

The Genealogy of Croft 9 Calbost

Murdo Morrison 'Murchadh Breabadair', born 1797, was the original crofting tenant on croft 9 Calbost. He was one of six brothers who settled in Lochs, the family of John Morrison, who lived in southern Park until they were evicted in order to make room for the Park Sheep Farm. It is not known definitely where the family came from originally but tradition associates them with Uig, Lewis, although the seat of the Morrisons of Lewis was at Habost, Ness, where they held the hereditary Judgeship of Lewis, 'Clann a Breitheamh'. Their Gaelic name 'Mhic ille Mhuire' suggests that they may not be of Norse origin. The other five brothers settled as follows:-

Calum Mac Iain	1781	Settled at 8 Garyvard
Coinneach Beag Mac Iain	1790	Settled at 2 Gravir
Domhnuill Buachaille	1793	Settled at 20 Marvig
Alastair Morrison	1780	Settled at 19 Cromore

Alastair Saighdear Morrison at Leurbost was thought to be a brother.

Alastair Morrison's, his only son, Murdo, born 1821, emigrated to Quebec with his wife and family of two girls and two boys - Ann, 1855; Murdo, 1857; Christy, 1859; and Duncan, 1868. Croft 19 Cromore went over to Murdo's sister Mary Morrison 1813, who was married to John Mackenzie 'Iain Buidhe', son of Tormod 'Buidhe' Mackenzie, 3 Calbost.

There were three other daughters of the above Alastair Morrison married in Cromore as follows:-

Catherine	1803	Wife of Roderick Macleod, 15 Cromore
Bess	1808	Wife of Murdo Macleod, 21 Cromore
'Mor Bhàn'	1812	Wife of Hector Mackenzie, 6 Cromore

After 'Iain Buidhe', croft 19 Cromore was divided into a joint tenancy, one part going over to 'Domhnuill an Buidhe' and the other to John Macinnes 'Iain Grabhair', who subsequently moved to 1 Kershader. The Morrison's of 25 Cromore who were of a different family and came from 11 Marvig might have lived for a while in the area of 19 Cromore before croft 25 was created in the 1860s as an additional croft.

Croft 9 Calbost - Original Crofter

Murdo Morrison	1797-1870	'Murchadh Breabadair' Son of John Morrison, southern Park
Margaret Macarthur	1797-1862	Daughter of Angus Macarthur, Gravir
John	1827	Croft tenant at 9 Calbost
Margaret	1829	Mrs Donald Macarthur, 20 Cromore
Angus	1833-1890	Married Catherine Macleod, 28 Ranish
Catherine	1838-1877	Mrs Donald Macleod, 15 Cromore
Alastair	1840	Joint crofting tenant at 9 Calbost
Catherine	1846	
Mary		Mrs Gillies at Stornoway
Christy		
Anna		

There were two other sisters of Margaret Macarthur above - Mrs Murdo Morrison, 9 Calbost; Kirsty Macarthur, wife of Tormod 'Buidhe' Mackenzie, 3 Calbost; and Catriona Macarthur, wife of Calum Finlayson 'Calum mac Dhol Ruadh', 14 Calbost. This croft was divided into a joint tenancy between the two brothers, Alastair and John.

9 Calbost - Joint Crofter Tenant

Alastair Morrison	1840-1915	'Alastair Mhurchaidh' Son of Murdo Morrison, 9 Calbost
Mary Macleod	1843	Daughter of Calum Macleod, 33 Ranish
Murdo	1872	Settled at 27 Crossbost
Margaret	1873	
Calum	1875	Joint tenants at 9 Calbost
Mary Ann	1877	Mrs John Macleod, 7 Marvig
Kate	1880	Mrs John Mackay, 28 Gravir/12 Glen Gravir
Peggy	1881	Mrs Alex Macleod, 6 Calbost/10 Garyvard
Marion	1885	Married in Stornoway
Donald 'Duncan'	1889	Bachelor
Dolina	1891	Died young (whooping cough)

9 Calbost 'Joint Crofter Tenant'

Calum Morrison	1875	'Calum Alastair Mhurchaidh' Son of Alastair Morrison, 9 Calbost
Marion Mackay	1878	Daughter of Kenneth Mackay, 8 Calbost
Kenina	1906	Spinster at Calbost
Alastair	1908	Married in Stornoway

