

[Details of People Cleared from Orinsay in 1843]

The following list of all the families who lived in Orinsay when the people were cleared from there is based on the 1841 census returns which were taken two years before the township was cleared. The list also sets out the location to which the various families went after they were evicted from Orinsay. Fourteen families went to Crossbost, which was previously a Tack, 3 families went to Leurbost, 2 families went to Steimreway and one family each to Grimshader and Sandwick, and one family emigrated. There were about half a dozen senior citizen households who probably went with their relatives. There were a total of about 145 people in Orinsay when it was cleared.

Originally there were only 27 crofts in Crossbost and the 14 families evicted from Orinsay first tenanted the following 12 crofts in 1843. The crofts were crofts 4 & 5 (two families), 6, 8 & 13 (two families), 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 24 and 25. Families fleeing from the Lemreway clearance in 1843 occupied the following Crossbost crofts: 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, (2 two families on each croft), 14, 17, 18, 20, 23, 26 and 27.

The Orinsay Clearance

When the family of John Mackenzie, as follows, was evicted from Orinsay in 1843, they went to live at 4 Crossbost:

John Mackenzie	1811	son of Murdo Mackenzie, Orinsay
Catherine Macaulay	1823	daughter of John Macaulay Lemreway
Isabella age 2	1841	Mrs Don. Macdonald 29 Crossbost

There were six more children born to the above family after they were evicted:

Annabella	1846	Mrs Donald Nicolson 10 Gravir
John	1848	settled at Maryhill 35 Crossbost
Donald	1853	settled at 4 Crossbost
Anna	1855	Mrs Don. Macinnes 5 Crossbost
Robert	1859	Married Catherine Smith 53 Leurbost
Christine	1865	Mrs Roderick Montgomery 25 Ranish

Murdo Mackenzie 1781, who was the father of John Mackenzie 1811, head of the above family was also evicted from Orinsay in 1843 and he went to live at 6 Grimshader. John Macaulay, 'lain Mor' 1786, Lemreway, who was the father of Catherine the mother of the above family, was also evicted from Lemreway in 1843 and he went to live at 9 Crossbost.

When the family of Alexander Macinnes, as follows, were evicted from Orinsay in 1843 they went to live at 5 Crossbost:

Alexander Macinnes	1811	son of Murdo Macinnes, Orinsay
Margaret Smith	1813	sister of Calum 'Ruadh' Smith, 6 Gravir
Ishbel age 5	1837	Mrs Neil Macdonald 20 Crossbost
Murdo age 3	1839	married C Mackenzie 47 Crossbost

After the family were evicted from Orinsay there were four more children born to the family as follows:

Donald 1842 settled at 5 Crossbost

Catherine 1846 married D Mackenzie 25 Crossbost Marion 1853 Mrs. Murdo Macdonald, 22 Crossbost

Alastair 'Beag' 1856 settled at 5 Crossbost

Alexander Macinnes' parents were also at Orinsay when the people were cleared in 1843, as follows:

Murdo MacInnes 1766 Murchaidh na Luachre

Flora Maclennan 1766

The other members of Murdo Macinnes's family were already married and away from home in 1843 but we note them below for information, as follows:

Neil 'Dubh' 1792 settled in Steimreway, later 12 Lemreway

lain Ruadh 1793 settled at 8 Gravir

Rachel 1795 Mrs Don. Macinnes 36 Gravir

Anna 1809 Mrs Neil Nicolson Steimreway, later 21 Lemreway

'Murchaidh na Luachre' as the name indicates, lived at one time in 'Luachre', a small township at the head of Loch Resort on the borders between Uig and Harris and the nearest point on the roadway is Morsgail Lodge in Uig. Subsequently he moved to Brollum in southern Park and when the people were cleared from there the family came to Orinsay. Once again he was evicted from Orinsay in 1843 and went with his son, Alastair, to 5 Crossbost. At the age of about 80 years the old couple was moving into their fourth home at least.

