy after the English Civil War renewed state persecution of Covenanters, leading to the Pentland Rising of 1666 which began in Galloway in Dalry and culminated in the disastrous defeat of a Covenanter force in the Pentland Hills near Edinburgh. However, popular support for the Presbyterian church remained strong in several parts of Galloway and in Ayrshire. Persecution for non-conformity included fines, confiscations and imprisonment. The Scottish government's attempts to suppress outdoor services or conventicles by military force led to armed clashes at Drumclog and Bothwell Brig in 1679. Concerns about the loyalty of the Covenanters, particularly when Britain was at war with Dutch, brought the conflict to its peak in 'The Killing Times' of 1684-1685, when failure to swear the Oath of Abjuration and thereby demonstrate loyalty to the Crown, led to summary execution of Covenanters by the military. In reaction, a militant wing of the Covenanters carried out ambushes on the military and on one occasion attacked Kirkcudbright's Tolbooth to release the Covenanters held there

This brutal phase of Galloway's history has left a tangible legacy of memorials and monuments to the Presbyterian martyrs. Several kirkyards in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright have headstones or table stones to Covenanters executed at this time. These were first erected in the early 18th century. They were conscientiously maintained in the later 18th century by travelling stonemason Robert Paterson, whose story inspired Walter Scott to write his novel *Old Mortality*. Larger memorials in the form of obelisks were also erected in both the Stewartry and Wigtownshire, notably in Wigtown where the Covenanters Memorial, erected in 1858, commemorates the executions by drowning of Margaret McLachlan and Margaret Wilson in 1685. The Rutherford Monument on the Anwoth Hills near Gatehouse-of-Fleet commemorates Samuel Rutherford, former minister of Anwoth in the 1630s, and one of the leading Presbyterian theologians at this time.

Landowners

Until comparatively recently large areas of Galloway were owned by a small number of dominant families. The families of McCulloch, McDowall and Agnew had all owned land in the Rhins since the Middle Ages, the latter having Lochnaw Castle near Leswalt as their base. The Maxwells of Monreith had extensive land holdings in the Machars and were responsible for the construction of the planned village of Port William, named after Sir William Maxwell, in the 1770s. Another family member was the Scottish historian, writer and antiquarian Sir Herbert Maxwell. The Stewarts were major landowners in the Machars and the Cree Valley, part of the family being the Earls of Galloway who built Galloway House at Garlieston. The largest Wigtownshire estates were - and still are - owned by the Dalrymples, Earls of Stair, who built Lochinch Castle at Castle Kennedy. John Dalrymple, the 1st Earl of Stair, was Secretary of State for Scotland, but is remembered today as the person who authorised the massacre of Glencoe in 1692.

The Dunbar family of Baldoon, Wigtownshire, became prosperous through their improvements in cattle raising in the 17th century, and moved east to develop the St Mary's Isle estate near Kirkcudbright. The family acquired the title of Earl of Selkirk through marriage into the Douglas family. Lord Daer, son of the 4th Earl, was one of the leading agricultural improvers in the Stewartry in the late 18th century. Farm steadings were rebuilt, new roads laid and woodlands planted, effectively changing the appearance of the landscape around Kirkcudbright and in the lower Dee valley. Further east, William Craik was an equally successful agricultural improver on the Arbigland estate overlooking the Nith.

From the end of the 18th century, new landowners, with a successful background in trade and commerce, begin to buy estates in Galloway and build mansions for themselves. Notable among these were the Douglas family, successful merchants in America; William Douglas purchased the Gelston Estate, and built the new town of Castle Douglas. This trend which saw 'new money' coming into Galloway continued through the 19th century and up to the First World War, exemplified by James Brown, a Manchester department store owner, who acquired the Knockbren estate near Gatehouse-of-Fleet and built Knockbren House with other estate buildings, including the remarkably ornate Corseyard Dairy or 'Coo Palace' as it became locally known.