Mary	1910	Married in Glasgow
Angus 'Tom'	1914	Married in England
Donald	1916	Married in Sandwick, Stornoway
Angie	1919	Married in England
Malcolm 'Hero'	1921	Married in England
Bellann (grandchild)		Mrs Martin, Airidhbhuach/at Stornoway
Kenneth (grandchild)		Married in Glasgow
Morag (grandchild)		Married in Glasgow
Ina (grandchild)		Mrs Cummings, Glasgow

9 Calbost 'Joint Crofter Tenant'

Iain Morrison	1827-1907
Mary Mackay	1833-1919
Angus	1852
John	1855
Ann	1857
Infant	1858
Gormelia	1859
Donald	1862
Neil	1863
Donald	1866
Gormellia	1868

'Iain Mhurchaidh'

Son of Murdo Morrison, 9 Calbost
Daughter Calum 'Òg' Mackay, 7 Calbost
Senior joint tenant at 9 Calbost
Cottar at 9 Calbost
Infant
Cottar at 9 Calbost
Cottar at 9 Calbost
Mrs Neil Nicolson, 27 Lemreway

Four sons of the family of John Morrison, 1827 (as above) settled on this croft as well as their cousin Alastair Morrison because they could not get land anywhere else.

9 Calbost - Cottar

Neil Morrison	1863
Murdina Macdonald	1862
Murdo	1888
Christy	1890
Angus	1892
Ann	1894
Dolina	1896
Gormellia	1898
John	1902
Mary Ann	1908
Two infants	

'Niall an Mhurchaidh'

Son of John Morrison, 9 Calbost
Daughter of Murdo 'Mor', 3 Ranish
Married in U.S.A.
Mrs Angus Finlayson, 10 Calbost
Married in Los Angeles, U.S.A.
Settled in U.S.A.
Mrs John Macleod, 11 Cromore/Caros
Mrs Calum Carmichael, 16 Lemreway
Lost at sea off Lemreway on 1/11/22
Died while yet a young woman

Murdina, 1862, the mother of the above family, was a sister of Ishbel, 1853, wife of Angus Morrison, 9 Calbost. Murdo and Angus of the above family emigrated to Canada before the First World War. They both volunteered to join the Canadian expeditionary force and they fought in France. C.S.M. Murdo won the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery on the field of battle.

9 Calbost 'Cottar'

Donald Morrison	1866
Peggy Macinnes	1874
Gormellia	1896
Ann	1897
Catrina	1900
John	1902
Christy	1904
Mary	
Dolina	
Kenneth	
Peggy	
Marion twin of above Peggy	
Nellie	

'Domhnuill an Mhurchaidh'

Son of Iain Morrison, 9 Calbost
Daughter of Donald Macinnes, 2 Lemreway
Mrs Angus Mackay, Keose Glebe
Mrs Mackenzie, Grimshader/Laxdale
Mrs John Macaskill, 17 and 40 Gravir
Lost at sea off Lemreway 1/11/22
Married in Glasgow
Mrs Norman Macritchie, 38 Gravir settled Stornoway
Married in Glasgow
Mrs Calum Carmichael, 16 Lemreway
Married in Glasgow
Mrs Angus Macaskill, 40 Gravir

The family of Donald Morrison, 1866 - as above, moved to Steimreway in 1923.

There were six families on croft 9 Calbost at that time as follows:- Malcolm Morrison, son of Alastair; Donald Morrison, son of Iain; Neil Morrison, son of Iain; John Morrison, son of Iain; Angus Morrison, son of Iain; and Murdo Morrison, son of Angus Morrison. Of these six Donald Morrison and Neil Morrison were among the five raiders from Calbost who land-raided Steimreway in 1922. After the accident that resulted in the drowning of the two young sons of Donald and Neil, four of the five Calbost land-raiders withdrew but Donald Morrison's family built a new house and settled in Steimreway.

Murdo Morrison 'Murchadh Aonghais an Mhurchaidh', moved from 9 Calbost to the common grazings outside Calbost boundary wall, leaving four families on croft 9 until death and depopulation cleared the croft.