Donald Macdonald's family went to live at **6 Crossbost** when they were evicted from Orinsay in 1843. Later on they moved to 8 Balallan:

Donald Macdonald 1st husband

Catherine Mackenzie 1802 Catriona Choinnich Eachainn, Buthinish

Ishbel Macdonald 1827 spinster

Anna age 13 1829

Kenneth age 11 1831 subsequently settled at 7 Lemreway in 1857

Duncan age 10 1832 settled at 8 Balallan

Mary age 8 1834 Mrs Wm. Mackenzie, 32 Leurbost Catherine age 5 1837 Mrs Alex Nicolson, 9 Lemreway

Donald Mackinnon 2nd husband, Domhnuill Chalum Ruadh Orinsay

Donald 1845 subsequently settled at 8 Balallan

Catherine Mackenzie's first husband had died before the family was evicted from Orinsay. When she married Donald Mackinnon the family moved from Crossbost to 8 Balallan. Catherine Mackenzie was a sister of Murdo Mackenzie 15 Crossbost, Donald Mackenzie 4 Habost, etc.

When the above family moved to 8 Balallan, Angus Macmillan, 1821-1898, son of John Macmillan, 17 Crossbost, came to croft 6 Crossbost as follows:

Angus Macmillan 1821 son of John Macmillan, Lemreway & 17 Crossbost

Annabella Mackay 1821 daughter of Donald Mackay, Eishkin Donald 1850 subsequently settled at 6 Crossbost

Christine 1853 Mrs J Mackenzie, 4 Cross

John 1855 married Jane Macarthur, 23 Cromore/44 Leurbost Mary 1858 Mrs Don. Macdonald, 23 Cromore/Stornoway

Murdo 1860 died young

Anna 1864 subsequently Mrs Donald Montgomery, 8 Leurbost

See note on the Macmillan family of 'Aonghais a Bhàrd', 6 Crossbost under reference croft 17 Crossbost, John Macmillan who came from Lemreway.

See note on the Mackay family of Annabella, wife of Aonghais a Bhàrd 6 Crossbost, under reference croft 10 Crossbost. Lachlan Maclean who was also evicted from Lemreway.

The family of Murdo Macleod as follows, went to live at 8 Crossbost after they were cleared from Orinsay in 1843:

Murdo Macleod 1811 Isabella Macdonald 1801

Murdo age 16 1826 Ann age 13 1829 1st wife, daughter of Duncan Macdonald

Catherine age 10 1832 Mrs Murdo Macleod, 33 Ranish, settled at 8 Crossbost

Duncan age 8 1834 settled at 8 Crossbost

Donald age 5 1837 married Effie Graham, Garrabost at Stornoway 2nd wife, daughter of Calum Martin, 43 Leurbost

No issue

According to tradition, Murdo Macleod's original surname was said to be Ferguson. It is also said that his first wife may have been married previously to a Mr. Macleod. Murchadh Donn's parents were said to have lived in Keose and later at 1 Leurbost where their son Fergus settled.

When the family of Norman Macleod, as follows, were evicted from Orinsay in 1843 they went to live at 13 Crossbost:

Norman Macleod	1766
Christy Macritchie	1771
Catherine	1791
Ann	1813

The following four additional members of the above family were married, with their own families, before the eviction from Orinsay took place:

Christine 1797	married to J Mackenzie at Lemreway/3 Crossbost
John 1802	married to Cath Macdonald at Orinsay/48 Leurbost
Mary 1798	married to Murdo Macritchie at 21 Gravir
Calum 1796	who was married and living in Orinsay and went with his father to 13
	Crossbost as follows:
Calum Macleod 1796	son of Norman Macleod, Orinsay/13 Crossbost
Ann Macleod 1807	1 st wife, sister of Calum Macleod, 2 Crossbost
Marion age 13 1833	subsequently Mrs Alex Maciver, 41 Ranish
Ann age 11 1831	married to Murdo Macritchie at 21 Gravir
Catherine age 9 1833	Mrs Rod. Macleod, 33 Crossbost
John age 8 1834	settled 31 Crossbost
Donald age 6 1836	settled 13 Crossbost
Norman age 3 1839	settled at 13 Crossbost died young
Margaret age 2 1841	died young
Ann Mackenzie 1815	2 nd wife, daughter of J Mackenzie, 24 Crossbost
Calum 'Ruadh 1848	subsequently settled at 13 Crossbost

The second marriage and the birth of the last son took place after the family settled at 13 Crossbost.