Mansion Houses and Estates

As society became generally more peaceful and secure from the later 16th through to the end of the 17th century, so the design of houses of the wealthiest families moved away from a primary emphasis on security to a demand for more comfortable and prestigious accommodation, as appropriate for the social status of the occupants. Consequently, the size and style of their principal dwellings were increasingly more important factors. MacLellan's Castle in Kirkcudbright, built in 1571, is an early transitional example of this trend, where some defensive features were retained, yet the dimensions and features of the main rooms reflect a desire to create a comfortable and impressive living space, a fitting 'palace' for a local landowning family, dominant in the affairs of the town. The spectacularly-sited early 16th century Dunskey Castle near Portpatrick was similarly extended to provide more comfortable quarters in the earlier 17th century.

More settled times prevailed from the early 18th encouraging both the expansion and improvement of agricultural estates and the development of overseas trade. This generally brought prosperity to both the older landed families and the newer mercantile families, the latter desirous to express their social status through the acquisition of estates. Mansion houses, often closely linked with a home farm or estate offices, were the centres of estates and therefore merited the appropriate architectural scale and aesthetic attention. New building or upgrading of existing buildings in the latest architectural styles, followed from the mid 18th century through to the early 20th century, leaving the Galloway landscape with a significant architectural legacy. Despite the loss of many houses, outstanding examples remain such as 18th century Cally Palace near Gatehouse-of-Fleet and 19th century Lochinch Castle, near Castle Kennedy.

Planned Towns and Villages

As elsewhere in Scotland, in the later 18th century Galloway saw both an increase in population, (which created a need for more housing), and an entrepreneurial drive in trading and manufacturing to service growing demand both locally and more distantly. The expansion of existing towns followed, for example in Stranraer, Wigtown and Kirkcudbright, but new villages were also established, particularly linked to new manufacturing enterprises. Their foundation can be seen as a form of estate development by their respective landowners, for example at Gatehouse-of-Fleet (by James Murray of Broughton & Cally) and Castle Douglas (by Sir William Douglas of Gelston). Both of these villages acquired burghal status, conferring a degree of municipal self-government. The streets of both were also laid out on a grid pattern and both were also planned to become centres for cotton manufacture. Kirkpatrick Durham was another late 18th century planned village, established by the Rev. David Lamont, but one which did not develop to the same extent as the previous two examples. The planned layout of these three examples can still be appreciated, together with other heritage features such as street names, as for example Birtwhistle Street in Gatehouse (after the Yorkshire cattle-dealing family which developed the town in partnership with James Murray) and Cotton Street in Castle Douglas (after its intended manufacturing base).

These and other late 18th / early 19th initiatives established the geographical settlement pattern which still prevails today, albeit with the subsequent peripheral expansion of most communities in lowland Galloway, driven by the need to accommodate a growing population.

Vernacular Building

There are few surviving vernacular buildings built before the mid-18th in Galloway. These low, poorly ventilated timber buildings usually with a thatched roof were swept away to allow the building of more substantial, spacious and weather-proof housing. These buildings still form the core of Galloway's towns and villages. They are typically single or two storey with two or three bays, constructed of local materials, predominantly whinstone, but also granite – for example in Creetown or Dalbeattie. Clay, made weather resistant with a limewash render, was commonly used as a building material in the Stranraer area. Most were built in the period from the late 18th century to the mid 19th century. Roofs were generally thatched, but slated from the early 19th century.

In the countryside, the traditional Galloway farmhouse and associated steading appeared in the later 18th century, following a standard pattern matched with the need of improved agriculture and estate management. The steading, arranged around a courtyard, might include a cattle byre, dairy (possibly including provision for cheesemaking) and mill barn for the processing of animal feed, with a nearby mill dam and lade to channel the water required to drive the mill wheels. While this pattern of farm layout remained up to the mid-20th century, changes in agriculture, particularly in dairying, have rendered the traditional farm steading largely redundant, prompting eventual demolition or conversion into accommodation, particularly for the tourist market.

