

The Genealogy of Croft 14 Calbost

The area where croft 14 is situated is known as 'A Bhuala Glas' and long before Calbost was lotted, Kenneth Maclean lived in the Buala Glas. He was born in Shawbost in 1760 and his name is on the earliest list of kelpers at Calbost that we know about. He was one of the original crofters at Calbost but he subsequently left and went to live at 15 Gravir, presumably because his son Kenneth, born in 1796, settled there. It is thought that Kenneth Maclean was a brother of Angus 'Ruadh' Maclean, 35 Gravir, who also came from Shawbost. Three of Kenneth Maclean's daughters were married in Calbost: Catriona, 1791, was married to Alastair Macleod, 1 Calbost; Chirsty, 1799, was married to Calum 'Og' Mackay, 7 Calbost; and Anna, 1802, was married to Jock Macleod, 8 Calbost.

14 Calbost - crofter

Kenneth Maclean	1760
Gormellia Smith	1761
Mary	1786
Catriona	1791
Kenneth	1796
Chirsty	1799
Anna	1802

'Coinneach Ruadh'

Came from Shawbost area
Mrs Calum MacRitchie 38 Gravir
Mrs Alastair Macleod 1 Calbost
Settled at 15 Gravir
Mrs Calum 'Og' Mackay 7 Calbost
Mrs Jock Macleod

The second tenant at the 'Buala Glas' was Malcolm Finlayson 'Calum ic Dhomhnuill Ruadh', who was a shepherd at Mol-Hagery on the Park Sheep Farm before coming to Calbost. He was one of the original seven crofters at Calbost and was there with Robert Weir the Tacksman. Local tradition maintains that these Finlayson's came from the mainland - probably from the area of Lochcarron. The Calbost and the Marvig Finlayson's are of the same stock.

14 Calbost - crofter

Malcolm Finlayson	1790-1880
Catherine Macarthur 1 st wife	1790-1835
Donald	1815-1902
Angus	1817
Donald 'Crookie'	1822-1881
Margaret	1826-1905
Ishbel	1833-1903
Anna	
Catherine Macarthur 2nd wife	1789-1879
Catriona Chisholm	1819
Margaret Chisholm	1822
Anna Chisholm	1823
Catherine Finlayson	1839
Mary Finlayson	1842
Kate Macleod	1862

'Calum ic Dhomhnuill Ruaidh'

Son of Donald Finlayson, southern Park
Daughter Angus Macarthur, Gravir
Settled at 30 Lemreway
First crofting tenant at 10 Calbost
Settled at 14 Calbost
Spinster
Spinster
Spinster
Widow of A. Chisholm 29 Gravir/Cromore
Widow's daughter married Don Macleod, 4 Cromore
Widow's daughter married Don Macleod, 1 Calbost
Widow's daughter married Don Mackenzie, 12 Calbost
Spinster
Spinster
Mrs Angus Macleod, 13 Lemreway

Donald Finlayson, 1815, 30 Lemreway (as above) was a son of Helen Mackenzie who lived in Steimreway and is thought to have gone to 30 Lemreway.

Malcolm Finlayson's second wife Catherine, 1879, was a daughter of John Macarthur, 20 Cromore. She was married to Angus Chisholm, 29 Gravir, previously and she had three daughters from that marriage (as above). Kate Macleod, 1862, was a daughter of Ishbel Challum, 1833, (as above) and her father was Neil Macleod (Niall Mor) 13 Calbost.

14 Calbost

Donald Finlayson	1822-1881
Kirsty Macleannan	1820
Maggie	
Chirsty	

Domhnuill Challum 'Crookie'

Son of Calum Finlayson, 14 Calbost
Daughter Duncan Macleannan, 18 Marvig
'Bean Mhurchaidh Sheorais', 4 Keose
'Bean Alastair Buachail' Morrison, 20 Marvig

Mrs Kirsty Finlayson, 1820, died when she gave birth to her daughter Chirsty and Mrs Murdo Nicolson, 11 Calbost, who lost a child at the same time, gave suck and brought up Chirsty as if she were her own child. She died in Newton, Stornoway in 1939, the widow of Alastair Buachail 20 Marvig.

