

The Genealogy of Croft 7 Calbost

Malcolm Mackay 'Calum Òg' (hence his descendants were known locally as 'Na h-Ogaich'). He was born in 1801 in Kirivik, Carloway, and he was the first crofting tenant on croft 7 Calbost. Oral tradition informs us that to begin with he came to Gravir to work for a man called 'Aonghais Ruadh' when he was only 12 years old. It is thought that 'Aonghais Ruadh' (Angus Maclean) resided where croft 35 Gravir is now and that he was a brother of 'Coinneach Ruadh' (Kenneth Maclean) who was at Calbost and moved to croft 15 Gravir. It appears they came from Shawbost. It was the custom at the time that young people were engaged as 'sgallagan' servants or more correctly slaves for little more than their keep and their training. In some homes they were worked very hard both in agriculture and fishing. The idea was a form of residential school.

It appears that 'Calum Og' Mackay's conditions of work were pretty harsh and eventually he decided to run off home. His employer, however, noticed his absence and went after him in order to bring him back. On catching up with him some miles away his employer reasoned with him and in the end they both agreed on improved conditions of work. In future Calum was to be granted the concession of being permitted to partake of his own breakfast before feeding the farmyard animals in the early morning.

We do not know if Calum stayed in Park until he married about the age of 28 years but he was in Park for the rest of his long life of 93 years. Yet, he never forgot his birthplace and in his old age he used to say, "Cuiribh mise a chiribhic gus an teid an ùir tioram orm". ("Bury me in the dry soil of Kirivik"). The inference is that he did not think much of Park as a last resting place.

At that time however the old man's wish was physically impossible to carry out because of lack of roads and the difficulty of conveying his remains from one side of the Island to the other. Probably he was therefore buried in Gravir, or St Colm Island in Loch Erisort. There are Mackay relatives still living in the Carloway area.

Croft 7 Calbost was the smallest croft in the village and it was situated in the middle of the village without any direct access to the common grazing which was rather inconvenient from the point of view of stock movement over other people's land.

'Calum Og' married about 1829 but he did not get an official croft until the second lotting about 1852. He was therefore a landless cottar at Calbost for about 23 years and all his family of seven were born before the Lewis Estate recognised him to be an official crofter. Once again that demonstrated that the second lotting of Lewis was long overdue and that there were landless Cottars at least as early as 1830.

7 Calbost 'crofter'

Calum 'Og' Mackay	1801 - 1894
Christine Maclean	1799 - 1871
Henrietta	1830 - 1909
Margaret	1832
Mary	1833
Kenneth	1835
Anna	1838
Malcolm	1840
Angus	1846
Anna, grandchild	1859 - 1883
Gormelia Smith (mother-in-law)	

'Calum Og'

from Kirivik Carloway
Daughter Kenneth Maclean, Calbost/15 Gravir
Spinster at Calbost
Mrs Norman Macritchie, 38 Gravir
Mrs John Morrison, 9 Calbost
Tenant at 7 Calbost
Infant
Cottar at 7 Calbost
Mrs D. Campbell, 40 Gravir/7 Calbost/Stornoway

7 Calbost 'crofter'

Kenneth Mackay	1835 - 1904
Ishbel Macleod 1 st wife	1843 - 1868
Mary	1864
Christy	1866
Anna Maclean 2 nd wife	1840
Ishbel 'Fraoch'	1870
Christy	1872
John	1874
Christina	1876
Marion	1878
Angus 'Bix'	1882
Kenneth 'Dubh'	1885

'Coinneach Chalum'

Son of Calum Mackay, 7 Calbost
Daughter of Norman Macleod, 6 Calbost
Mrs Norman Macarthur, Carloway
Mrs Roderick Macleod, 35 Gravir/Stornoway
Daughter of John Maclean, 15 Marvig
Mrs Allan Macleod, 7 Marvig
Crofter at 7 Calbost / moved to Stornoway
Mrs D. Campbell, Sutherland
Mrs Calum Morrison, 9 Calbost
Settled on Mainland / killed WWI
Crofter tenant at 7 Calbost

7 Calbost 'Cottar'

Calum 'Beag' Mackay	1841 - 1920
Margaret Chisholm 1 st wife	1842 - 1883
Kenneth	1865
Catherine	1867
Angus	1869

'Calum Bheag Challum'

Son of Malcolm Mackay, 7 Calbost
Daughter John Chisholm, 29 Gravir
Mrs John Mackay, Sutherland
Settled at 1 Lemreway