The family of Murdo Mackenzie, as follows, went to live at 15 Crossbost, after they were evicted from Orinsay in 1843:

Murdo Mackenzie Catherine Macdonald Peggy age 17 Anna age 15 John age 11 Duncan age 10 Kenneth age 7 Donald 'Bàn' age 3	1801 1802 1825 1828 1832 1833 1836 1840	son of Kenneth Mackenzie, Buthinish sister of John Macdonald, 16 Crossbost Mrs Don Mackenzie, 24 Crossbost Mrs J Mackay, Callanish settled 20 Crossbost settled at 7 Habost Lochs settled in Glasgow and USA settled at 15 Crossbost
Alex baby	1843	settled in Stornoway

Before coming to Orinsay the Mackenzie family lived in Buthinish southern Park. When they were evicted from Orinsay their family of seven ranged in age from an infant to 18 years. John Macdonald, 'lain Ruadh Dhonnachadh Bhàn', a brother of Catherine the mother of the above family, settled at 16 Crossbost. Murdo, the head of the above family, was a brother of Donald at 4 Habost; Hector at 26 Balallan, etc. In 1891, John Mackenzie 1832, a son of the above family was one of the 18 landless cottars who sailed from Crossbost to raid and occupy their former village of Orinsay in southern Park, which was let as a grazing farm to his brother-in-law Roderick Martin, Crobeg, in the I880s under a lease for 19 years at a rent of £50 per annum. On 9 April 1891 twelve of the raiders including John were tried under the Trespass (Scotland) Act of 1865, and were found guilty and given the maximum sentence of 24 days imprisonment at Inverness.

When the family of John Macdonald, as follows, were evicted from Orinsay they went to live at 16 Crossbost:

John Macdonald	1782	son of Duncan Macdonald, Orinsay
Henrietta Macrae	1783	daughter of Alastair Macrae, Habost
Donald age 27	1816	subsequently settled at 11 Keose
John age 22	1821	settled at 16 Crossbost
Alexander age 19	1824	settled at 13 Keose
Catherine age 16	1827	Mrs Angus Mackay Achmore

Roderick age 14 1829 settled at 16 Crossbost

Murdo Macdonald, 1811, the oldest member of the above family who was married to Annabella Macritchie, 6 Kershader, and living on their own with four young children in Orinsay at this time, subsequently settled at **22 Crossbost**. Henrietta Macrae, mother of the above family, was a sister of Donald Macrae, 3 Habost Lochs.

When the following family of Donald Mackenzie was evicted from Orinsay in 1843 they went to live at 19 Crossbost:

Donald Mackenzie	1799	son of Alastair Mackenzie Orinsay
Christyann Kennedy	1802	daughter of Donald Kennedy, 2 Calbost
Alex age 13	1830	subsequently married Cath Mackenzie, 5 Laxay
Margaret age 11	1832	Mrs Calum 'Ruadh' Kennedy, 23 Cromore
Anna age 10	1833	Mrs Don. Nicolson, 15 Lemreway
Roderick age 8	1835	settled at 19 Crossbost
Murdo age 7	1836	
Kenneth age 6	1837	settled at 28 Crossbost
Donald age 3	1840	settled at 19 Cromore

The ages of the above 7 children ranged for 3 to 13 when they were evicted in 1843. Donald Mackenzie, the head of the above family, was a brother of John Mackenzie, 24 Crossbost and Murdo Mackenzie, 25 Crossbost. The Mackenzie families were evicted from Buthinish in southern Park earlier in order to make way for the expanding Park Sheep Farm.

When the following family of John Martin was evicted from Orinsay they went to live at 21 Crossbost:

John Martin	1803	son of Donald Martin, Orinsay & Steimreway
Henry Macleod	1801	daughter of Ewan Macleod
Christy age 11	1831	subsequently Mrs Fergus Macleod, 1 Leurbost
Angus age 10	1832	married Effie Macleod, 18 West Shawbost
Marion age 8	1834	Mrs A Mackay Bernera at 11 Grimshader
Catherine age 5	1837	spinster
Flora age 3	1840	subsequently Mrs S Macaulay, 7 Crossbost
Mary age 2	1841	spinster

The six children of this family ranged in age between 2 and 12 years old when they were evicted from Orinsay. Donald Martin, father of the above John Martin, lived in Orinsay until the 1843 clearance and then he went to live in Steimreway but when Steimreway was cleared in 1857 he went to live at 2 Lemreway. Subsequently his widow moved to a stance above 8 or 9 Lemreway.