Agriculture and Forestry

Galloway has always had a mixed farming economy with an emphasis on cattle and dairying. The modern agricultural landscape is a product of the later 18th / early 19th century when landowners began to enclose their estates and experiment with new cereals, improve stock and introduce more efficient forms of farm management. Galloway was at the forefront of agricultural improvement at this time. The area also played an important role in the import and rearing of Irish cattle and the droving of cattle into England. As the land was enclosed many tenant farmers and their families were evicted. The abandoned cottages and steadings that can still be seen across Galloway, especially in the more marginal areas, bear witness to what has been called the Lowland Clearances.

By the middle of the 19th century there was an increased demand for milk from the growing towns of Scotland's Central Belt and northern England. Making use of the new railway network, Galloway became an important centre for dairying with large creameries established at Stranraer, Dunragit, Wigtown, Whithorn and Kirkcudbright. Ayrshire cattle, with their high-milk yield, are still a familiar sight in Galloway. Farm cheesemaking was formerly an important local activity, and artisan cheesemaking is seeing a revival. Large scale commercial cheesemaking is now centered on Stranraer.

Galloway's woodlands have long been an important part of the region's economy and during the 18th century were an important source of charcoal for the Cumbrian iron industry. Mass forestry began in the 1920s as the newly-formed Forestry Commission began to acquire and plant large areas of marginal upland. Timber production increased dramatically in the post-war years. The Galloway Forest Park was designated in 1947 and villages were built at Glentroll and Dundough to house the new forestry work force.

Dykes, Levellers and Billy Marshall

Stone dykes are a distinctive and characteristic feature of the Galloway landscape and the result of the drive towards improved livestock management in the early 18th century, prompted by growing demand from English markets. The enclosure of land for pasture by the construction stone dykes was certainly a more efficient agriculture practice but it came at the expense of smaller tenant farmers and cottars, who lost their farms and small holdings. In parts of Galloway, particularly in the Stewartry, there was a counter-reaction and from 1724-25 organised bands of so-called Levellers demolished the dykes. This civil unrest alarmed local landowners and prompted them to request military assistance from the Government to defend their property. After several skirmishes and arrests, the movement was eventually suppressed.

Described as a 'Rising' at the time, it was a rare example of a popular revolt against agricultural change, and some landowners and local clergy were sympathetic to the Leveller cause, conscious of the social consequences of this aspect of agricultural improvement. As recent research has shown, the Levellers could also claim the moral high ground, pointing out that some of the enclosing landowners were the very same who had been supporters of the recent Jacobite rebellion in 1715, which had been resisted by the smaller tenant farmers now victimised. All this tied in with earlier memories of the Covenanters' sufferings in the defence of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland against the authority of the Crown.

One of the leaders of the Levellers, was said to be the so-called gypsy king, Billy Marshall. A former soldier with military experience, he had served in King William's army at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 and also in the campaigns of the Duke of Marlborough.

Emigrants and Immigrants

Evidence for the movement of people in and out of Galloway can be traced back to prehistoric times. But over the last four centuries, and particularly from the late 18th century, emigration has been a particular feature of Galloway's social history. Rising population outpaced local employment opportunities, leading to emigration to England and other parts of Scotland, and overseas to America, the West Indies, Australia and New Zealand.

The earliest emigration movement from Galloway was to Ulster in the early 17th when Sir Robert MacLellan, Lord Kirkcudbright, was one of the principal figures in the plantation of Ulster. He encouraged Galloway people to settle on his estates in Ulster. His interest in emigration and that of his colleague, Sir Robert Gordon, Lord Lochinvar, explains why in 1622 Kirkcudbright was selected as the departure port for the first Scottish emigration vessel to sail to Canada. Two hundred years later, the 4th Earl of Selkirk, based at St Mary's Isle, Kirkcudbright, was one of the key figures in the settlement in Canada of Highland families 'cleared' from the land.

