

The Genealogy of Croft 5

Donald Smith, who was born about 1790, was the original crofting tenant on Croft 5. He was at Calbost before the first lotting of the village about 1818 and therefore he was a smallholder with the tacksman, Robert Weir. There is a strong local tradition that the Smiths of Calbost, Marvig, Cromore and Leurbost are the same family of Smiths. There is also an unconfirmed oral tradition that these Smiths came from Dumfries originally. Local oral tradition also maintains that the Smiths of Calbost lived in Eishkin at one time, but Donald Smith was at Calbost long before the crofters were evicted from Eishkin in 1833.

Croft 5 'original tenant'

Donald Smith	1790-1835	
Margaret Macdonald	1793-1858	Daughter of Roderick Macdonald
Ishbel	1816	Mrs Angus Finlayson, 10 Calbost
Christy	1822	Spinster
Roderick	1823-1877	Settled at 5 Calbost
Anna	1826	Spinster
Christina	1826-1897	Spinster

Croft 5

Roderick Smith	1823-1877	'Ruaraidh Gobha' Son of Donald Smith, 5 Calbost
Catriona Macleod	1827-1911	Daughter of Roderick Macleod, 15 Cromore
Anna	1852-1893	Mrs Roderick Macinnes, 12 Lemreway
Donald	1854-1887	Cottar at 5 Calbost
Christy	1855	Mrs Donald Mackenzie, 12 Calbost
Alastair	1856	Died early
Angus	1858	Tenant at 5 Calbost
Alastair	1859	Infant
Roderick 'Mor'	1861-1917	Cottar at 5 Calbost
Peggy	1863-1897	Mrs Alastair Macleod, 24 Cromore
John	1865-1902	Bachelor
Allan	1865-1905	Cottar at 5 Calbost
Malcolm	1868-1905	Died young

Four of the sons of the above family of Roderick Smith, 1823, were obliged to settle on the family croft because there was no other land available. There was therefore gross overcrowding on croft 5 Calbost for a long period, as indeed there was on all Calbost crofts.

In 1891 the Smith brothers (balaich Ruaraidh Gobha) joined in the extensive land raiding movement at Southern Park that year. Their contemporary, Angus Morrison, 9 Calbost, our ceilidh house host, who was with them at the land raiding, often related to us how Mrs Smith asked her sons to bring back a sample of the soil of Lemreway which was the place the Calbost contingent was land raiding. The young men forgot their mother's request to bring back a sample of the soil. It was only when they came within sight of their home when they were returning that they remembered, so they quickly scooped up a pocketful of the soil of their own 'Loba-Ruadh' and duly presented the sample to their mother, who tasted it in her mouth and declared it to be very good soil, the very same kind of soil as our 'Loba-Ruadh' she said.

The 1891 land raiders of Park were imprisoned in Inverness.

Catriona Macleod, 1823, the mother of the above family, was a sister of her neighbour, Mairi Macleod, wife of John Macleod, 6 Calbost (Bean an Thormoid). Another sister was Barbara, wife of John Matheson, 13 Gravir (Bean an Mhurchaidh). A third sister was Christy, first wife of Kenneth Maclean, 15 Gravir (Bean Coinneach Choinneach). Yet another sister was Isabella, wife of William Mackinnon, 7 Cromore (Bean Uilleam Donnachadh), as well as their two brothers, Calum Macleod (Calum Ruaraidh Bhàn), who settled at Balallan, and Donald Macleod (Domhnuill Ruaraidh Bhàn), who settled at 15 Cromore.

5 Calbost 'Cottar'

Donald Smith	1854-1887	'Domhnuill Ruaraidh Gobha' Son of Roderick Smith, 5 Calbost
Mary Macleod	1862-1886	Daughter of Murdo Macleod, 18 Cromore
Infant	1886	

Both parents and child died about the same time. Donald Smith was reputed to be one of the strongest men going from Lewis to the east coast fishing.