Christy	1871	Mrs John Mackay, Glasgow
John 'Tailor'	1874	Sailor, died middle age
Malcolm	1877	Infant
Peter	1879	Married C. Morrison, 57 Leurbost
Kate		
Anna Macleod 2 nd wife	1842	from Achmore
Donald	1885	Infant

Calum 'Beag' Mackay, 1841, was an office bearer in the Park Free Church congregation at Gravir. When the old prayer house at croft 6 Calbost fell into disuse in the first decade of the 20th century, Calum Beag's house was used as the weekly village prayer house until a new one was built about 1926 on a feu on Croft 14 Calbost. That prayer house at 14 Calbost was extended twice because of the way it was overcrowded on the Sunday evenings. It was again refurbished about 1970 and it is still in good condition at present in the 1990s but it has not been used since about 1980.

7 Calbost 'Cottar'

Donald Campbell	1858	'Domhnuill Na Chàbaig'
Anna Mackay	1859	Son of Murdo Campbell, 40 Gravir
Murdo	1884	Daughter Kenneth Mackay, 7 Calbost
Christy	1886	Died early
Mary	1888	Married in Glasgow
Malcolm 'Ruadh'	1890	Spinster at Stornoway
noway		Married Marion Morrison, S. Bragar at Stor-
Calum 'Donn'	1893	Settled in Stornoway
Ina	1894	
Angusina	1896	Mrs Donald Montgomery, Ranish at Marybank
Katie Ann	1899	Married on Mainland
Peggy		Married in Glasgow

7 Calbost (Temporary)

Peter Mackay	1879	'Padruig Chalum Bhig'
Christina Morrison	1880 - 1917	Son of Calum 'Beag' Mackay, 7 Calbost
Duncan	1901 - 1921	Daughter George Morrison, 57 Leurbost, died age 37
Margaret Mary	1902 - 1919	Died at age 19
Jean Ann	1905 - 1934	Died at age 17
Alexina	1906 - 1993	Mrs Alastair Drummond, Marybank, died age 29
Johanna	1908 - 1908	Emigrated to Australia at 17yrs, married, died 86
Isabella	1909 - 1932	Infant
		Died at age 22.

Peter Mackay, 1879, lived with his father in Calbost for a while before the family went to live at 57 Leurbost. Peter emigrated as a shepherd to South America shortly after his last child was born in 1909. His daughter Alexina emigrated to Australia at the age of 17 years in 1924. She married there and lived to the age of 87 when she died in 1993. She returned to Lewis once or twice and so did her daughter Margaret Isobel Noy.

7 Calbost 'Cottar'

Allan Macleod	1865	Allan 'Marnaid'
Ishbel Mackay	1870	Son of John Macleod, 7 Marvig
Ina		Daughter of Kenneth Mackay (Sen), 7 Calbost
John		Mrs McNaughton, Stornoway
Aline		Settled in Glasgow
		Mrs Macaulay, Ranish at Stornoway

The family of Allan (Marnaid) Macleod, 1865, lived at 7 Marvig for a while before moving to 7 Calbost. Later on they moved to the Stag in Stornoway where they entertained and accommodated numerous people from Lochs. 'Fraoch' as Ishbel was affectionately known worked at the herring fishing all her life.

7 Calbost 'Crofter'

John Mackay	1874	Iain Choinneach Challum 'An Caoran'
Peggy Mackenzie	1878	Son of Kenneth Mackay 'senior', 7 Calbost
Mary	1902	Daughter of Kenneth Mackenzie, 5 Cromore
Christy Ann	1904	Married in Edinburgh
Kenneth	1908	Mrs Macaulay, Stornoway
Peggy	1909	Married in Stornoway
Ina	1911	Mrs Maclellan, Back, at Stornoway
Johanna	1913	Mrs M Maciver in Stornoway
Christy Maggie	1917	Married in Stornoway
		Mrs Gilles Ardrossan

John Mackay 1874 was a weaver / fisherman and village merchant, but because of the poor prospects in the herring fishing in the 1920s the family moved to Stornoway where John worked as a warper fulltime with the small producer, Mssrs. Maclennan & Maclennan, at Bayhead, Stornoway.

