

Lindertis - Oral Records / Reminiscences.

These notes were provided by the two grand-daughters of John Phillips who was gamekeeper at Lindertis for many years in the first part of the 20th century. He lived in what is now called Kennels Cottage. The two sisters lived in the lower flat in the West Wing of the castle after WWII. The notes are presented as given with any annotation shown in italics. The photographs were shown to the orators who made the associated notations.

I had a read through David Fawcett's account about the House in the Westmuir website www.westmuir.org.uk ... just to remind me of the dates of building/ownership etc – as I kept wondering when the gardens might have been important to Lindertis – when they were likely to be designed, laid out etc.

The first owner ran out of money rather quickly (he built the central castellated section of the house) so this was finished about 1817 – then after the death of Laing Meason – the lands and house were left to his son – who could not resolve the financial difficulties (death duties most likely) so Lindertis was then bought by the Munros in 1838.

Mr Laing Meason (according to David) laid out the policies and gardens – so that would have been some time 1817-1832. Perhaps not much achieved in that time though – if he was soon enough facing these 'financial difficulties'. (*According to Airlie: A Parish History published 1917, between 1814 and 1836 the 'Policies and Garden set out, extensive building and planting'.*)

The trustees of Sir Thomas Munro (Sir Hugh Munro's grandfather – *Sir Hugh Munro of hill-walking fame*) – would probably have done very little to the property and garden until their ward (also named Sir Thomas) became of age about 1840. More lands were bought for the Lindertis estate – and by 1864 the House was extended. This included the rather 'odd' West Wing. Quite a different style to the rest of Lindertis House but situated in the area where virtually all of the 'gardens' would be. The Policies area is perhaps the area originally designated by Laing Meason – but any other gardens would surely have been chewed up with the extensive building programme up to and around 1864.

So – I wonder if the 'West Wing' extension and the development of garden areas for Lindertis went hand in hand? I seem to recall flower beds north of the West Wing – so perhaps this was an area for cutting flowers for the house. The large glass house / veranda was open at south facing end – so was never used as a greenhouse. The Policies / large lawned area / circle of hollies / and the Rose Crown Garden were all to the West side of Lindertis. The only other designed garden area was at the front of the original Castellated Area. This was a fairly narrow strip – with the 'Ha-ha' as a boundary – flower border features – and steps down to a Sun Dial (which my sister thinks is now at Drumleys .

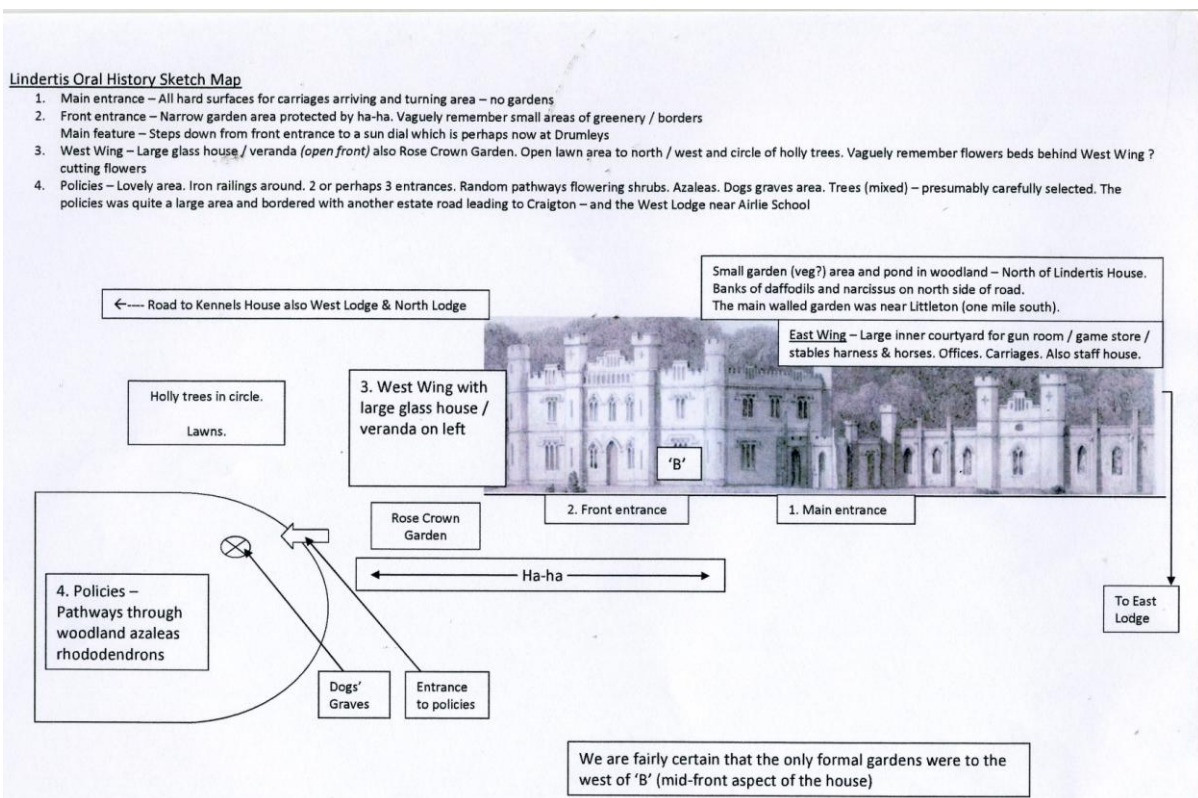
There were lots of driveways and estate 'roads' to maintain – so perhaps was quite costly for Lindertis owners. The drive from the House down to the East Wing was always well maintained – a really attractive driveway.