When the family of Murdo Macdonald, as follows, was evicted from Orinsay in 1843 they went to live at 22 Crossbost:

1811 1812 1834 1837 1839	son of John Macdonald, Orinsay daughter of Murdo Macritchie, 6 Kershader subsequently settled at 22 Crossbost Mrs Duncan Macleod Crossbost settled at 29 Crossbost
1842	Mrs Rod. Mackenzie 19 Crossbost
	1812 1834 1837 1839

There were two more children 22 Crossbost, as follows:

John	1846	subsequently settled at 22 Crossbost
Murdo	1848	subsequently settled at 22 Crossbost

John Macdonald, 1782, father of the head of the above family was also evicted from Orinsay in 1843 and he settled at **16 Crossbost**.

When the family of John Mackenzie, as follows, were evicted from Orinsay in 1843 they went to live at 24 Crossbost:

John Mackenzie	1776	son of Alastair Mackenzie Orinsay
Ishbel	1781	
Roderick age 28	1815	married Mary Maclennan at Lower Sandwick
Ann age 27	1816	Mrs Calum Macleod 13 Crossbost
Donald age 26	1817	settled at 24 Crossbost

Annabella Mackenzie, 1810, the eldest member of the above family was already married to Norman Macaulay Lemreway and had got six of her family of eleven children when they also were evicted from Lemreway in 1843 and they went to live at 7 Crossbost. Two other married brothers of John Mackenzie, the head of the above family, were evicted from Orinsay in 1843 as follows:

Murdo Mackenzie 1796 who settled at 25 Crossbost Donald Mackenzie 1799 who settled at 19 Crossbost John Mackenzie who settled at 24 Crossbost

The Mackenzie families were evicted earlier from Buthinish.

When the family of Murdo Mackenzie, as follows, were evicted from Orinsay in 1843 they went to live at 25 Crossbost:

Murdo Mackenzie	1796	son of Alastair Mackenzie
Margaret Macleod	1801	daughter of Donald Macleod
Peggy age 16	1826	Mrs Norman Macleod, 1 Grimshader
Johanna age 15	1827	Mrs Murdo Macleod, 1 Grimshader
Catherine age 13	1829	spinster
Roderick age 10	1832	married Kate Maciver, 22 Upper Bayble
Donald age 9	1833	settled at 30 Crossbost
Annabella age 5	1836	Mrs Norman Macsween, 4 Leurbost
Alexander baby	1842	settled at 25 Crossbost

Murdo Mackenzie's seven children were aged from infant in arms to 16 years when they were evicted from Orinsay.

The family of **Donald Finlayson**, as follows, went to live at **Steimreway** after they were evicted from Orinsay in 1843 and then to **30 Lemreway** when Steimreway was cleared:

Donald Finlayson 1818 son of Malcolm Finlayson, 14 Calbost

Peggy Gillies 1821 1st wife, daughter of Donald Gillies, Orinsay/5 Leurbost

John baby 1842 emigrated to North America

Five additional children were born into this family after they were cleared from Orinsay, as follows:

Catherine 1845 spinster Donald 1850 died young

Roderick 1855 drowned at Lerwick fishing

Christyann 1859 Mrs Louis Macinnes, 12 Lemreway;

Ann age 1 1861 spinster

Christy Macsween 1826 2^{ind} wife, daughter of Don. Macsween, 8 Airidhbhruach

When the family of **Donald Martin**, as follows, were evicted from Orinsay in 1843 they went to live in **Steimreway**, and when Steimreway was cleared in 1857 the Martin family went to live at **2 Lemreway**:

Donald Martin son of Donald Martin

Margaret Macleod 1798 daughter of Alex Macleod, 11 Cromore

John age 30 I813 settled at 21 Crossbost Donald age 22 1821 settled at 10 Crossbost