5 Calbost 'Cottar'

Roderick Smith	1861-1917	'Ruaraidh Mor Ruaraidh Gobha' Son of Roderick Smith, 5 Calbost
Annabella Macmillan	1867	Daughter of Duncan Macmillan, 23 Lemreway
Roderick		Bachelor, died middle age
Duncan		Died at school age

5 Calbost 'Cottar'

Alan Smith	1865-1905
Anna Macleod	1871
Donald	1895
Murdo	1897
Mary Ann	1903

Anna Macleod, 1871, the mother of the above family, was left a widow at the early age of 40 years with three children under 10 years of age, on a croft shared by three families. Subsequently the only surviving member of her family, Mary Ann married John Mackenzie, 12 Calbost, and the family moved out to the common grazing at the back of the village wall at the west end of Calbost. Her daughter Mary Ann dutifully looked after granny 'Anna' in her old age within her own home.

5 Calbost

Angus Smith	1858
Mary Ann Mackenzie	1870
Infant	
Peggy	1893
Flora	1896
Christy	1898
Dolina	1899
Roderick	1902
Dolina	1904
Anna	1907
Malcolm	1911
Duncanina	1913

'Aonghais Ruaraidh Gobha'

Son of Roderick Smith, 5 Calbost
Daughter of Calum Mackenzie, 4 Calbost
Mrs Donald Mackay, 28 Gravir
Unmarried
Mrs Rev. Murdo Macphail, Gravir, at Scalpay
died young
Emigrated to Prince Rupert, Canada
Unmarried
Mrs Kenneth Macleod, 6 Calbost/6 Steinish, Stornoway
Bachelor, at North Street, Sandwick, Stornoway
Mrs Alex Morrison, Shader, at Steinish, Stornoway

In 1960 the unmarried members of Angus Smith's family moved to North Street, Sandwick, Stornoway.



This photograph shows the full width of crofts 4 and 5. At the extreme right may be seen a telegraph pole beside the road which marks approximately the boundary of crofts 3 and 4.

In the middle of the photo is the next telegraph pole at the 'Frith-rathad' footpath in the boundary between crofts 4 and 5, and the third telegraph pole towards the left marks the approximate boundary between crofts 5 and 6, with the ruins of Tormod Coinneach's house on croft 6.

The 1908 white house on croft 4 may be seen above the main road on the left and the 1937 white house of Angus Smith's family of croft 5 may be seen just below the main road.

In the foreground may be seen on the right the ruins of Roderick Mackenzie's house on croft 4 followed by the ruins of Angus Smith's house on croft 5.

In the foreground was Roderick 'Mor' Smith's house with the stack yard 'Iolainn' at the south end and the barn 'sabhal' at the north end. It was this 'sabhal' that became the dwelling house of the family of Allan Smith and it was always designated as 'Tigh-an-Sabhal'. It was the village ceilidh house when the family was together.

On the extreme left just below the stack yard of croft 5 may be seen the ruins of John Macleod, 'Ian Thormod's dwelling house on croft 6, and beyond that was John Macleod's barn which became home for Alex Macleod's family 'Alex an Thormoid' who subsequently moved to 10 Garyvard.

In this street of thatched houses extending over crofts 4, 5 and 6 in the centre of the village were six dwelling houses and their lazybeds may be seen in the centre of the photo.

Annabella, Roderick Smith's widow moved out of the old house and built a new house in the early 1930s just below the new Angus Smith house near the main road.

Murdo Smith, below right, 5 Calbost, with his brother Donald. Murdo was killed at Puchevilliers in December 1916, aged 19.



Roderick Smith, 1902 - 1986, above left, 'Ruaraidh Aonghais Ruaraidh', son of Angus Smith and Mary Mackenzie 5 Calbost.

Roderick emigrated to Canada on the 'SS Marloch' in April 1924, one of three emigrant ships that carried away hundreds of young men and women from the Isle of Lewis in the 1920s after the First World War. Roderick settled in Prince Rupert, Canada and as he held a Certificate in Navigation, which he gained in the local school, he was able to get work in Canada as a Ships Officer.

During the whole period of the 1920s, some 16 young people from Calbost emigrated.