14 Calbost - crofter

Duncan Macleod	1827-1905	'Donnachadh Alastair' Son of Alastair Macleod, 1 Calbost
Margaret Chisholm	1826-1900	Step-daughter of Calum Finlayson
Robert	1859	Drowned at Wick aged 21 years
Angus	1861-1891	died at the age of 30 years
John	1864	Died at Fraserburgh aged about 20 years
Murdo	1867-1894	died about 27 years of age

All of Duncan Macleod's family died young and he invited his nephew Roderick Macleod, 1 Calbost, to come to croft 14 as follows:

14 Calbost

Roderick Macleod	1865	'Ruaridh Aonghais Alastair' Son of Angus Macleod, 1 Calbost
Chirsty MacRitchie	1866	Daughter Norman Macritchie, 38 Gravir
Chirsty		Married in Tolsta-Chaolais
Mary Ann		Mrs Roderick Mackinnon, 1 Garyvard
Ann		Mrs M. Mackenzie Grimshader/at Gravir
Peggy		?
Angus		Lost in Royal Navy, Second World War
Norman		Emigrated to Australia

Subsequently the family of Roderick Macleod, 1865, moved to 38 Gravir and later on they moved to 2 Glen Gravir. Thereafter croft 14 Calbost went over to Mr & Mrs Murdo Kennedy through family relationship with Margaret Chisholm, 1826, wife of Duncan Macleod, and her sister Ann who was the wife of Donald Mackenzie 'sen' 'Domhnuill Thormoid', 12 Calbost. His daughter Catherine married Kenneth Mackenzie at 26 Crossbost and their daughter Anna 'Bean an Sidhear' was the wife of the incoming tenant to croft 14 - Murdo Kennedy 1865 as follows:

14 Calbost

Murdo Kennedy	1865	'An Sidhear' Son of Roderick Kennedy, 2 Calbost
Anna Mackenzie	1872	Daughter Kenneth Mackenzie, 26 Crossbost
Roderick	1898	Killed in the First World War, Jan 1915, aged 18
Peggy	1899	Mrs Murdo Macritchie, 21 Gravir
Chirsty	1904	Mrs Donald Macleod, 8 Crossbost
Murdo	1908	Lost, Royal Navy Second World War
Kenneth	1907-1983	Royal Naval Regular
Iain		Infant
Jessie		Infant
Ina	1911	Spinster at Stornoway
John	1913	Settled at 14 Calbost / moved to Stornoway

Murdo Kennedy, 1865, the head of the above family, was a regular soldier, having served 17 years in the Seaforth Highlanders. He served in India, South Africa and Egypt and he held two medals with seven clasps. When his son Roderick was killed early in the First World War he volunteered twice for active service but because of his age (about 50 years) he was not accepted.

14 Calbost

John Kennedy	1913	'Iain an t'Shidhear' Son of Murdo Kennedy, 14 Calbost
Lizzie Brown		From Islivig, Uig, Lewis
Muriel	1944	Married in Uist
Hugh	1945	Settled in Ayrshire
Murdo	1946	
Kenny John	1950	
Margaret Ann	1949	Settled in Stornoway
Leslie	1951	Settled in Aberdeen

The family of John Kennedy 1913, moved to Stornoway in the 1950s.

The croft has now gone over to John Murdo Matheson, 30 Gravir.

Below: Ex-regular soldier Murdo Kennedy, 1865, 14 Calbost, served 20 years in the Seaforth Highlanders, and his oldest daughter Peggy (Mrs Murdo Macritchie, 21 Gravir). Murdo served in India, Egypt and South Africa, among other places. He held two medals and seven clasps.



Above right: Murdo's eldest son Roderick, 1898, who was only 16 years old when the First World War broke out, had already joined the 1st Cameronians by giving a false age. His father volunteered to take his place but his offer was declined. Roderick was killed in action at La Bassee on 25th January 1915, at the age of 17 years. Again his father volunteered for active service but his services were declined again.



Above left: Murdo Kennedy, 1908, another son. He served in the Second World War and lost his life on 8th February 1940, at the age of 30 years, when his ship H.M.S. 'Fort Royal' was sunk by enemy bombers.

Above centre: John Kennedy 1913 another son who was a pre-war Royal Naval Reservist and a leading seaman on Minesweeping duties for 5 ½ years during the Second World War. John was the last resident crofter on croft 14 Calbost before he moved to Stornoway.

Above right: Kenneth Kennedy 1909 another son. He served 10 years in the Royal Navy between the two world wars. He was recalled to active service in 1939 and served throughout the war as a Chief Petty Officer mainly in the Pacific War theatre.



Left: Murdo Kennedy 'A Saighdeir', 14 Calbost, and his wife Ann Mackenzie



Right: Chirsty Kennedy 'Christag-an-T'Sidhear', 1905, 14 Calbost, married Donald Macleod 8 Crossbost at 44 Crossbost.