Margaret, the widow, eventually moved from 2 Lemreway to a small house on a stance about 8 or 9 Lemreway and Donald Macinnes took over croft 2 Lemreway. The widow of Donald Martin Junior 1821, Ann Mackay, 10 Crossbost, subsequently married Lachlan Maclean at 10 Crossbost

The family of **Donald Gillies**, as follows, went to live at **5 Leurbost** after they were evicted from Orinsay:

Donald Gillies 1780 Christy Macleod 1780

Roderick age 13 1822 married Rachael Cunningham, Scalpay/Leurbost Anna age 15 1828 Mrs Don Macleod, 8 Grimshader/6 Leurbost

The following four additional members of the above family were already married when the crofters were evicted:

Catherine age 40	1803	Mrs. Alex Morrison, 22 Leurbost
Mary age 38	1805	Mrs. Neil Mackenzie, 12 Crossbost
Annabella age 32	1811	Mrs. Ken Gillies, Ranish, emigrated 1850s
Margaret age 22	1821	Mrs. Donald Finlayson, 30 Lemreway

Kenneth Mackenzie, 'Coinneach Choinnich Eachainn 1812, who was married to the above Annabella Gillies 1811, settled in Ranish and emigrated in the 1850s. He had six brothers and two sisters. Donald, his brother, settled at 4 Habost, and Hector at 26 Balallan. Hector's daughter Mary was married to Coinneach Mor 7 Lemreway.

When the family of Alexander Morrison, as follows, was evicted from Orinsay in 1843, they went to live at 22 Leurbost:

Alexander Morrison Christy Morrison Isabella Catherine Gillies Ann age 12 Catherine age 10 John age 7	1796 1821 1806 1830 1832 1835	son of John Morrison and Ann Macarthur 1 st wife Mrs. Angus Mackay, Achmore 2 nd wife Mrs. Murdo Macdonald, 37 Leurbost spinster married Effie Smith, Earshader/22 Leurbost
John age 7	1835	married Effie Smith, Earshader/22 Leurbost
Christy age 4	1838	Mrs. Allan Mackenzie, 19 Leurbost

Although Christy Morrison, first wife of the above Alexander Morrison, had passed away long before the family was evicted from Orinsay, we note her name here for information.

The family of **John Macleod**, as follows, went to live at **48 Leurbost** after they were cleared from Orinsay:

John Macleod	1802	son of Norman Macleod Orinsay
Catherine Macdonald	1811	daughter of John Macdonald 7 Garyvard
Margaret age 8	1834	Mrs J Macritchie, 21 Gravir/48 Leurbost/9 Garyvard
John age 7	1835	married I Macritchie, 21 Gravir
Norman age 5	1837	married M Macdonald 61 Balallan/9Garyvard
Alexander age 4	1838	
Calum age 1	1841	married Ann Matheson, 5 Gravir

The following additional children were born to this family after they were evicted from Orinsay in 1843:

Ann	1844	Mrs N Macleod, 13 Crossbost
Donald	1846	bachelor
Thomas	1850	married Mary Campbell, 11 Marvig/Leurbost
Donald	1853	married Mary Mackenzie, 44 Leurbost
Christine	1855	married Alex 'M' Smith, 2 Cromore/Stornoway
Neil	1858	married Catherine Martin, 43 Leurbost

The following brother and sisters of the head of the above family settled as follows:

Calum Macleod	1796	at 13 Crossbost
Christy	1798	married John Mackenzie at 3 Crossbost
Mary	1800	married Murdo Macritchie, 21 Gravir.