9 Calbost - Cottar		'Iain-an-Mhurchaidh'
John Morrison	1855	Son of John Morrison, 9 Calbost
Marion Macinnes	1859	Daughter of Donald Macinnes, 2 Lemreway
Anna	1885	Mrs John Macaskill, 17 Gravir
Peggy	1887	Mrs Gibb, Grangemouth
Catriona	1890	Mrs Robert Macleod, 3 Calbost
Neil	1893	Lost at sea First World War, age 22
Angus	1895	Settled on Calbost Common late 1920s
John Murdo	1898-1991	Emigrated to Australia
Calum	1900	Married Murdina Matheson, Gravir/at Renfrew
Infant		
Donald Macaskill (Grandchild)	1914	Died as a young man
Annabella Macaskill (Grandchild)	1917	Mrs Angus Nicolson, 11 Calbost/at Holm Road, Stornoway

The above Donald and Annabella Macaskill of 17 Gravir were brought up by their grandparents (as above) after their mother Anna died at a very early age. Marion Macinnes, 1859, the mother of the above family, was a sister of Peggy Macinnes, 1874, wife of Donald Morrison, 9 Calbost.

9 Calbost - Crofter		'Aonghais an Mhurchaidh'
Angus Morrison	1852-1945	Son of Iain Morrison, 9 Calbost
Ishbel Macdonald	1853	Daughter of Murchadh 'Mor', 3 Ranish
Christina	1877	Died as a child
Murdo	1878	Settled at 9 Calbost/moved to Common
Donald	1881	Lost First World War, age 35
Angus	1884	Killed in South America
Mary Ann	1885	Infant
Mary Ann	1889	Mrs Alastair Macleod, 14 Cromore
John	1890-1979	Married in Glasgow
Infant	1893	
Peggy	1898-1979	Mrs Hector Macleod, 14 Cromore/at Stornoway

The home of Angus Morrison 'Aonghais an Mhurchaidh', 1852, was the village ceilidh house. Ishbel Macdonald, 1853, the mother of the above family, was a sister of Murdina, the wife of Neil Morrison, 9 Calbost. They were nieces of Murdo Macdonald, Torostay.

9 Calbost		'Murchadh Aonghais'
Murdo Morrison	1878	Son of Angus Morrison, 9 Calbost
Christy Nicolson, 1 st wife		Daughter of Calum Nicolson, 22 Gravir
Angus	1908	Settled 9 Calbost/moved to Laxdale
Christy		Emigrated to New Zealand
Christy MacIennan, 2 nd wife		Daughter of Donald MacIennan, 18 Marvig
Chrissie	1916	Mrs Donald Mackinnon, 54 Leurbost
Jessie	1918	Mrs Angus Macleod, 3 Marvig/Holm Road, Stornoway
Donald Angus		Bachelor, died early

In the 1920s, Murdo Morrison moved out from 9 Calbost to the Calbost Common at the 'Glaic-Mhor'. After building a house there and creating a landholding from the virgin land, he moved nearer to the main road at 'Buala Chalaboist' still on the Calbost Common and he built another white house and once again reclaimed a landholding from the virgin soil. The policy of the estate was not to acknowledge such squatters on the common grazings and they paid their rent to the village Grazing Committee. Despite his hard work his holding had no legal standing.

9 Calbost - Cottar		'Derrick'
Angus Morrison	1908	Son of Murdo Morrison, 9 Calbost
Peggy Mackinnon	1913	Daughter of Alastair Mackinnon, Caros
Calum	1939	Settled at Laxay
Chrissie	1946	Mrs Maclean, Stornoway, Schoolteacher
Joan	1944	Mrs Mackay, Stornoway, Schoolteacher
Greta	1947	Mrs Murray, Stornoway, Schoolteacher
Murdo	1949	Bachelor, Schoolteacher, died young

The above family of Angus Morrison, 1908, moved to Laxdale, Stornoway, after the Second World War.

Neil was one of the original Steimreway raiders and had rebuilt one of the ruins of the former crofter homes at Steimreway but withdrew after his 20-year-old son Iain was lost in the drowning accident when the Calbost contingent of raiders were ferrying building material and other supplies to Steimreway in anticipation of settling there.

