

The Maxwells are an ancient Scottish family that traces its origin back to Maccus of 'Man and the Hebrides' in the 10th century. Early in the 12th century, they were granted lands near the junction of the Tweed and Teviot Rivers, near present day Kelso. Within two generations, they were appointed Sheriff in Teviotdale, and by 1225, John Maxwell was the Chamberlain of Scotland under King Alexander II.

In a short time, Maxwells had moved up the Nith valley and into the Clyde Basin of Renfrewshire near present day Glasgow. They also settled in several parts of Galloway which, until the 14th century, was virtually independent.

As one of the principal families of the area where they settled, the Maxwells often intermarried with their prominent neighbors. For over 500 years, the Maxwells played a prominent part in the national life of Scotland. One post in which they served for many generations was Warden of the West March, the principal government official on Scotland's side of the troubled Scottish-English border. So many Maxwells served in this capacity that it was almost a hereditary office in the family.

Some idea of the family's influence may be gained by noting that in P.H. M'Kerlie's book, *Lands and Their Owners in Galloway*, 160 branches of the Maxwell family are listed.

The early history of the family coincided with the time before the use of gunpowder when castles were an indication of political and military power. A number of impressive ruins of these structures associated with the Maxwells remain. A representative selection of castles and houses is shown on the overleaf, together with numbers to show their locations on the map.

The Maxwells were asked to occupy and hold for the crown a number of important castles. Some of these were in Maxwell hands for many generations. Most notable was Threave, the old Douglas stronghold.

A number of lands and castles came to the Maxwells by marriage. Among these were Mearns Castle in Renfrewshire, the Pollok lands near present Glasgow and Kirkconnell House near Dumfries.



As warfare changed, castles no longer afforded the sure protection they had once provided. Houses were attached to the old towers or fortalices as the same families continued to occupy them. Notable examples are Traquair and Kirkconnell.

Finally, about the 17th century, the old fortified houses began to give way to magnificent homes that made no pretense of defense. An example of this type is Monreith House in Galloway. Some parts of the family retained their wealth and influence and continued to build notable houses. The magnificent Pollok House in Glasgow is the most prominent example.

In addition to the castles listed in this brochure, there are at least 13 additional castles or manor houses that have been associated with the Maxwell family at one time or another. Of the 26 properties that have been discovered to have been associated with the Maxwell family, only four have been totally destroyed. Several are in the care of the National Trust or Historic Scotland, and a number are privately owned.

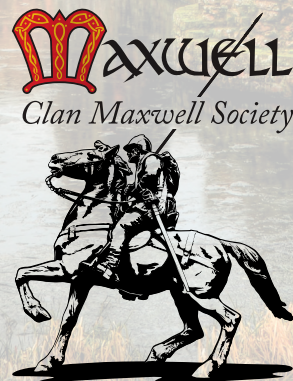
Many of these castles and properties are on public display as part of the National Treasures of Scotland that are shared with visitors. If you visit Scotland, plan to go to some of the castles or homes that are open to the public. They serve as a reminder of the proud heritage shared by Maxwells and their adherents.

For additional information on historic castles and homes in Scotland, contact:

Historic Scotland
Longmore House, Salisbury Place
Edinburgh, Scotland EH9 1SH
website: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

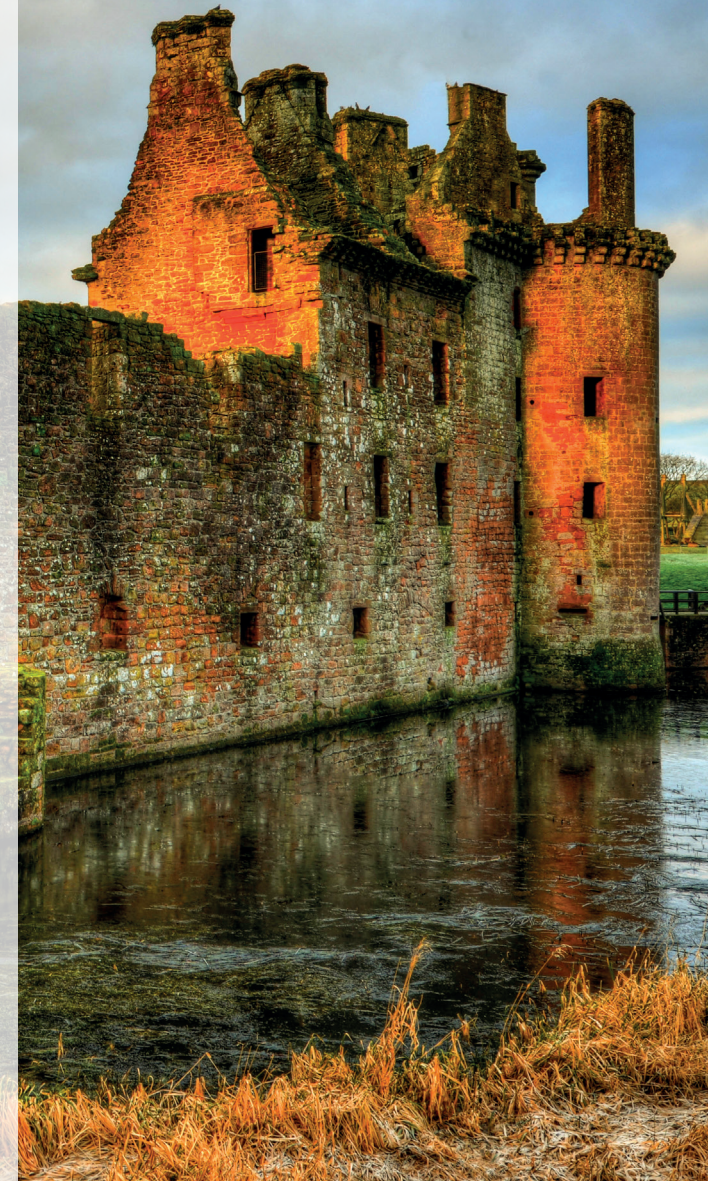
National Trust for Scotland
Hermiston Quay, 5 Cultins Road
Edinburgh, Scotland EH11 4DF
website: www.nts.org.uk

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 **Maxwell**
Clan Maxwell Society

Historic monuments of the Maxwell Family





1. Caerlaverock Castle



2. Newark Castle



3. Traquair House



4. Hoddum Castle



5. Stanely Tower



6. Drumcoltran Tower



7. Kirkconnell House



8. Fourmerkland Tower



9. Hills Castle



10. Monreith House



11. Orchardton Tower



12. Pollok House