Chirsty's mother, Annie Mackenzie 'Bean-an-T'Sidhear', 14 Calbost daughter of Kenneth Mackenzie 26 Crossbost.



Above centre: Also in the 1930s are three members of the family of Mr & Mrs Murdo Kennedy, 14 Calbost, at play. In front, Chirsty Kennedy, 1905, who later became Mrs Donald Macleod, Crossbost; and her sister Ina, 1911; and Brother Kenneth, 1907? Kenneth served as a Stewart in the Royal Navy for many years.

Army Form B. 122

Must be prepared to be submitted to the Office of a General

PARLIAMENTARY DISCHARGE of Discharge of No. 1000 (Class) 1st

(Name) Kennedy, Murdo

Rank Sergeant Regiment 2nd Battalion

Born in the Parish of 14 Calbost near the Town of 14 Calbost

in the County of Highland

Attended at 14 Calbost in the 2nd year of 1865

for the 2nd year of 1865 in the 2nd year of 1865

He is discharged in consequence of having completed the term of his engagement

* Service towards completion of Enlistment	Army of <u>1865</u> yrs	Medals and Distinctions <u>Sergeant Major</u> <u>1865-1866</u> <u>1867-1868</u>
Total <u>17</u> yrs		
* Service Abroad <u>17</u> yrs		

(Place) 14 Calbost (Date) 1865 (Signature of General) W. Mackenzie

Rank and Name of Dischargee Sergeant Major

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1865-1866

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1867-1868

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1869-1870

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1871-1872

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1873-1874

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1875-1876

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1877-1878

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1879-1880

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1881-1882

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1883-1884

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1885-1886

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1887-1888

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1889-1890

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1891-1892

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1893-1894

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1895-1896

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1897-1898

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1899-1900

Rank and Name of Dischargee 1901-1902




Regular soldier Murdo Kennedy 1865 of 14 Calbost joined the 2nd Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders in 1885 at the age of 19 years and served in India, Egypt and South Africa. He was discharged in 1902 and held several medals and clasps. His granddaughter, Mrs Muriel Morrison carefully treasured his soldier's apron which he was allowed to keep as a memento. Mr Kennedy volunteered for active service during the 1st World War but was declined on grounds of his age. He lost his 17 year old son Roderick in France in 1915 and his 30 year old son Murdo in 1940 when his naval ship was sunk by enemy action.



Peggy Kennedy, 1899, daughter of Murdo 'Sidhear' Kennedy, 14 Calbost and her mother Anna Mackenzie, 1872, formerly from 26 Crossbost, outside their home at 14 Calbost. Subsequently Peggy married Murdo 'Fido' Macritchie, 21 Gravir, and they had three children - Annie Mary, married in England; Roderick, married at 1 Garyvard; and Calum married in the family home at 21 Gravir.

Below left: Here is a copy of a letter received by Mr and Mrs Munro and Anna Kennedy, 14 Calbost from Queen Elizabeth at the time of the Queen's wedding. The Kennedy family lost a son in each of the two world wars - Roderick at La Bassee in France in 1915, at the age of 17 years; and Murdo R.N.R. lost at sea in 1940, at the age of 30 years. Their father Murdo Kennedy served 21 years in the Army with service in India, Egypt and South Africa etc.


 BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Many kind friends
 overseas sent me gifts of food
 at the time of my wedding
 I want to distribute it
 as best I can, and to share
 my good fortune with others
 I therefore ask you to
 accept this parcel with my
 very best wishes
Elizabeth



Army Form B 304-BE

3/5538
 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
 DEPARTMENT RECORD OFFICE
 15 FEB 1915

I have the honor to inform you that a report has just been received from the War Office regarding the death of the above named soldier. He was killed in action on the 25th-27th January 1915. I am to express to you my sympathy and I am to express to you my sympathy and I am to express to you my sympathy.

Any application you may wish to make regarding the late soldier's affairs should be addressed to "The Secretary, War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W." and marked on the envelope "Deceased Soldier's Affairs."

