

Where there's a will

Sir William Cunliffe Brooks, a Manchester banker and Member of Parliament, bought Glen Tanar estate from the Earl of Aboyne in 1865. The Earl was deeply in debt, despite selling thousands of trees, and needed the money. Sir William wasn't interested in timber: he wanted a place to enjoy the fashionable sports of deer stalking, grouse shooting and salmon fishing – and a foothold in the society that flocked to Deeside after Prince Albert bought Balmoral.

Sir William changed the face of Glen Tanar with a lavish programme of building. Most of the houses and offices you see in the glen today are his work. Like many rich Victorians, he was also keen to improve things for the local community. He built houses and schools in Aboyne and Dinnet, many of them marked with his initials.

Sir William spent vast amounts of money on Glen Tanar and employed around 250 people to build roads, bridges, houses and farms, as well as a new mansion house with its own ballroom and even heated kennels for his dogs! Much of what he built is still in use today – a tribute to Victorian standards of workmanship.



The stones

Sir William loved placing carved stones across the estate. Many of them adorn wells, with words praising the virtues of water rather than alcohol.

Some are charming verses inspired by a place he obviously loved. Others celebrate his great achievements through puns on his name or initials!

Latin	English
Gellida	Cool
Limpida	Clear
Effluens	Flowing
Nitida	Glittering
Tremula	Quaking
Ampla	Copious
Nivalis	Snow-fed
Acqua	Water

