

HIGHLAND
FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY

highland family history society



ISSN 0262-6659

comunn
sloinntearachd
na
Gaidhealtachd

Published by
The Highland Family History Society
Comunn Sloinntearachd na Gaidhealtach

JOURNAL

Vol. 16 No. 3

May 1998

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Several people who have written to us from overseas express puzzlement about how the Highlands are made up and does it matter that their ancestor was from Lewis, he was still a Highlander? When they live in Canada, the US or Oz they often seem to feel that a piece a thousand miles across is a reasonable area to use and since it probably has cities or large straight highways criss-crossing it is easy to describe. Then they apply this thinking to here. At least our correspondents in the Commonwealth have the reasonable excuse that they are divorced in both time and space from the lands of their (Highland) fathers, but this maybe does not apply to our cousins south of our only land border. The people I deal with in business are inclined to think that if they promise to send me something to be delivered by 1030hrs next day, then it will be here. What they don't do is look at a map to see that I am six degrees of latitude higher up than London, with another four above me. They do not ask their normal carriers about deliveries to Inverness, for if they did the carrier (if sufficiently prodded) would check and discover his organisation did not count the Highlands area in their guaranteed deliveries. Rural? No more so than other parts of the country, vastly less so than swathes of Western Australia or Colorado or British Columbia. Roughly speaking, the region for which we are the main FHS is about 10,000 square miles of land holding 250,000 people, nearly as many deer, and a heck of a lot more trees. If you miss a turning you might drive another 50 wiggly single-track miles before realising and having to turn back. There are roadsigns that say 'Experienced Drivers Only' and sheep that look at you from beside them. Fort William has ten feet of rain a year. The Highlands per se are the hilly areas either side the SW-NE slash of the Great Glen, but we include the lowland areas of Nairn, Caithness and Sutherland in with Ross and Cromarty and Invernessshire. The Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland and the Western Isles may have separate local governments, but we count them in too. Shetland, Orkney and Lewis have their own thriving FHSs.

Reading what our members and others write it is interesting noticing the odd polarising of opinion of who precisely holds the torch of Highland culture most firmly, those who live here or those whose ancestors left for a new lives in the far-flung chunks of the world. Anyway when I am in a good mood, I realise that here in Scotland people have continued to live in the ever-moving present, dealing with life as it happens and occasionally remembering the past history out of casual interest between working for a living making computer chips, growing Sitkas, gutting salmon, feeding cattle, distilling whisky or whatever. Meanwhile the descendants of our common ancestors who left for new opportunities in South Africa, New Zealand and elsewhere, often under a cloud of war/rebellion/starvation/homelessness (but not always!) remember more clearly than we the dances, the language, the clothes, the stories and the emotions that were alive when those émigrés left. On the other hand, some of my less tolerant Scottish contemporaries are inclined to think that they are living in the real world of 1990s Scotland unlike the colonials who are stuck in a time-warp, while their opposite numbers across the seas think that we here have sold our heritage for a mess of porridge while only they remember the importance of the culture of their forefathers. Who is right? Tell us your story in these pages, which you may notice have increased with this issue.

And while we are on about this, I don't know about you, but I am always irritated when people in the south-east of this country tell me that I am 'remote' for I do not feel in the least remote, so they must be. They forget that remote, i.e. 'removed from' is a relative expression, not an absolute one. I assume if one lives in Australia one is no more removed from Inverness than Inverness is from Adelaide. So I accept that none of you is far-flung, okay?

MURDOCH MCPHERSON of the HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

by Margaret Hambleton

This is the story of the great pioneers of the Canadian North-West, many of whom were Scottish Highlanders.

Murdoch McPherson was born in Gairloch, Ross-shire, although his exact date of birth is not known. The inscription on his gravestone in Laurel Hill Cemetery, Pictou, in the Province of Nova Scotia, Canada, gives a date of 1796. However, in a letter from Murdoch to his son Joseph dated 2 March 1859 he gives his age as '64 1/2', which would give him a birth-date about Sept 1794. His birth is not recorded in the Gairloch Parish Records. He is known to have had three brothers, as paintings of himself and the three of them are listed in the inventory attached to his will.

Murdoch entered the service of the North-West Company in 1816, and was taken over as a clerk by the Hudson's Bay Company at the union of the two companies in 1821. In 1823 he was transferred to the MacKenzie River Department, where he was promoted to be a Chief Trader in 1834.

Writing in the 'Clan Chattan Journal', 1986, W. Rex Davidson tells us that Governor Sir George Simpson wrote to McPherson in 1838:

'For some time I have been of the opinion that a new post might with every prospect of advantage be established at Peel's River and I shall be glad if you will turn your attention to this object.'

McPherson did so with a vengeance. As soon as the ice had left the waters of the northern rivers he dispatched an exploratory party, admittedly with some trepidation, along the Peel River to the MacKenzie. They were subsequently able to report to McPherson that they had seen an abundance of furs and had not encountered any hostility from the inhabitants they came across. The next year McPherson established the Peel River Post, shortly renamed Fort McPherson in his honour. The community there still consists of some 600 people, no longer involved in the fur trade, since petroleum products have taken over as a source of income. McPherson Lake in the same area was also named after Murdoch.