There were quite a few lodges (East Lodge / West Lodge / North Lodge / and Lendrick Lodge). It is likely that Glamis railway station was used a lot for guests – the (as happened for Glamis Castle) guests would be transported by horse drawn carriage to Lindertis via Lendrick.

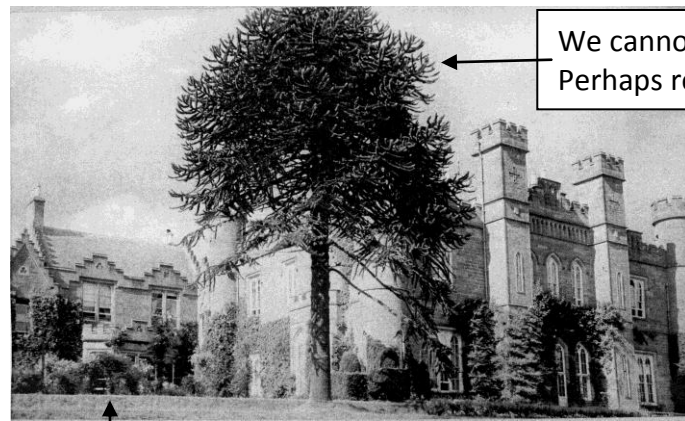
The last Lindertis gardener we know of was still around until about the early 1950s. (Jimmie Donaldson). Perhaps retired in the 1940s – and ended his gardening days at Drumleys.

Additional points from ad-hoc conversations:

- *The castle was demolished by Charles Brant (not stated if this was removal of the roof or the complete demolition)*
- *There was a dog cemetery nb this is shown on the sketch associated with these notes*
- *On the SW of the house, plantings of azaleas*
- *Mrs Cameron was in the upstairs flat of the West Wing in 1945*
- *I shall double check my Grandads name I always thought it was John - but he was called Jake by some folk - so maybe it was James or Jack ??? His son Willie became Gamie after him - so if you see the name Willie anywhere – discount that.*
- *Grandie Phillips stayed at the Kennels (this was the house built for the Estate Gamekeeper – so had kennels etc provided - just a couple of hundred yards beyond the Castle. Alisdair Hopkinson (Lord Colyton) now lives there - same house - but extended.*
- *There were three lodges for the three drives plus an additional drive that came across Egnomoss and Hundred Acre Wood*
- *The cottages at the back of the walled garden were integral to the upkeep of the walled garden*



a) Photograph - 1925 RCAHMS G91340PO Lindertis House



We cannot remember this tree
Perhaps removed 1930s 1940s

Rose Crown
Garden

Narrow flower border here?

b) Photograph - 1956 RCAHMS AN1571-8 View from SW



One of the angles from the Rose Crown Garden?

c) Photograph - 1962 RCAHMS G91338PO Detail from SW



Large Glass house
against West Wall.

Prpbably demolished
about 1950.

