



MARYCULTER HOUSE AND THE PRECATORY OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

The Knights Templar were by origin an order of French Knights who banded together to escort and protect Christian pilgrims crossing Judea on their way to the Holy Land during the time of the Great Crusades. They were men of faith, inspired with a love of God and the Church.

The Order of the Knights Templar were granted part of the land of Culter, which lay on the south side of the River Dee, now Maryculter, by King William the Lion in 1187.

Between 1221 and 1236 the powerful Bisset family, Lords of Aboyne founded the Preceptory or College of the Knights Templar on the site of Maryculter House Hotel. All that remains of these buildings are the Vaulted Chambers located underneath the Resident Lounge and the cemetery and Chapel ruins - opposite reception car park - dedicated to their patron saint St. Mary. This Chapel became the parish church to Maryculter in 1288.

In 1312 Pope Clement V and Philippe Le Bel King of France suppressed the Knights Templar and in accordance King Edward II followed. This resulted in the abolition of the Templars and their lands on Deeside.

In 1535 the Menzies family bought the land of Maryculter House and in 1618 extended their estate by purchasing the remaining lands of Maryculter.

The oldest part of the hotel dates back to the time of St. John in 1460 which is our present Resident's Lounge. In 1745 all six sons of the Laird at that time fought for Bonnie Prince Charlie.

In 1811 the last Laird John Menzie sold Maryculter Estate to the Honourable General William Gordon of Fyvie. The weather cock with the Gordon family crest dates from this period. He used to travel from Fyvie to Maryculter with a team of ox wagons carrying the luggage and servants. You can still see the stone stables where the oxen were stalled near the mains of Maryculter.

The last Gordon Laird, Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon, one of the few male passengers who survived the Titanic disaster sold the estate to various different owners in 1935, and Maryculter House became a hotel soon after World War II. Currently the hotel is privately owned by a family who bought it in the early 1990's and have since added two accommodation blocks and our Templar Suite Ballroom. In 2011 they acquired fishing rights for the Culter Beat which is directly upstream of the Maryculter Bridge and has over 1 mile offering a wide variety of pools to fish.

Maryculter House Hotel Ltd.
Restaurant, Lounge & Bars, Full Wedding & Conference Facilities.
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