Despite the excellent reception the new post received, the first few winters were terribly hard on the traders. In the depths of winter the temperature dipped to almost 40 degrees below zero, and the post ran badly short of food. McPherson and his traders gradually set up two-man satellite posts across the mountains, nearer to the sources of meat. With this system the input of furs increased remarkably, and the immense northern wealth began to be harvested. McPherson's part in this development was recognised by the company, and in 1847 he was promoted to the coveted position of Chief Factor.

On 10 March 1825 Murdoch had married Jane Smith, born on 5 August 1805 at Slave Lake, she was the eldest daughter of Edward Smith, Chief Factor, who was born in Fochlathers about 1783. Edward's brother George Smith had emigrated to Pictou, Nova Scotia, where he was the partner of another Scottish emigrant, Edward Mortimer, the most eminent business-man of his time, known as "The King of Pictou". Mortimer had built a substantial stone house in 1814 on a point of land overlooking Pictou harbour. After Mortimer's widow died in 1835,

Edward Smith purchased the house, and retired to Pictou from the North West in 1836. When he bought the house he named it 'Norway House' after the settlement of the same name in the Territory.

Murdoch McPherson evidently admired his father-in-law, as when the latter died on 11 March 1849, he had a fine tombstone erected to his memory in Laurel Hill Cemetery, with an eloquent inscription. In his will, Edward Smith left *Norway House* and Farm property to his eldest daughter Jane McPherson. An interesting detail of Smith's will was the bequest to another son-in-law of a gold watch 'The first one which gave time to the weary and indelible voyagers who first reached Point Barron from MacKenzie's River.'

So it was that Murdoch McPherson, his wife Jane and three surviving younger sons, Alexander (b. 1834), James (b. 1836) and Murdoch (b. 1838) moved to Pictou, probably after he took his last furlough in 1849. In his retirement he set up a bookstore in Pictou, and was also appointed a Justice of the Peace for Pictou County. His eldest son Joseph Edward (b. 1825) had followed his father's footsteps by entering the Hudson's Bay Company. Some of the correspondence between father and son after Murdoch moved to Pictou has survived, and gives interesting insights into their lives.

In a letter from Kibokok, in Labrador, dated 30 August 1856, Joseph tells of the problems encountered through the loss of a supply vessel in the previous autumn:

"... we have passed a very miserable winter and spring, and at this post particularly have been the next thing to starving. Partridges have never been known to be so very scarce as they were this past winter, and in the spring of the year when we expected to have plenty of fine trout as usual, we were often obliged to make up a meal with small flat fish and Keplin [capelin?]. At this time we had no sugar or butter and very little flour mixed in with Indian meal, and we can only think of such a luxury as pork on birthday occasions."

Murdoch writes on 2 March 1859: *"I danced a Scotch reel the other night at a Ball in Pictou!"* He gives news of the family: *"Alick [Alexander] is now in business for himself in Montreal. He opened a very respectable Drug Store in Great St. James Street ... James is getting on the best he can with the Bookstore [in Pictou]... Murdoch is now strong and healthy and attending the [Pictou] Academy with but moderate progress ... The farm does not pay and never will to a man who does not put his hand to the plough himself."*

Sadly, one of the surviving letters from Joseph to his father was written in August 1863, when he was unaware that Murdoch had died two months previously. In his will, Murdoch left *Norway House* and farm to Joseph, who later retired from the Hudson's Bay Company and moved to Pictou. From his letters, one has the impression that he was not very happy in his work, and was probably glad to leave. Unfortunately, Joseph does not seem to have been cut out for farming either.

Murdoch's will also contained bequests to his other three sons and provided support for his wife Jane. He evidently had a taste for jewellery, as he left his sons two gold watches, three diamond studs, a large diamond 'Duke of York's' ring, and two seals, one gold and one stone, with engraved crests and coat-of-arms. The inventory of his goods also included a vast collection of books, in addition to the stock in the bookstore. Murdoch was buried in Laurel

Hill Cemetery, where a tall monument was raised to his memory. His son Alexander died soon after him on 5 Nov 1865, at the age of 31.

Murdoch's son Joseph was married to Mary [or Maria] Hardisty, daughter of Richard Hardisty of the Hudson's Bay Company, and his wife Margaret Sutherland. He thus became the brother-in-law of a famous Canadian, Donald A. Smith, later Lord Strathcona and Mt. Royal, who married Mary's sister Isabella Sophia Hardisty, known as Bell. At least one letter between the two sisters has survived in which Bell sympathised with Mary on the loss of a new-born child.

In Joseph's letter to his father of August 1863, he mentions that Donald Smith performed the christening of his third son, who was named Donald after his uncle. A letter from Donald Smith to Joseph has also survived, written in May 1870 regarding arrangements for an annuity being provided for Murdoch's widow Jane.

Joseph died on 19 Dec 1873 at age 48, and is buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery beside his father and brother. *Norway House* was purchased by Donald Smith in 1880 at a Sheriff's Sale. By this time he had risen to become Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, an M.P. and organiser of the Canadian Pacific Railway. [To complete the history of *Norway House*, it was purchased by the Independent Order of Oddfellows in 1923, and is now a senior citizens' retirement home.]

P.S. Some tantalising questions remain to be answered. Who were Murdoch McPherson's forebears and his three brothers? He was evidently a well-educated man, with a neat, even writing hand, and an interest in literature, which he must have acquired before leaving for the Canadian North in his early twenties. What about the paintings of his brothers and the gold seal 'with engraved crest and coat-of-arms'? Perhaps he had merely bought it along with his jewellery?