England was the main destination for Galloway emigrants from the later 18th century, particularly to Lancashire where the development of the cotton industry provided employment in relatively close proximity to Galloway. The Murray family of Parton and the McConnel and Kennedy families of New Galloway became prominent leaders in this industry.

Emigrants to the southern states of America and to the West Indies found opportunity in the cotton and sugar plantations, and in New York, Kirkcudbright families such as the Lenox, Maitland and Cochrane were especially prosperous in banking and retail. After the American War of Independence, emigration to Australia and New Zealand became more common particularly for Galloway emigrants with agricultural skills. The more successful emigrants retained close links with Galloway and in the 19th century are recorded as benefactors for homeland projects such as church and school building. Several returned to Galloway to purchase country estates and initiate local manufacturing projects.

Historically, most immigration into Galloway has come from Ireland. This was at its height during the famine years of the 1840s when hundreds of dispossessed Irish families crossed to south-west Scotland in search of work. Stranraer had a particularly large Irish settlement.

Industry and Water Power

Galloway's natural reserves of stone and minerals supported a number of locally important quarries and mines during the 18th and 19th centuries. Major granite quarries were opened up at Dalbeattie and Creetown in the 1820s with much of the stone being used in the construction of the docks at Liverpool and Preston and also on the Thames Embankment. Crushed Galloway granite was also in great demand as rail track bedding. Creetown and Dalbeattie both grew significantly as quarrying communities.

Lead has been exploited across the region with large mines developing at Blackcraig near Newton Stewart and at Woodhead near Carsphairn. Woodhead opened in the 1830s and the surviving remains of the smelt mill, the miners' housing and the mine library and school are now a ghost town in the Galloway hills. Copper was also worked at a number of sites in the Stewartry. One of the most important Victorian mines was at Pibble near Creetown where the dramatic ruins of a Cornish engine house, built for a huge steam pumping-engine, can still be seen .

Every Galloway town and larger village had a range of workshop and craft industries to meet the needs of the local populace - blacksmiths, shoemakers etc. Manufacturing on a larger scale was rare in a predominantly agricultural area, but included enterprises linked directly to local agriculture including grain mills, distilleries, (still existent at Bladnoch) and agricultural engineers, such as Wallace's foundry at Castle Douglas which pioneered the development of milking machinery. Attempts to introduce larger scale industries largely failed, but have left a built legacy of former cotton and woollen mills at Gatehouse-of-Fleet and Newton Stewart, and, remarkably, a car factory at Tongland.

Galloway's rivers have been harnessed to provide power. During the 1930s a series of dams were built on the Ken, Dee, Deugh and Doon as part of a massive hydroelectric scheme to supply additional power to the National Grid. At the time this was the largest hydro-electric scheme in the UK. The power stations at Glenlee and Tongland are fine examples of Scottish modernist industrial architecture.

Transport

The modern A75 broadly follows the route of a Roman road that ran through Galloway to a presumed settlement or fort on the shores of Loch Ryan. The line of the Roman road continued in use throughout the Middle Ages but in the 1760s the government constructed a new route, the Military Road, from Carlisle to Port Patrick. Port Patrick was then the principal crossing point between Scotland and Ireland. The new road followed the line of the Roman road in many places but between Gatehouse and Creetown it took a more northerly route along the hilly Corse of Slakes.

The railways came late to Galloway. The main line from Dumfries to Stranraer and Portpatrick was only completed in 1862 and the connection between Glasgow and Stranraer, via Girvan, was made in 1877. Branch lines served the Wigtownshire Machars and Kirkcudbright. With the arrival of the railway, Stranraer developed as the principal ferry port for Northern Ireland and by the 1880s there was a regular paddle-steamer service between Loch Ryan and Larne. By the mid-20th century the Stranraer-Larne service was operated directly by British Railways. The Stranraer to Dumfries railway, known affectionately as the Paddy Line, closed in 1965.