7 Calbost 'Crofter'

Kenneth Mackay 1885
 Johanna Macleod 1890
 Ina
 Mary
 Kenneth 1916
 John Angus 1917
 Ina
 Chrissie Ann
 Muriel
 Johanna
 Infant

'Coinneach Dubh'

Son of Kenneth Mackay 'senior', 7 Calbost
 Daughter John Macleod, 3 Calbost
 Died, age about 9 years
 Mrs Calum Macleod. Point at Edinburgh
 Free Church Minister at Bracadale, Skye
 Emigrated to Australia, returned, settled in Glasgow
 Mrs Alastair Graham, Borve
 Mrs Bryce, Edinburgh
 Died age about 1½ years
 Mrs D. Nicolson, 9 Orinsay / Edinburgh

Kenneth Mackay, 'Coinneach Dubh', 1885, was one of the five landless Calbost raiders that, along with others from Lemreway, raided Steimreway and prepared to occupy that former crofting township. Mr Mackay was the skipper of the sail boat, 'Ribhinn Donn' which was taking building material and the five prospective Calbost settlers to Steimreway when they were caught in a gale and the small boat they were towing foundered and two young Calbost men were drowned. Iain Morrison aged 19, son of Neil Morrison, 9 Calbost, and Iain Morrison aged 20, son of Donald Morrison, 9 Calbost. Four of the five Calbost families abandoned the Steimreway resettlement scheme. Only Donald Morrison, 9 Calbost, went forward and lived in Steimreway for the rest of his life until after his wife died and he went to live with his daughter Gormellia at Glebe Keose about 1942



A view of Calbost from the road to crofts 8 and 9.

'Tigh Choinneach Dubh', Kenneth Mackay's house on croft 7, centre. Beyond that is 'Tigh Glady', Alastair Mackenzie, croft 12 and above that in the hill is his father's house 'Tigh Dhomhnuill Bhig', also croft 12.

Next to the left is 'Tigh Mhurchaidh Choinneach', Murdo Nicolson croft 11 and a little to the left of that is his father's house, Kenneth Nicolson croft 11 the first white house in Calbost (a conversion from thatched house).

On the extreme left is croft 10 with Murdo Finlayson's new small house and the ruins of Donald Finlayson's to the right of it and the ruins of Alastair Finlayson, Roderick Finlayson and Angus Finlayson to the left of it.



The head of the family, Kenneth Mackay 'Coinneach Dubh Choinneach Challum', 1885, 7 Calbost, with his eldest daughter Mary 1913



John Angus, 1917, emigrated to Australia, returned and settled in Glasgow

John Angus Mackay, Calbost

His many friends were saddened to hear of the death of John Angus Mackay at his home at Castlemilk Road, Croftfoot, Glasgow on Sunday 13th August 1995 at the age of 78 years.

Of a humorous and friendly nature and temperament, he always enjoyed whatever company he happened to be in, with his witty exchanges and repartee. Affectionately known as "An Iuan Feidh", he will be sorely missed by his wide circle of friends, extending as far as Australia where he spent some years before returning to Scotland and marrying Agnes Nicolson from Lemnaway and settling in Glasgow.

He was a regular annual visitor to Lewis where he dutifully visited each and every village in Park and almost every house in order to renew his acquaintance and socialise with his many friends. After visiting Lewis recently for three weeks, he was only back home in Glasgow for one week when he suddenly passed away in his chair.

He had been in failing health for some weeks of a year and therefore he was not able to carry out his usual round of visitations during his last visit to Lewis this year. However, he hired a car and viewed the old family home at Calbost and usual haunts in Marvig and Calbost from the front seat of the car for the last time. We are pleased that he was able to do that as well as meet with and socialise with

his many friends in Lewis.

John Angus served in the Merchant Navy during the Second World War and he and his shipmate and cousin Alasdair Morrison "Sluiman" 9 Calbost survived two incidents of being sunk by enemy action in mid Atlantic. On the last occasion they were landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia after being adrift in a lifeboat for days. The ships were, "s.s. Cumberland" and "s.s. Michael E."

We salute the honoured memory of our amicable school friend and extend our own and the community's condolences to his wife, Agnes, his daughter Margaret who is a nurse in Newfoundland and to whom he sometimes referred as Princess Margaret, his son Kenneth in Glasgow and also his three surviving sisters, Ina (Mrs Alasdair Graham, Borve Lewis), Christyann, (Mrs David Bryce in Edinburgh), Joan (Mrs Nicolson in Edinburgh) and their families and other relatives.

His only brother Rev. Kenneth Mackay, who was the Free Church minister at Bracadale, Skye, predeceased him. He passed away in January 1993 at the age of 76 years, as did his elder sister Mary who died at Leith a few years ago.

John Angus was interred at Gravin cemetery on Friday, 18th August 1995, after worship in Gravin Free Church where a large crowd gathered to pay their last respects.