References:

- (1) Davidson, W. Rex, *Clan Chaitian Journal*, Vol VIII., No. 4, 1986. "Fort McPherson, N.W.T."
- (2) File of papers in Glenbow-Alberta Institute, Calgary, Alberta, relating to Murdoch McPherson
- (3) Cemetery inscriptions, Laurel Hill Cemetery, Picou, N.S.
- (4) Estate Records, Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Halifax, N.S.
- (5) Dictionary of Canadian Biography, ed. W. Stewart Wallace.
- (6) Cameron, James M., "Picou County's History", 1972, Kenville Publishing.
- (7) Clan McPherson Association, Canadian Branch Newsletter, No.11, 1988, and June 1991.

PRICE INCREASE FOR PUBLICATIONS

We are now selling a significant number of our publications through third parties such as the Scottish Genealogy Society and the Aberdeen Family History Shop. To do this we have to give them a discount, which was only 15% in the past, but is now generally expected to be 33%. It was also pointed out that our publications were underpriced when compared with those of other Societies. In order to make sure that we still get a reasonable profit selling through these intermediaries, we have had to increase the price of our publications slightly. The new prices are listed on the inside back cover of this journal.

People who lived in (or had connections with) Claigan in the 19th century by Marjorie W MacInnes

Claigan, sometimes spelt Claggan, is a small township in the parish of Duirinish on the Isle of Skye. It forms part of the MacLeod Estate and is a peninsula lying due north of Dunvegan Castle, between Loch Dunvegan and Loch Bay.

This article lists all the people I know of who lived in Claigan in the 19th century. I am at present compiling a similar list of people who were here during this century.

I would like to hear from anyone who has any connection with Claigan, whose ancestors lived here or who know of people who lived here, whether included in this article or not. Any additions, however small, to this information or any amendments and corrections, would be most welcome.

Marjorie W MacInnes, 3.Claigan, Dunvegan, Isle of Skye IV55 8WF

[continued from Journal Vol.16 No. 1]

JOSEPH GLENCROSS was Norman Macleod's shepherd in 1851 when John Ramage was manager. He and his wife Christina came from Durrisdeer, Dumfries. They must have arrived in Skye about 1849 as only their youngest child Margaret was born here about then. William 1847 and Thomas 1848 were born in Durrisdeer.

ANDREW GRAHAM and wife Isabella Hall, son George born Claigan 30/9/1844/6

JOHN GRANT was born c1801 in Strath. About 1835 he married as his first wife, Catherine MacInnes, born in Bracadale about 1810. Their family's ages are mixed up, the census ages not tallying with actual births - Lachlan 22/9/1836 and Mary 1/12/1838 both baptised Bay, Duncan 16/10/1841 and James about 1841 born Claigan, Helen bapt 20/11/1842 Bay. In 1841 John was a shepherd in Claigan, with wife Catherine and family Lachlan, Mary and James living at home. Ann MacDonald, female servant, 17, was living with them. Was she daughter of Farquhar and Ann? In 1840 Dr Donald MacAskill compiled a list of tenants and cottars including John Grant, Scorbay, a shepherd, "a very respectable and steady man", family then were eldest son aged 4, a daughter aged 2 and an infant. Catherine died between 1842 and 1847. On 16/3/1847 John married as his second wife Christian Morrison who was born in Bracadale about 1824 and now lived at Stein. By her he had a second family, Alexander 1850, Jessie 1853, Christy 1855, Catherine 1857, Maron 1859. John and Christy were in Bay in 1851 with Lachlan, Mary, Duncan, Ellen and Alexander, also Catherine Morrison, aged 23, servant born Bracadale - was she Christy's sister? The family were still in Bay in 1861, John a shepherd and family Mary 21 gen serv, Duncan 19 shepherd, Elen 17, Alexander 10, Jessie 8, Christy 6, Catherine 4 and Maron 2.

KENNEDY: Castle papers: "1863 re repairs by out-going tenant Kennedy of Claigan, Swordale, Corliarach and Bay".

FLORA LOBSON, born Loch Carron but living in Claigan married David MacDonald, Dunvegan 22/2/1836, family Norman born 19/2/1840 Dunvegan, Mary born 9/3/1842 Kirkton. At Fairfield 1851, David a meat merchant 36, Flora 35, Jane 13, Norman 11, Mary 9, Duncan 6, Marion 2, Roderick 1 1mths. David died soon after and Flora Lobson MacDonald married William Neil both of Dunvegan 17/2/1854. In 1861 Flora Neil a widow and a grocer was living near the old inn in Dunvegan (last house before Suardal). With her Jessie 22, Marion 12, David 10 and Grace Neil aged 6. No trace after this.

ALEX MACASKILL living with Farquhar MacDonald and family in 1841, aged 50, ag lab: was he Ann's brother??