Galloway has a long coastline and many historic ports and harbours. Wigtown and Kirkcudbright were both important medieval ports, and during the 18th century Kirkcudbright had an active trade with the West Indies. Smaller harbours, such as Drummore, had a local coastal trade and also brought in coal from Cumbria. Lead ore was exported from the tiny Palnure harbour to north Wales for smelting, and granite from Creetown and Dalbeattie was carried by sea to Liverpool and London. For much of the 19th century, a regular passenger paddle-steamer service linked the Galloway ports of Wigtown, Garlieston and Kirkcudbright with Liverpool. There are several lighthouses along the Galloway coast including Mull of Galloway (Robert Stevenson 1830), Port Logan (Thomas Telford, 1818) and Little Ross (Alan Stevenson, 1843). There were also small but locally significant ship-building yards at Stranraer, Garlieston, Kirkcudbright and Palnackie.

Trade and Smuggling

With its long coastline facing on to the Irish Sea and Solway Firth, Galloway has a long history of trading, coastwise between Galloway's ports or eastwards across the Solway to Cumbria, or southwards to the Isle of Man, Liverpool and beyond, or westwards to Ireland. Longer distance trade to the Mediterranean from the early medieval period onwards is indicated by archaeological finds from Whithorn and records in local burgh archives, for example the import of wine from the Bordeaux region into Kirkcudbright in the 16th century. Transatlantic trade followed in the 18th century with the import of cotton, tobacco, sugar and timber from the West Indies, United States and Canada. While most of this trade was carried on with import duties paid appropriately, the proximity of the Isle of Man with its lower customs rates provided an opportunity to land goods there, and then convey them secretly in smaller vessels to the Galloway coast. Recent research has demonstrated that otherwise legitimate merchant companies were behind this form of customs evasion, which was widely regarded as socially acceptable. Featuring in Galloway literature such as S R Crockett's *The Raiders*, smuggling has left a romantic legacy of landing places, contraband caves and clashes with excisemen.

Before the establishment of the railway network in the later 19th century and the development of the modern road system, Galloway's ports were essential for the export of agricultural goods and the import of raw materials, particularly coal and lime from Cumbria. Evidence of a former, more extensive maritime infrastructure can be found along the Galloway coast in the form of quays and breakwaters, as at Garlieston, and beacons and lighthouses, such as the early example at Southernness (1748 and later).

Mercantile prosperity helped regenerate the port towns and villages, resulting in the rebuilding of property in the older medieval burghs such as Wigtown and Kirkcudbright

Fishing

Historically, sea fishing has never been an important element in Galloway's economy. But during the 19th century and the early years of the 20th century huge shoals of herring were occasionally found off the Galloway coast and for a few years Portpatrick and Stranraer were active ports, with thousand of tons of fish being processed and transported by railway to England. Much of the fishing was done by commercial fleets from north-east Scotland and as the herring moved away so did the fishermen.

More recently, sea fishing for scallops from Kirkcudbright has become commercially important, and the port is now the most active for fishing in Dumfries and Galloway region. From a small enterprise in local coastal waters, a fleet of over twenty fishing vessels now operate out of the port to fish waters around the UK, landing catches in other ports. However, much of the catch is processed in a factory in Kirkcudbright for the UK and European markets.

There has always been a small local oyster fishing industry. There is a tradition that the right to harvest Loch Ryan oysters was first granted by King Robert I and by 1900 there was a commercial oyster farm operating at Cairnryan. This is the only active oyster fishery now operating in Scotland. During Victorian times the Colchester oyster fleet used to make annual trips to the Isle of Whithorn to fish local waters and many Essex fishermen had a Galloway wife.