Above left: Mairi Ann Mackenzie, born 1870 at 4 Calbost, wife of Angus Smith 5 Calbost, her son Calum Smith, above right, born 1911, and his sister Flora, 1896. The Angus Smith family of 5 Calbost consisted of six girls and two boys. They lost one girl, Dolina, and an infant young. The names of the family are as follows:

Peggy	1893	Dolina	1904
Flora	1896	Anna	1907
Christy	1898	Calum	1911
Roderick	1902	Duncanina	1913



Roderick Smith, 5 Calbost, 1902–1986
Son of Angus Smith and Mary Ann Mackenzie



Chrissie Smith, 5 Calbost and Duncanina Smith, 5 Calbost



Chrissie Smith, 5 Calbost, Mary Mackenzie (George,) 4 Marvig and Dolina Smith, 5 Calbost



Back Row

Pipe Major Donald Maclean, Ballantrushal
 Donald Morrison, Shader
 John Maclean, Doune Carloway/Glasgow
 Flora Smith, 5 Calbost
 Kenneth Macleod, 6 Calbost
 Chrissie Smith Macphail, 5 Calbost
 Donald Morrison, Shader
 Mrs Macphail from Carloway
 Calum Smith, 5 Calbost

Front Row

Margaret Morrison, Shader
 Alexander Morrison (Groom), Shader
 Duncanina Smith (Bride), 5 Calbost
 Megalin Maclean, 4 Calbost
 Rev. Murdo Macphail, Croy
 Mary Morrison

on floor

Kenneth Macphail



Left - Peggy (Ruadh) Smith or Mackay and sisters Dolina, Chrissie and Flora of 5 Calbost



Munitions workers during the First World War. Flora Smith, 5 Calbost, and a friend.



Flora Smith 5 Calbost
Donald Smith (Allan) 5 Calbost
Maryann Smith 5 Calbost

Below: Kenny Macleod, 6 Calbost, John Mackenzie, Westend, Calbost and Roderick 'Beag' Smith, 5 Calbost





Dolina Smith, 5 Calbost
Mary Mackenzie 'Mairi Chailean', 7 Laxay
Christy Smith, 5 Calbost



Flora Smith, 5 Calbost
Anna Smith, 5 Calbost with her baby Peggy
Roderick 'Beag' Smith, 5 Calbost



Joan Kennedy, 2 Calbost
Flora Smith, 5 Calbost
Ann Kennedy 2 Calbost

Dolina Smith, 5 Calbost
Maryann (Neil), 9 Calbost
Anna Smith, 5 Calbost



Left: - Christyann Macleod, 1 Calbost
Duncanina Smith, 5 Calbost



Front: Angus Smith 'Aonghais Ruairidh', 5 Calbost
From left: Daughter Duncanina Smith, 5 Calbost
 and sister Peggy 'Ruadh' Smith, 5 Calbost;
 Mairi 'Allan' Mackenzie, West-end Calbost;
 Calum Smith, 5 Calbost;
 Dolina Smith, 5 Calbost



Chrissie Smith, 5 Calbost
 Mother: Maryann Smith
 Sister: Peggy Smith



Murdo served in the Army in Flanders in the First World War and was killed there in 1916 at the early age of 19 years. 'Anna-An-Shabhal' their widowed mother lived in a barn, as her Gaelic name indicates, and she was left bereft of all the male members of her family to struggle on as a landless-homeless family, one of the three families resident on croft 5 Calbost at that time. Eventually she went to live with the family of her daughter Mary who had set up home on the common grazing at the West-end of the village. She never had a real home or land of her own and she and many others must have asked themselves why their sons were expected to sacrifice their lives for a country in which they had no stake.

Donald Smith 'Domhnuill Alain', 5 Calbost, and his cousin Annie Mackenzie (or Armstrong) 1896, 12 Calbost or New York and Donald's brother Murdo Smith 1897, 5 Calbost. Donald and Murdo Smith were the sons of Allan Smith and had a sister Mary 'Bean Sheonnaidh Alastair', West-end Calbost. Donald served in the Royal Navy in the First World War and shortly after that he died on the operating table in a Glasgow Hospital in the late 1920s. He was the Skipper of the family offshore boat 'Penguin' and a very progressive and hard working person. Being a young man and a widow's only surviving son the community were shocked at his sudden death after surviving the war.