CHRISTY MACASKILL on Dr MacAskill's list of tenants and cottars 1840, in Nizabost, a widow who pays no rent, with daughter Flora MacAskill aged 28. The 1841 census lists Christy MacNab 70 and Flora MacAskill 26. Is this the same family? (see Christy MacNab) (see Flora MacAskill)

DONALD MACASKILL, surgeon, and tacksman in Claigan for 13 years from 1834. Castle papers say "1834 offer of farm of Claigan £396 for 13 years to D MacAskill", ie to 1848. Donald was not born in Duirinish, his mother Mary was. With them in 1841 was Janet Hobart MacAskill born Duirinish, later to become Donald's wife, Christian MacAskill aged 19, not born in Duirinish who could have been Donald's sister, house servants were Flora MacDonald 28, Christy MacDonald 19, Catherine MacKinnon 18 and Jess MacPherson 26, all born Duirinish. Donald and Janet married in Bracadale 18/12/1845 when Donald was living at Drynoch and Janet at Talisker. No trace of them in 1851 nor of John Clunes his grievor.

FLORA MACASKILL aged 26 living with Christy MacNab in Claigan in 1841. Was she the Flora MacAskill who married Norman MacQueen, Kinloch in 20/2/1844?

EFFIE MACCRIMMON, Swordale married Malcolm Nicolson, Claigan 4/2/1822

DONALD MACCUAN, Corlarach, dau Maron born 2/2/1819

DONALD MCCUIISH from Berneray, Harris married Effy MacDairmid, Claigan 3/6/1828

JOHN MCCUIISH, born in Harris, married Christy MacDonald from Claigan 2/2/1819 and they had at least twelve children, all born in Claigan: Sally 18/1/1820, Marion c1821, Alexander 4/4/1822, Roderick 1/5/1825, Flora 1/5/1825, Malcolm 7/7/1827, John 15/12/1829, Isabella 16/9/1830, Isabella 126/9/1832, Catherine c1835, Archibald 12/2/1836, and Christy c1840. In 1840 Dr Donald MacAskill, tacksman in Claigan, made a list of his tenants and cottars. He described John as "a cottar, indolent but this may arise from his bad state of health., otherwise a decent enough personage". John's family then were: Malcolm 13, John 11, Marron 19, Flora 15, Catherine 5, and Christy an infant. This family lived at 'Scripard' Neighbourhood of Norman MacNeil, Farquhar MacDonald, Archibald Findlayson and Donald MacDonald. John was an agricultural labourer in 1841, a crofter (the only one in Claigan) in 1851. He died between 1851-61 and in 1861 Malcolm, an agricultural labourer, was head of the house with his mother and two sisters Catherine and Christy. Were John and Donald McCuish brothers? The McCuishes had left Claigan by 1871.

EFFY MACDAIRMID, Claigan married Donald McCuish, Berneray, Harris 3/6/1828

ISABELLA MACDERMID, Claigan married Donald Chisholm(qv), Trumpan 3/12/1844, emigrated to Australia

ALEXANDER MACDONALD, son Alexander born Claigan 2/5/1821

ANN MACDONALD, female servant aged 17 with John Grant and his family in 1841, born 1824, dau of Farquhar and Ann?

CHRISTY MACDONALD, 19 female servant with Dr Donald MacAskill in 1841 along with Flora MacDonald. qv. (Were they sisters?)

DONALD MACDONALD, Hornival, "a grass keeper, a good quiet lad": Dr MacAskill. Family: John 4, Donald 2, Allan 1 in 1840.

DONALD MACDONALD and Margaret MacAskill both of Claigan were married 4/1/1838, daughter Margaret born 17/5/1840 and Catherine born 1840c. Margaret was baptised along with the youngest Campbells on 21/9/1840. In 1840 Dr Donald MacAskill, tacksman in the farm of Claigan, made a list of his tenants and cottars. He describes Donald as "one of his best cottars, says that there were 3 in the family" but does not mention daughter by name. This family lived at Scripard with four other families including Farquhar (below). Donald and Margaret were in Claigan 1841, 1851 - Donald an agricultural labourer in both censuses. Only Catherine appears on censuses so presumably Margaret had died in infancy.

FARQUHAR MACDONALD and his wife Ann (MacAskill?) were in Claigan before 1819, their family Donald c1811 and Margaret 1818c born Duirinish, Janet 18/3/1819, Peter 1/7/1821 and Rachel 20/4/1825 born Claigan. Dr Donald MacAskill's a list of his tenants and cottars in 1840 described Farquhar as "a cottar, a very inoffensive person with a strong health family" Donald 35, Peter 18, Margaret 20, and Rachel 15. They lived at 'Scripard' which may have been the collection of ruins at present day No 4 holding. There were five families there in 1840. In 1841 Farquhar and Donald were farm workers. Janet(qv) a female servant living with the Andersons in 1841, married John MacDonald from Husabost 28/1/1845. Margaret(qv) married Angus MacLeod from Kilmuir 28/2/1849 and Peter(qv) married Maron Cameron from Ramasaig 13/12/1849 and went to live there. The MacDonalds were in Claigan 1841 and 1851. Living with them in 1841 was Alex MacAskill a 50-year-old agricultural worker - was he Ann's brother? Ann died between 1841-51 and, of the family, only Rachel and her father were left in Claigan by 1851.

FLORA MACDONALD, born in Claigan c1798, married Malcolm MacLeod, dau Marion married John MacLean 19/1/1854, lived in Borreraig.

FLORA MACDONALD, 28, born c1813, and Christy MacDonald, 19, born c1822, female servants with Dr Donald MacAskill in Claigan in 1841. Flora married John MacNeil, Claigan 24/1/1843 (see MacNeil).

JANET MACDONALD, daughter of Farquhar born 18/3/1819 female servant aged 20 with William Anderson in Claigan in 1841, married John MacDonald, Husabost 28/1/1845.