In the past, river fishing for salmon was more commercially important than sea fishing. The rivers Ken and Dee were particularly important both for sport and commercial fishing. Documentary evidence indicates that the Dee was an important fishery around 1300, when Robert I granted Whithorn Abbey a share of the fishing rights on the Kirkcudbright Dee. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the lease of the Kirkcudbright burgh's fishing rights also generated a significant portion of the town's municipal income. A commercial salmon fishery at Tongland, latterly operated by the St Mary's Isle estate, exported salmon to Billingsgate, London. The construction of the Galloway Hydro-Electric scheme in the 1930s led to the demise of this fishery.

Poetry and Literature

Galloway has a strong connection with the writing of literature and poetry, particularly from the 18th century, when it embraced writers native to the area and incomers who found inspiration in Galloway's landscape, history, traditions and culture. Galloway's literary history is a distinct topic in itself, which has been the subject of general surveys as well as specific studies of the lives and works of particular authors.

The setting of novels in Galloway has been significant in introducing its landscapes and communities to a wider audience. Examples include John Buchan's *Thirty-Nine Steps* (1915) and Dorothy L Sayers *Five Red Herrings* (1931), as well as S R Crockett's *The Raiders* (1894) and *The Men of the Moss Hags* (1895). Born in Balmaghie and schooled in Castle Douglas, the Rev. S. R. Crockett's popular success as a novelist led him to give up the ministry to concentrate on his writing. He drew on his knowledge of Galloway's landscape, history and culture, as background for his novels. In the same way, Sir Walter Scott found material for some of his novels in Galloway's history and traditions. These stories were collected and conveyed to him by his local amanuensis, Joseph Train.

While Robert Burns is more closely associated with Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire, his tour of Galloway in 1793 with John Syme resulted in the writing of *Scots Wha Hae* and other poems. Burns knew the 4th Earl of Selkirk and especially the Earl's son and heir, Lord Daer, whose egalitarianism and radical political outlook, Burns found engaging. Though Burns' *Selkirk Grace* may have been a reworking of a much earlier traditional work, it is believed to have been recited by him at a dinner in the Earl's St. Mary's Isle mansion, near Kirkcudbright.

The prominence of Burns in Dumfries and Galloway region has overshadowed the work of other contemporary local poets. Typical of these was William Nicholson, a travelling pedlar from Borgue, who John Mactaggart described as "a rustic bard of the first degree...he may rank with any but Burns". Nicholson represents a tradition of writing poetry and literature which was rooted in the Galloway landscape and the rural life which it supported. This continued through to the 20th century in the work of Ian Nicol (writing as John McNeillie) in his *Wigtown Ploughman* (1939) and *A Galloway Childhood* (1967), which are valuable historical records of a Galloway rural life now past.

John Mactaggart and the Scottish Gallovidian Encyclopedia

John Mactaggart (1797-1830) was one of Scotland's first ethnographers, publishing his *Scottish Gallovidian Encyclopedia* in 1824. Born in Borgue, in Kirkcudbrightshire, he came from a relatively humble background, but his intellect and natural ability led to a successful career in civil engineering, including working on the construction of the Rideau Canal in Canada and the installation of municipal gas lighting in various towns and cities in England. He was a curious observer from an early age, prompting him to write his *Encyclopedia*, which is part dictionary of the Galloway dialect, part record of folklore, superstition and customs, part history and biography and part anthology of poetry. Although Symson in his *Large Description of Galloway* (1671) was the first to attempt a comprehensive description of Galloway, Mactaggart was one of the first to observe that Galloway was distinctly different from the rest of Scotland, as he describes in his dictionary entry for 'Gallowa'.

GALLOWA - A large district or shire. Ranging along the south of Scotland, anciently much larger than now, stretching in the days of yore, from the English border to the Irish Firth, a distance of more than a hundred miles. Its breadth has not varied much, being naturally cut off, as it were, by a range of wild bleak moors. ..The manners, customs, and language of the peasantry differing from those belonging to the rest of Scotland, I was induced to say something respecting them, being fond of curiosity, and I have not confined myself to the Galloway of modern days, but to the ancient Gallovidia, Gallwallia or Gallwegia.