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Left: Ina, 1919, married Alasdair Graham and settled in Borge, Lewis.

Right: Christyann, 1922, became Mrs Bryce and settled in Edinburgh.



Above: Joan, 1925, became Mrs Nicolson and settled in Edinburgh.



Left: Kenneth, 1916, the eldest son, referred to elsewhere as the Free Church Minister at Bracadale in Skye.

They lost two girls, Ina at the age of nine years and Muriel at the age of one and a half years. 'Coinneach Dubh' Mackay was one of five Calbost landless families, who along with others from Lemreway etc. land raided Steimreway in 1922. He was the skipper of the sailing boat 'Ribhinn Donn' which the Calbost land raiders used to transport building material to Steimreway in November 1922 when a gale blew up and the small boat they were towing foundered and the two young men in it, Iain Morrison (Neil) and his cousin Iain Morrison (Donald) aged 19 and 20 respectively drowned.

Four of the Calbost land raiding families withdrew after the drowning accident and spent the rest of their lives in grossly overcrowded conditions in Calbost.

Subsequently, Kenneth Mackay's two sons served in the armed forces during the Second World War, Kenneth in the Royal Air Force in India and elsewhere, John Angus as an Able Seaman in the Merchant Navy where he survived sinking by enemy action in the North Atlantic on two occasions.



Christyann Mackay, 7 Calbost, and husband David Bryce on their wedding day in Edinburgh



Joan Mackay, 7 Calbost, and her husband Donald Nicolson, 9 Orinsay on their wedding day in Edinburgh.



From left:
Rev. Kenneth Mackay, 7 Calbost; brother of the groom John Angus Mackay, 7 Calbost, the groom; Agnes Nicolson, 20 Lemreway, the Bride; Dr Rev Murdo Kennedy Macleod, 3 Calbost, uncle of the groom; Johnnie Nicolson, 20 Lemreway, brother of the bride.



Kenneth Mackay 'Coinneach Dubh', 1885, 7 Calbost
Angus Mackay 'Bix', 1882, 7 Calbost, killed in the First World War



Left: Christina Mackay, 1876, 7 Calbost, daughter of Kenneth Mackay senior 'Coinneach Chillum Òg', from the second marriage to Ann Macleod from 15 Marvig. Christina married Donald Campbell, Sutherland and settled there. Her brother, Angus 'Bix', 1882, was married also in the North of Scotland. He was killed in the First World War. Christina is seen here at Fraserburgh as a well dressed herring fisher lass on a night out.



Above right: Another trio of well dressed Calbost fisher lassies at Fraserburgh. On the right is Marion Mackay, 1878, 7 Calbost, a sister of the above Christina Mackay. Subsequently she married Malcolm Morrison, 9 Calbost. Centre - of the group of three - is Ann 'Ruadh' Mackenzie, 1877, 12 Calbost (she remained at home unmarried). Left - in the group is Joan Macleod 'Seonag Iain an Choinneach', 1890, 3 Calbost, who subsequently married Kenneth Mackay 'Coinneach Dubh', 7 Calbost,. In their youth these ladies all dressed well and in the current style.

Peter Mackay, 1879, son of 'Calum Beag Chalum Òg', 7 Calbost, and his wife Christy Morrison, 1880 - 1917, 57 Leurbost.

Peter and Christy married in 1901 they had a family of five girls and a boy.



At that time social conditions in Lewis were pretty harsh due to gross overcrowding brought about by the land-use policy of the landowner. That resulted in poor housing where tuberculosis thrived. Also, lack of work in the first decade of the 20th century resulted in many men from Lochs responding to the recruiting drive for work on the sheep farms of South America. Peter emigrated to South America about 1911 and his wife died during the war years in 1917 as a result of T.B., which eventually took all his family except Alexine who emigrated to Australia in 1924 at the age of 18 years. She lived there to 1993, age 86 years. Peter himself died in South America.



Annie Morrison 'Donald', 9 Calbost
Allan 'Sketch' Mackenzie
Roderick 'Dick', 26 Cromore
The two daughters of George Mackenzie,
14 Marvig, at Long Island, New York,
U.S.A.

Below right:
Kenneth Mackay, 7 Calbost (later Rev. Kenneth Free Church Minister)
Duncanina Smith, 5 Calbost and John Angus Mackay, 7 Calbost



Kenneth Mackay, 1916,
7 Calbost.
Second World War.
Later Free Church Minister at Bracadale in Skye.