JOHN MACDONALD and Catherine MacNeil both of Claigan married 17/4/1840, son Donald born 16/1/1841. In 1840 Dr MacAskill compiled a list of tenants and cottars and included John MacDonald "a farm servant but lives out of the house with his wife." They probably lived at the farm as they are listed after James Clunes in the 1841 census. On 1841 census - John aged 26 a farm servant, Catherine aged 29 and son Donald 3 months.

MARGARET MACDONALD, dau of Farquhar, or was she daughter of Norman MacDonald and Ann MacNeil, Nizabost 1840?, married Angus MacLeod, Kilmuir 28/2/1849

NEIL MACDONALD 16 male servant with Dr MacAskill in Claigan in 1841. Was Neil the son of Norman MacDonald(qv) and Ann MacNeil, living at Nizabost in 1840 with his mother Ann MacNeil, "deserted by husband 10 years ago". Dr MacAskill 1840, and his sister Margaret MacDonald?

NORMAN MACDONALD married Anne MacNeil(qv) both Claigan 6/6/1821.

PETER MACDONALD son of Farquhar married Maron Cameron, Ramasaig 13/12/1849. In 1851 Peter a fisherman and Maron with their baby daughter Catherine, were living with Maron's parents, Peter and Christy and their family Donald, Ann and Mary (who was to marry Kenneth MacInnes) all on 4 acres in Ramasaig.

ANNE MACFEE, Totochoker married Allan Silver, Edinbane 24/4/1838

DONALD MACGILVARY and (Mary) Ann MacRae came from Glenelg, married in Claigan 4/2/1823, then returned to Glenelg. Their g.g. grand-daughter Marjory Waters of Florida who has written a book about those MacGilvays: "Ne'er Forgot Shall Be", visited me in Claigan to see where they lived at the time of their marriage.

DONALD MACINTOSH married Mary MacAskill of Claigan 30/8/1832, their daughters Lizzy 14/4/1833 and Lexy 9/5/1835 were born in Claigan.

DONALD MACIVER tacksman in Bay married Catherine Nicolson of Ardmore (dau of Patrick?) 8/5/1834. Family: Colin Donald Macleod born 16/4/1835, John Norman Macleod born 28/8/1836, Johannah Margaret born 1/8/1838

CATHERINE MACKINNON, born c1831, aged 10 in 1841 living in Claigan with Donald MacDonald and Margaret MacAskill and baby daughter Catherine. Was she the Catherine MacKinnon who was general servant aged 20 to John Ramage in 1851?

CATHERINE MACKINNON, born c1823, aged 18 in 1841 female servant to Dr Donald MacAskill born Duirinish.

DONALD MACKINNON born c1800 in Corlarach, married Mary MacLeod from Isay 20/1/1820. Daughters Maron 2/12/1819 and Anne 10/12 1820 were born Corlarach, Mary 14/3/1823, Hugh c1824, John 9/3/1824 and Malcolm 19/2/1825 baptised Claigan, Neil 16/1/1827, John 10/3/1828, Isabella 20/7/1832, Neil bapt 22/8/1832, Roderick 6/7/1834, Maron 1/8/1836, Donald 3/10/1840 all born Claigan. In 1840 when Dr Donald MacAskill, tacksman in Claigan compiled his list of tenants and cottars, he described Donald MacKinnon as "a cottar and a very decent individual, the most contented person on my farm and hardest

worker tho' the poorest on the establishment". Donald's family then were: Hugh 16, John 12, Roderick 6, Donald an infant, Ann 20, Mary 18, Catherine 14, Isabella 7, and Marion 4. Donald and his family lived at Black Park which was probably the now ruined settlement in the horse park. In 1861 Alex John MacNab grandson aged 7 and in 1871 Bella MacNab grand-daughter aged 12 were living with them. They were the children of Mary and Duncan MacNab(qv). Donald was a fisherman and labourer until 1871 when, aged 70, he is described as an agricultural labourer. By this time the MacKinnons and Archibald Stewart tenant farmer, were the only families left in Claigan. Donald and his son Donald senior was employed on the farm 1871 and 1881. Mary died between 1871/81 and Donald senior was dead by 1891. After Mary died Isabella came home to keep house for them and in 1891 Ann was at home with Donald, who was the cattleman with Nicol Martin until 1896.

ISABELLA MACKINNON aged 55 in 1841, on her own in next house to Donald MacKinnon. Was she Donald's sister? Dr Donald MacAskill's 1840 list of his tenants and cottars, includes an "Isabella MacLean in Black Park a widow who pays no rent for her potato ground, and a 34-year-old daughter" but he does not name her. It is likely that this is the same person - a widow sometimes reverted to her maiden name - and her address and Christian name are the same. No record of a daughter on the 1841 census. Isabella was dead by 1851.

JANET MACKINNON, Swordale married Roderick MacLeod, Balmore 23/1/1844

JOHN MACKINNON, daughter Maron born 2/8/1819 Corlarach. Was he Donald's brother?

JOHN MACKINNON and Margaret MacNeil both Nisabost, Claigan married 2/1/1834, son John born in Claigan 2/9/1834; also JOHN MACKINNON aged 6 in 1841 living with Jane MacNeil, 38, and Mary Shaw, 60: son of John and Margaret? what happened?