Traditions, Customs and Superstitions

Because of its relatively isolated and rural location, Galloway has a rich trove of folklore. As far back as the late 17th century Andrew Symson, minister at Kirkinner, was writing about the curative powers of the region's many holy or healing wells. Mactaggart's *Gallovidian Encyclopedia*, published in 1824, faithfully records the then still popular belief in supernatural beings and their interventions in daily life. But whether he found brownies, elves, and fairies credible himself – he makes no comment. During the 19th century a growing number of local people took an interest in recording the region's folklore, including Joseph Train from Newton Stewart who passed on many Galloway tales to Sir Walter Scott. In the 1890s the region was visited by the professional folklorist Walter Gregor who travelled throughout the area talking to local people and recording details of everyday customs and beliefs; his report is a fascinating and unique account of the folklore of Galloway.

Customs surrounded the celebration of different seasons throughout the year, for example Hogmanay and Beltane (1st May). Similarly there were a range of customs and superstitions about the three significant Life events – birth, marriage and death. Paradoxically, the Kirk, though strongly discouraging superstitious belief, yet through its fundamental teaching of the existence of God and the Devil - good and evil - provided the context for popular belief in evil spirits and evil-doers, especially witches. Persecuted and even burnt at the stake, as were some Galloway witches in the late 17th and early 18th, the belief in the existence of witchcraft continued into the early 19th century in Galloway.

Kirkcudbright's Art Heritage

Galloway has a unique place in the history of Scottish art especially through the town of Kirkcudbright, home to an artistic community from the late 19th century onwards, which even provided the setting for one of Dorothy L Sayers' Lord Peter Wimsey detective novels !

The town's association with art and artists can be traced back to the Faed family of artists from Gatehouse of Fleet, whose natural talent and commercial success inspired a younger generation of Kirkcudbright and Castle Douglas artists, subsequently grouped as the 'Kirkcudbright School'. The group included E A Hornel. His association with the 'Glasgow Boys' – particularly his friendship with James Guthrie and George Henry – introduced several Glasgow-based artists to Galloway. They appreciated the quality of its light, the range of its landscapes, and its cultural heritage. By 1900, Kirkcudbright's reputation as a convenient and welcoming town for artists was well-established and it continued to attract individual artists from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester and elsewhere throughout the early 20th century. Many came as visitors, but artists such as Jessie M King, E A Taylor and Charles Oppenheimer became permanent residents and formed the core of a significant local artistic community, which continued into the 1970s. Though unique in Scotland, parallels to Kirkcudbright's art community can be found in Newlyn and St Ives in Cornwall, and Pont Aven in Brittany. Recently, the relocation to Kirkcudbright of several established artists and printmakers signals a 'Renaissance' in the town's artistic community.

This authentic artistic heritage serves both as a foundation for creative activity throughout Galloway and a focus for present-day cultural tourism, reflected in Kirkcudbright's promotional branding as "The Artists' Town". Kirkcudbright Galleries, Broughton House, and the Kirkcudbright Art Tour retell the story of Kirkcudbright's art history while the creative output of contemporary artists and makers is displayed regularly in the Kirkcudbright Galleries, the Harbour Cottage Gallery, in several commercial galleries, in the annual Kirkcudbright Art and Craft Trail and more widely in Galloway through the highly successful annual Spring Fling open studios event. Art and craft making also has a major hub in the provision of a WASPS (Workshop and Artists Studio Provision Scotland) facility in the town, comprising 16 studios available for short-term let. This is the only WASPS facility in South-West Scotland, and only one of two in the South of Scotland as a whole.