I am,
 Sir,
 Your obedient servant,
 H. G. Kitchener
 Major General
 Officer in Charge of Records

The King commands me to assure you of the deep sympathy of His Majesty and The Queen in your sorrow.
Kitchener

Above: Copy of the notification received by Mr and Mrs Murdo Kennedy, 14 Calbost in February 1915 informing them that their Son Private Roderick Kennedy No. 3/5538 of the Cameron Highlanders was killed in action at La Bassee, France, on 25/27 January 1915. Roderick was born in 1898 and therefore he was only aged 17 years, having enlisted too young by giving false age. Here, also, is a copy of the message the parents received from Lord Kitchener at that time. His father, Murdo Kennedy, who was a retired regular soldier offered to take his place in the Army when it was discovered that he was under-age but that offer was declined.



A view of Calbost in the late 1940s.

Top Extreme Left: may be seen a corner of dwelling house No. 1 above the road.

Next: the Dept. House on croft No. 3 still lived-in at that time.

Then: the roof of dwelling house No. 2 at the junction of the new road leading to crofts 8 and 9.

Next: may be seen dwelling house No. 4, 'Tigh Florraidh.'

Then: dwelling house No. 5 at the bend of the road, built in the late 1930s and still lived-in at that time.

Centre of Picture: dwelling house No. 6, as it was built by 'Coinneach T'hormoid' at the end of the Nineteenth Century.

Right of Centre: is Kenneth Mackay's No. 7 dwelling house.

In Forefront Centre below Road to Gravir: may be seen the Village Prayer House which was originally built about 1927 and extended twice in order to accommodate all the worshippers.

Also in Forefront below the road: may be seen the walls of the proposed new home of the Kennedy family of No. 14. Building work was suspended when the Second World War started and Murdo was lost in the war and the building was never completed.

The new road to Gravir was only completed about 1940.

Croft Nos. 8 and 9: may be seen in the background (right) with the new vehicular road built in 1943, enabling peat supplies to reach them by vehicle for the first time ever.

Iain Ruadh's house may be seen with its original tar and felt roof; then Murdo 'Peter' Macleod's house; then Domhnuill Cruaidh's home; and Derrick's house; and Tigh Neill.



A view of Calbost from Croft 14 as the road goes out towards Gravir, circa. 1975.

In the forefront may be seen the village prayer house as it was refurbished about 1972.

On the right is 'Tigh Choinneach Thormoid,' Kenneth Macleod, croft 6, probably the second oldest white house built in Calbost, now owned by Donald Macleod who came from 20 Marvig and refurbished it. To the left of that is the new house of 'Aonghais Ruaraidh', Angus Smith, croft 5 and to the left of that again is the de-roofed house of 'Calum Ruadh Thormoid Og', Calum Mackenzie, croft 4 and part of 'Leis Mor', Rob Weir the tacksman. On the hill opposite may be seen the road going crofts 8 & 9

Right: centre of photo– Murdo Kennedy, 14 Calbost, who served 20 years in the Seaforth Highlanders. He was involved in action in India, South Africa and Egypt and volunteered twice for service in the First World War



Left: Kenneth Kennedy, 1907, and his brother John on the right 1913 - sons of Murdo Kennedy, 14 Calbost.

Chief Petty Officer Kenneth served 10 years as a Regular in the Royal Navy and he was recalled to active service in the Second World War. Leading seaman John served for 5 ½ years on Minesweeping Service in the Second World War. An older brother, Roderick, was killed at the battle of La Basse in the Mons Campaign in the First World War, at the early age of 18 years. Another Naval Reserve brother Murdo Kennedy lost his life on 8th February 1940, aged 30 years, when his ship HMS 'Fort Royal' was sunk by enemy action. Their father Murdo Kennedy served 21 years in the Seaforth Highlanders and volunteered twice for active service in the First World War, but he was declined because of his age.



Telegram

Here is a copy of the telegram received by Mr and Mrs Murdo Kennedy, 14 Calbost, on 10 February 1940, informing them that their son (above inset), thirty year old R.N.R. Murdo Kennedy 'Murdo an Sidhear', was missing presumed dead as a result of enemy action, when his ship, HMS 'Fort Royal' was sunk by bombers in the North Sea.

This was 25 years to the month after receiving similar news about their eldest son Roderick (above) who was killed in France at the age of 17 years.

Charges to pay
RECEIVED
12.00 p
From Mrs
To Mrs M Kennedy
Prefix: Time based on Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words 51
12.00 p
From Mrs
To Mrs M Kennedy
Immediate Priority
Mrs M Kennedy is informed that
Deeply regret to inform you that
your son Seaman Murdo Kennedy is
missing believed dead.
Commanding Officer Patrol
Service Central Dept
Lowestoft

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

OFFICE STAMP
10 FEB 1940

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and, if possible, the envelope.