MARGARET MACKINNON, Claigan married Alex McPherson, Kirkton 30/7/1844

MARY MACKINNON married John Findlayson both Claigan 25/1/1831

MARY MACKINNON, daughter of Donald, married Duncan MacNab(qv) 15/1/1852

NEIL MACKINNON, Captain 93rd Regiment and wife Margaret MacLeod had daughter Johanna born in Claigan 19/5/1823

DUNCAN MACLENNAN, son Alexander born Claigan 18/4/1823

ISABELLA MACLENNAN, Claigan married Donald MacAskill, Husabost 13/6/1820

MRS MACLEOD, at Hornival. Dr MacAskill, 1840: "a widow on her own, a cottar, I believe a very decent woman".

ALEXANDER MACLEOD, born Duirinish c1810 and his wife, Mary Thorburn born Mull c1815 had family: Samuel born Totochocaire 6/5/1837; Christy 6/8/1839, Angus 14/3/1842 and William 15/1/1844 all born Swordale; Hector born Claigan 24/5/1846, Archibald 20/12/1849 and Alexander 15/12/1851 born Lowergill, and Catherine born Greshornish 15/3/1854 - those four baptised in Flashader/Greshornish. In 1840 Dr MacAskill compiled a list of tenants and cottars on Claigan. He included his shepherd, Alex MacLeod at Swordale,

"a very attentive servant and otherwise well behaved". His family then were Lachlan aged 3 (should that have been Samuel?) and a baby. The family were in Swordale in 1841, head of house Hector MacLeod 75, Alexander and Mary, Samuel 4 and Christy 2, also in household Hector Thorburn 10, Margaret Ferguson 6 and Jess Campbell 18. Between 1846 and 1849 Alexander moved to Lowergill where in 1851 they were tenants on a 4-acre holding and Margaret Ferguson now 16 was their maid servant. Hector was not with them so presumably he was dead. Alexander died before 1861 and the family moved to Greshornish where Samuel(qv) became shepherd.

ALLAN MACLEOD and Christy Chisholm, son John born Claigan 12/11/1845

ANGUS MACLEOD, Scorbay and Margaret Nicolson, Claigan married 18/4/1830, Archibald baptised 18/4/1830(stc) "being the age of a year from the present date", illegitimate son one year old, baptised at wedding? John 30/7/1832 and Meron MacCrimmon 1/2/1833 both born Bay.

ARCHIBALD MACLEOD, surgeon, of Balalome in North Uist and descended from the MacLeods of Raasay and Rigg, married Claigan girl Flora MacLeod 1/10/1829. Son Donald Archibald born in Claigan 3/9/1830, daughter Maron born Edinbane 12/6/1833. Dr Archibald died 21/4/1835 and he and his wife Flora who died in Kingsburgh 27/10/1860 are buried in Portree old cemetery.

DONALD MACLEOD and his wife were tenants in Claigan 1824-30

DONALD MACLEOD and Anne MacDairmid both Claigan married 29/11/1833, son Neil born Claigan 20/11/1833! (check)

FLORA MACLEOD, Claigan married Dr Archibald MacLeod(qv), North Uist 1/10/1829

OWEN MACLEOD, son Donald born Claigan 6/9/1828

SAMUEL MACLEOD son of Alexander MacLeod(qv). After Alexander died 1851/61 the family moved from Lowergill to Greshornish where Samuel became shepherd. Samuel's household included his mother, three brothers Angus, Hector and Archy and sister Catherine, also Mary MacLeod 20 dom serv and visitor William Thorburn 23 unmarried shepherd. Samuel married Catherine MacLenman from Lochalsh and son Alexander was born 1869. In 1871 the family consisted of Samuel 33, Catherine 26, Alexander 2, Catherine's mother Mary born Urray? in Ross-shire and her brother George 12 born Kishorn?, servant Kate MacLeod 17 and Alexander MacNab a boarder 17 shepherd. Samuel's mother Mary had become Maria, and was living in Greshornish with sons Angus, Alexander who was a mason, and daughter Catherine. Visiting was Maria MacDonald 28 from Uist. By 1881 Mary has moved to Edinbane with son Angus 'an imbicile' and daughter Catherine. Samuel and his MacLenman household has gone!

WILLIAM MACLEOD (wife's name not given) family born in Claigan - Norman 12/5/1820, John 19/1/1823, Maron 29/7/1825, Rachel 12/12/1827 and Nelly baptised 12/4/1830

CHRISTY MACNAB aged 70 living in Claigan in 1841 with Flora MacAskill aged 26 both born Duirinish (see Christy MacAskill, Nizabost: 1840 Dr MacAskill.)