When the family of **Murdo Mackenzie**, as follows, were evicted from Orinsay in 1843 they went to live at 6 **Grimshader:**

Murdo Mackenzie Anna MacDonald John Murdo age 25	1781 1793 1811 1818	son of John Mackenzie/Ishbel Munro daughter of Duncan MacDonald, Orinsay settled at 4 Crossbost
Donald age 22	1820	subsequently married Ishbel Smith, 15 Laxay
Alexander age 19	1824	settled at 6 Grimshader
Ann age 17	1826	Mrs Calum Maciver, Garinish at Stornoway
Annabella age 15	1828	Mrs Angus Macaulay, 11 Grimshader
Margaret age 12 Ishbel age 26	1831	Bean Ruaraidh Beag Maclean Stornoway Niece

John Mackenzie, 1811, the oldest member of the above family was already married and on their own when the people were removed from Orinsay. John eventually settled at 4 Crossbost. Ishbel, 1817, the niece given with above family is thought to be Mrs James Macdonald, 9 Habost Lochs. Ishbel was the daughter of Murdo Mackenzie, Balallan who may have lived at No: 1, 46 or 66 Balallan. Ishbel's mother who was also Ishbel and a sister of Murdo, the head of the above family, died an early age.

When the family of **Alistair Macdonald**, as follows were evicted from Orinsay in 1843 they went to live at **Sandwick Stornoway**:

Alastair Macdonald Annabella Ann age 27 Catherine age 24 Mary age 22 William age 19 Donald age 17 Ishbel age 13 Duncan age 10 John age 7 Kenneth age 4	1796 1816 1819 1821 1824 1826 1830 1832 1835
Kenneth age 4	1838 1840
Christy age 2	1040

When the family of Donald Macleod, as follows, was evicted from Orinsay in 1843, they emigrated:

1791	son of Norman Macleod, Scarp
1796	
1821	
1826	
1832	
1837	
1841	
	1796 1821 1826 1832 1837

The eldest daughter of the above family was already married about 5 years before Orinsay was cleared, as follows:

Effie 1816 married to Roderick Campbell, 28 Lemreway ('Ruaraidh Aonghais ic Ruaraidh') whose father settled at 11 Marvig

Domhnuill Mac Thormoid was said to have come from the Isle of Scarp off the west coast of Harris and his home in Orinsay was on the site of the present Angus MacMillan's house at 2 Orinsay, 'Tigh-a-Mhate'. He was reputed to have been an unusually strong person. On one occasion the Stewart brothers of Park Sheep Farm, 'Gillean Ruadh na Pairc', who were universally acknowledged to be very cruel and wild men, invited Donald to meet them at Buthinish across on the south side of Loch Shell. Donald set off in a rowing boat across Loch Shell with a companion, but on arrival at the other side there was no sign of the Stewart brothers. Although Donald knew very well that the Stewart brother's purpose in inviting him was to set about him, as was their custom to rough handle anyone whenever they got an opportunity, nevertheless he set off confidently alone to visit friends in their house nearby, leaving his companion in the boat. As he was climbing up from the shore to his friend's house he saw the Stewart brothers coming out and one of them came forward to meet him. On coming abreast Mr. Stewart offered his hand and without exchanging a word of greeting Donald grasped his hand and pressed it so hard that he forced the blood out of Mr. Stewart's fingernails. When he released his hand Mr. Stewart turned away without a word with his hand under his arm. Donald turned and walked quietly down to his boat, having made his point without uttering a word.

It is significant that Donald Macleod emigrated when Orinsay was cleared in 1843. He was probably a marked man and he could not escape the tentacles of the Lewis estate employees. Probably the estate refused to give him a place to live in within Lewis. That was usually the price a crofter had to pay if he was not submissive. Doubtless the Stewart brothers had the last word as usual.

We first heard the above story in our village ceilidh house, but recently an elderly man from Lemreway related it to us and identified the subject.

In addition to the families already listed as being in Orinsay when the township was cleared in 1843, there were the following people some of whom we have not identified:

Christy Mackenzie age 80 pauper

Christy Mackenzie	age 55	pauper
Ann Maclennan	age 95	
Marion Mackinnon	age 50	spinster
Norman Macleod	age 80	
Betsy	age 40	
Donald Mackinnon	age 40	
Chrissie Mackenzie	age 20	
Mary Maclennan	age 20	
Alex Macdonald	age 55	
Isabella Macdonald	age 14	
Christy Macritchie		servant
Murdo Nicolson		servant
Ewan Maclennan		visitor
Catherine Campbell		visitor

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Author: Angus Macleod

Date:
Original document title: The Orinsay Clearance in 1843
Location in physical archive: Series A, File 1, Section 6
NRAS reference: NRAS 4336/1/1/12

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