Frame for Rose
Crown Garden

d) Photograph - 1956 RCAHMS 1570-7 View from SW



Narrow front area with pathway
– then steps down to a sundial.
Perhaps a narrow lawn area and
borders. *Ha-ha would be here*

Maybe a photo (in Courier) of Miss Fiona Munro and Nicky
Hopkinson (engagement) – taken by sundial which was at
Drumleys gardens by then. Approx late 1950s.

e) Photograph - 1956 RCAHMS AN1573-15 View from N



Rear view

This is still the main farm road leading to the Kennels (*Cottage*) and Lindertis lands.

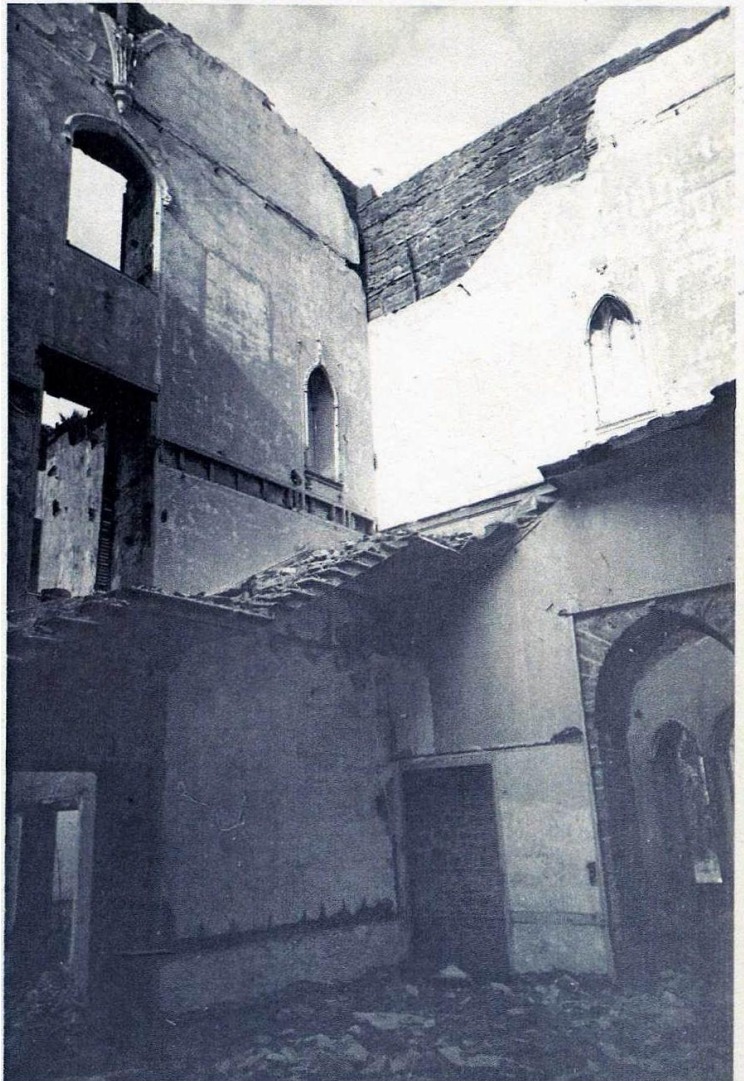
North of this road and in the woodland was a small garden area and a pond (*Shown on OS of 1861 and modern 2.5" to mile*).

A service 'delivery' road for the castle kitchens on the 'hidden' side of the hedge.

On main road from Kirriemuir, after Reddie Farm to East Lodge 'Spanish Oaks' Avenue. Planted by Sir Hugh Munro.

The main walled garden was at Drumleys. Approx 1 mile from Lindertis Castle.

f) Photograph - 1956 RCAHMS AN1571-13 Main staircase



Entrance No. 2

Front Entrance

Main hallway for front entrance (No. 2 on map).
Walls were lined with impressive collection of leather bound books BUT not real books!

Gardens – minimal!
Narrow flowering borders to front and steps to sundial

g) Photograph - 1950c Phillips' son & friend outside Lindertis West Wing



Open fronted glass veranda was here

Rose Crown Garden

John Phillips' son (right) and friend Arthur.

h) Photograph - 1950c Phillips' gdaughters & friends in Lindertis garden



Maureen & Helen Phillips



Maureen, Eva Rugg, Fay Watson, Helen, Sheena Paul

i) Photograph – 1950c Mr & Mrs Phillips with Maureen & Helen at Lindertis



j) Photograph – 1950c Mr Phillips etc at Lindertis



k) Photograph – 1950c Mr Phillips on Hundred Acre