DUNCAN MACNAB was born c1827 and in 1851 was a shepherd aged 24 living-in with John Ramage the sheep manager. Duncan married Margaret MacKinnon, daughter of Donald and Mary MacKinnon in 16/1/1852. Their family born in Duirinish, Marion 1854, Alexander John 5/9/1856, Mary Ann 25/10/1857, Isabella 26/4/1859, John 10/2/1861, Donald 4/9/1863, Lachlan 5/6/1865, Mary Jess 2/12/1867. Alex John in 1861 and Bella in 1871 were with their grandparents Donald and Mary MacKinnon at Black Park in Claigan. By 1861 Duncan was shepherd on the Greshornich estate living in the shepherd's house at Dubeck (Diubaig) with wife Mary and family Marion 7, Alexander 5, Mary Ann 3, Isabella 2 and John infant, the only family there. Did Alexander John appear on the census twice? In 1871 Duncan and Mary were in the shepherd's house in Greshornish with family Alexander 14, Mary Ann 13, John 10, Donald 7, Lachlan 5, Mary Jess 3. In the next house was shepherd Samuel MacLeod (qv). By 1881 the MacNabs were in a 5-room house at Coshletter, part of Greshornish farm. Duncan 58 shepherd, Mary 57, Mary Ann 24, Donald 17, Jessie 13, and Donald MacKinnon a 6-year-old boarder (who?). Duncan had retired by 1891 and was living in a 3-roomed house in Glen, Greshornish, with wife and unmarried family Alexander a shepherd, Mary housemaid, J M general servant, and Donald MacKinnon g.son aged 16.

ANN MACNEIL married Norman MacDonald(qv) both Claigan 6/6/1821. In 1840 Dr MacAskill compiled a list of his tenants and cottars. At Nizabost was "Ann MacNeil who was deserted by her husband 10 years ago and pays no rent, has a son Neil 13 and a daughter Margaret 18". Is this the same family and were Neil and Margaret MacNeils or MacDonalds? In 1841 census there is a Neil MacDonald aged 18 in the bothy at the farm - too old?

JANE MACNEIL 38 living with Mary Shaw 60 and John MacKinnon(qv) 6, Claigan 1841.

JOHN MACNEIL and Flora MacDonald both of Claigan married 24/1/1843, son Norman born Claigan 1/1/1844. Was John son of Norman below?

NORMAN MACNEIL, a hand loom weaver born about 1781, was the only man in Claigan in 1841 not an agricultural labourer. He and his wife Catherine, born about 1783, had a grown up family Living at home was Donald born c1814, an agricultural labourer, Charles c1811 and Lidia c1813. There was also Malcolm born 1815 but not on 1841 census. Catherine who married farm worker John MacDonald(qv) 17/4/1840 may have been a daughter. In 1840 Dr Donald MacAskill, tacksman in Claigan, made a list of his tenants and cottars Norman he said was "a weaver, a decent person tho' indolent, his son Charles subject to fits of insanity", his family were Charles aged 34 and Donald aged 27. They lived at 'Scripard'? Was this near the present No 4 house? By 1851 Norman had died and Catherine was living in Camuslusta in Watermish with Donald now married to Mary, and grandson Angus aged 1, Malcom 36 her youngest son, Ann MacDonald 12 niece born Trotternish and Ann MacDonald 19 servant born Watermish. Catherine was born in Duirinish, Donald and Malcolm in Watermish, Mary the daughter-in-law in Trotternish, Ann MacDonald servant in Watermish and Angus in Watermish. In 1851 Charles and Lydia were visiting Rachel MacSween, a 57-year-old pauper in Dunvegan, Charles 40 a pauper labourer and Lydia 38 a general servant, all unmarried.

MALCOLM MACPHEE the son of Roderick MacPhee, Watermish and Flora MacKinnon from Sleat, was born c1858 at Scorr, Watermish. There is some confusion between Flora/Catherine because the family in Scorr in 1861 were Rory MacPhee 26 ag lab born Bracadale, Catherine his wife 26 born Sleat and family John 4, Malcolm 3 and Ann 1 all born

Watermish. In 1871 and 1881 the family were at Lusta, Roderick a fisherman, Catherine and family John 15, Malcolim 12, Ann 10, Angus 8 and Christy 6. In 1881 Roderick is a crofter, John a fisherman, Malcolim a shepherd, Ann general domestic, Angus a fisherman, Christine 15 perhaps still at school. Malcolim had started shepherding aged 14 for Hugh Young tenant in Claigan in the 1870s and worked in Claigan all his life. Malcolim lived at Camlach in Bay after he married Marion MacKinnon 1891. Marion was the daughter of Hugh MacKinnon and Marion Ferguson from Corry in Broadford and her brother was Rev Alexander MacKinnon the Duirinish Parish Minister 1930-32. Calum and Marion had nine children, three sons: Hugh, Roderick and Calum and six daughters: Flora, Jane, Annie, Mary, Flora and Kate. When the children reached school age the family got moved to Totochocaire to be nearer Dunvegan School. Later on they came to Claigan where he and his son also Calum were shepherds to Alexander MacDonald. Calum was made manager in 1920 and when he retired in 1926 after 52 and a half years' service he received an award from the Highland and Agriculture Society of Scotland. His son Hugh was killed in the first world war and Roderick worked as a shepherd in Perthshire. In 1926 when the farm was broken up for holdings Calum applied and got the holding that went with the house he was living in - the grieve's house. In spite of its fine name it was a small two-roomed house and Calum applied to make another room at the end of his allotted farm building adjoining his house. His daughter Flora married to Alasdair 'Ruari' MacDonald, The Moss, Kilmuir who had holding No 9 Claigan from 1926 until 1938 when they returned to The Moss. In Claigan they occupied the 'front house' - where the Misses Martin had lived for a short time about 1912. Calum's daughter Jane became Mrs Munro and his daughter Annie married Malcolim MacDonald postman in Dunvegan in 1927. When Claigan was re-settled after of the failure of the 1926 scheme the MacPhees got 'new' No 4 holding which had been previously No 2, built and occupied by William Campbell. "Malcolim died at Claigan on 22/11/1941 aged 83, one of the most respected members of the community. He had been shepherd on Claigan Farm for many years. For most of his adult years he served as shepherd with the late, Mr Hugh Young, MacLeod of MacLeod, Nicol Martin and latterly with Mr Alexander MacDonald of Portree Home Farm and Kirkhill. For his long and faithful services he had been awarded the Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland certificate for Highly Approved Services during the long period of 52 and a half years. Since his retirement from active work a few years ago he and his wife lived with their son Malcolim on one of the Claigan small-holdings. Though disabled by chronic rheumatism in his latter years he took an intelligent interest in farm activities, his expert knowledge of sheep being unrivalled. His genial friendly and courteous nature coupled with his high character won for him the respect of all". "Marion died at Claigan on 19th September 1947, aged 84 years, eldest daughter of the late Hugh MacKinnon, Corrie Cottage, Dunvegan and wife of the late Malcolim MacPhee, Claigan. Her whole life was spent in the parish of Duirinish where she was highly respected. She was a loyal church woman who seldom missed a Sunday from being in her pew, walking four miles back and forward when she was over 80 years. She was always possessed of an uncanny sense of humour which made her company cheerful. She left a family of sons and daughters". *Eilean a Cheo*, extracts from Oban Times.