Built and Landscape Impacts of two World Wars

During the First World War shipping in the North Channel was under constant threat of attack from German U-boats. In 1915 an airship base, RNAS Luce Bay, was opened at East Freugh near Stoneykirk to patrol the area and also to provide protection for ships on the all-important crossing between Stranraer and Larne in Northern Ireland.

Galloway, and especially the Loch Ryan area, was of strategic importance during the Second World War. The former Luce Bay airship station became part of RAF West Freugh, a new bomber training camp. It was used during trials for the Dam Buster raids and some of the concrete bomb targets can still be seen on Braid Fell above Luce Bay. There were other RAF training stations at Castle Kennedy and Wigtown and RAF Wig Bay, near Stranraer, became a major flying boat base providing protection for the Atlantic convoys. RAF Air-Sea Rescue bases with high-speed launches operated from Drummore in the south Rhins and Gibb Hill near Kirkcudbright, on the Dee estuary.

In 1943 Cairnryan was chosen as the site of Military Port No. 2, a deep-water harbour that was to be used if Liverpool or Glasgow were destroyed; a specially-built railway provided a connection with the main line at Stranraer. Loch Ryan and its military bases were protected by a ring of massive anti-aircraft stations and gun batteries, many of which still survive as reminders of the crucial role this part of Galloway played in the war effort.

The Wigtownshire coast was also chosen for trials of the Mulberry Harbour, floating concrete harbours used during the D-Day invasion in 1944; some Mulberry remains can be seen at Garlieston and at Cairnhead near Whithorn. Elsewhere in the region there were a number of other training camps, including a large tank range at Dundrennan, and a bombing range at Sandyhills. A major archaeological survey was undertaken by the former Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland to record the legacy from the different uses of the Dundrennan range from the Second World War through to the Cold War era. Galloway was also chosen as an area for munitions production and a large factory for the manufacture of cordite was built at Edingham near Dalbeattie. The remains of a range of different structures can still be seen there.

Museums, galleries and heritage interpretation

A number of museums, galleries and interpretation centres provide information on Galloway's cultural heritage.

Museums and Galleries - The principal collections relating to Galloway's cultural heritage are held by the museums and galleries operated by Dumfries and Galloway Council, through DG Culture. These are Dumfries Museum, Gracefield Galleries, Castle Douglas Art Gallery, Kirkcudbright Galleries, The Stewartry Museum, Wigtown Museum, Stranraer Museum, Castle of St John (Stranraer). Themed information on DG Culture's collections is accessible via the Future Museum website (<http://www.futuremuseum.co.uk/>).

Charitable trusts and community groups operate the following museums, galleries and heritage centres: Mull of Galloway Experience, The Whithorn Trust Visitor Centre, Newton Stewart Museum, Creetown Museum, The Mill on the Fleet, Harbour Cottage Gallery, Carsphairn Heritage Centre, CatStrand (New Galloway), Crossmichael Heritage Centre, Dalbeattie Museum, John Paul Jones' Birthplace Museum.

Historic Environment Scotland operates the Whithorn Priory Museum and the National Trust for Scotland operates Broughton House, Kirkcudbright.

The Creetown Gem Rock Museum is a privately-owned, independent museum.

Historic sites and monuments - Historic Environment Scotland maintains the following Galloway sites: Kirkmadrine Stones, Laggairn standing stones, Glenluce Abbey, Chapel Finian, Mochrum Mote, Drumtroddan rock art and standing stones, Whithorn Priory, Torhouse stone circle, Cairnholy chambered cairns, Cardoness Castle, MacLellan's Castle, Threave Castle, Dundrennan Abbey, Orchardton Tower, Sweetheart Abbey and New Abbey corn mill.

There are also a number of gardens open to the public which contain important historic landscapes and other heritage features. These include Threave Gardens, Castle Kennedy Gardens and Logan Gardens.

Interpretation centres - Forestry and Land Scotland operate interpretation centres at Kirroughtree, Clatteringshaws and Glentool, and manage the deserted farm-toun site of Polmaddy, near Carsphairn