JESS (Janet) MACPHERSON, born c1815, female servant to Dr Donald MacAskill in Claigan in 1841 aged 26.

LACHLAN MACPHERSON and Catherine MacLean, married 12/6/1832, were in Totochocaire about 1838/41. Their family were Christy born c1836 Duirinish, Margaret 25/3/1837 and Duncan c1841 both born Totochocaire. In 1851 the family were in Claigan, Lachlan 45 an ag lab, Catherine 44, Christy 15, Margaret 13, Duncan 10 and Catherine's sister

Mary Maclean 40 a wool spinner. In 1861 and 1871 they lived "near Castle" probably Totochocaire again. Only Margaret and Mary Maclean are with them in 1861 and by 1871 Lachlan is described as "a widower, aged 69, infirm, formerly an ag lab" with daughter Margaret 29 agric labourer, grand-daughter Christy Ann MacLean 2 and sister-in-law, Mary MacLean 69 wool spinner. No trace 1881 or 1891.

LACHLAN MACPHERSON 41, unmarried, cattleman at Claigan in 1891, born c1850.

DONALD MACSWEEN, daughters Maron 17/1/1819 and Christy 3/8/1819 born Corlarach (dates to be checked!)

JOHN MACSWEEN, sons John 2/6/1820 (see John below), Alexander 4/4/1823 and Malcolim 13/3/1826 all born Claigan. Was this family in Isay in 1841: John MacSween 60 fisher, wife Margaret 50, farm Donald 30, Norman 28, Angus 26 tailor, Alexander 17, Malcolim 13, Finlay 11, John 10. Alexander and Malcolim ages tally. John missing from family - John below?

JOHN MACSWEEN in Claigan in 1841, aged 22, born c1819, male servant with Dr Donald MacAskill, tacksman, Claigan.

NEIL MACSWEEN, sons James 5/12/1818, John 14/5/1821, Neil 24/7/1823 and daughter Ann 12/2/1826 all born Claigan.

Dr NICOL MARTIN and his nephew Nicol Martin took the tenancy of Claigan in 1882 when his lease of Waterstein expired. Dr Martin, a brother of Rev Angus Martin minister of Shizort, was descended from the Martins of Marishadder in Skye. He had been for many years in Demerara and on his return bought Husabost from Sheriff Alexander Nicolson. When he died the estate was left to his nephew Nicol Martin, the son of Rev Angus Martin. The Rev Angus lived at Husabost with his son in his latter years and died there in 1887. Nicol took the tenancy of Claigan into his sole name in 1889 and this he retained until 1917. He continued to live at Husabost just across the loch from Claigan and farmed both places. He came over by motor launch or round by pony and trap to attend to the farm. In 1891 he had two managers. John MacDonald was the farm manager and lived in the farmhouse. Living-in were Lachlan McPherson the cattleman, Donald MacLeod shepherd and housekeeper Mary MacLeod from Snizort. The sheep manager was also called John MacDonald who with his wife Marion and their three children lived in the servant's house. Three other shepherds were Alexander MacLennan at Bay, Malcolim MacPhee at Camlach and Murdo MacLeod at Hornival. When Nicol married Emily Pauline MacLeod daughter of the chief in 1808, his sisters moved out of Husabost and over to Claigan. However they felt very isolated being four miles of rough road from the castle or a boat journey across the loch from Husabost. Also Claigan had a high population of rats! When Nicol and Emily married in 1908 there was a peat bonfire on top of the Murachan, above Claigan. Around 1915 Martin had 5395 acres on Claigan, 2300 cheviot sheep, three working horses, 4 colts, 6 milk cows, 19 highland calves and 12 highland stinks, a dwelling house, steading, barn, byre, and three shepherds' houses, one manager and four shepherds, two at Claigan, one at Bay and one at Swordale (Totochocaire?).

JOHN MORRISON, with sister at Swordale? on Dr MacAskill's list: 1840, "pays no rent".

MALCOLM NICOLSON, Claigan and Effy MacCrimmon, Swordale married 4/2/1822.