Neil's other two sons, Murdo and Angus, had emigrated to North America before the First World War but volunteered for war service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and fought on the Western Front in France. After the war they returned to Canada and as Neil was a landless cottar sharing croft 9 Calbost with four other families he decided to go to Steimreway in order to secure a croft which he would be able to bequeath to his remaining son Iain.

The irony of it all was that he lost his son as a result of his parental concern for his future welfare. The parents were conscious of the fact that they were not able to give their young son a start in life and they wanted him to avoid the desperate struggle they had.

Murdo and Angus Morrison, born 1888 and 1892, sons of Neil Morrison, 9 Calbost, served their bakers apprenticeship with Malcolm Maclean in Point Street, Stornoway. 'Calum Sgiathanach' then went to Glasgow. Angus left Stornoway for Canada in May 1911 and he settled in Yorktown, Swaskatchewan, where he worked at his trade of bakery and in the following year he sent for his brother Murdo and they both worked for the same firm from 1912 to 1914. In 1914 Murdo and Angus volunteered along with several other Lewis boys to fight in the First World War. Canada declared War on Germany in September 1914.

To begin with the contingent camped outside Quebec and from there they were sent to train at Shaftesbury, England and from there they went to France. Before going to France they were given leave and Murdo and Angus arrived in Stornoway on New Years Eve 1915. That was the last time that Murdo was ever in Lewis. Angus came to Lewis on holiday from the U.S.A. at least twice after he retired.

In July 1916 Murdo was wounded at the Battle of the Somme and was sent to hospital in England. He was a C. & M. and in due course he got leave from hospital and got married in Glasgow in 1917.

Subsequently Murdo was sent back to Military hospital in Canada and eventually recovered and he conducted his own bakery business in Saskatchewan. He was awarded the Military Medal.



Circa 1936/37: This old photograph shows crofts 8 & 9 Calbost in the 1930s. We apologise for the quality of the photograph but it is the only photograph in existence that shows the various houses in this area of the village as follows:-

Dwelling house No. 1: In the foreground at the bend on the footpath may be seen to be the thatched house of Malcolm Morrison 'Calum Alasdair', 9 Calbost. This was the second thatched house in the village.

Dwelling house No. 2: Above the footpath is the new house of Neil Morrison, 9 Calbost. Previously this house was sited at the top of the croft, well away from the road, as a senior citizen, he moved down near the road.

Dwelling house No. 3: Just beyond Neil Morrison's house is that of Angus Morrison, 9 Calbost. This was our village ceilidh house.

Dwelling house No. 4: This was a new house built by Angus Morrison 'Derrick', 9 Calbost, son of Murdo Morrison. After the Second World War the family moved to Laxdale, Stornoway where Angus built another new house.

Dwelling house No. 5: Was the house of Donald Macleod 'Domhnuill Cruaidh', 8 Calbost.

Dwelling house No. 6: Was that of John Macleod 'Iain Ruadh', 8 Calbost, his brother.

Dwelling house No. 7: At the end of the footpath, beyond Malcolm Morrison's house was the dwelling house of John Morrison 'Iain an Mhurchaidh', 9 Calbost, just out of sight.

These seven houses were occupied at the time and there were about 151 people living in the village. That was only 49 people below the peak population of 200 people in 1901. Herring fishing weaving and the Mercantile Marine (Merchant Navy) kept the people busy and no one suspected that the end of the village was near at hand. In two or three years time the outbreak of the Second World War was to shatter the peace and age old routine of the village forever. Forty years later the population of the village had dropped down to one person.



On the top left are croft 14 and the village prayer-house, then the dwelling house of croft 7 and in the centre the two houses on croft 8.

Coming on to croft 9 the stone gable-end of the house Angus Morrison 'Derrick' abandoned when his family moved to Laxdale in Stornoway.

To the right is the village ceilidh house of Angus Morrison 'Aonghais an Mhurchaidh' and in the forefront is the new house of Neil Morrison, 1939, when he moved down from his previous house further up the hill.



Left: Angus Morrison 1852-1945, our village sage and old ceilidh house host at 9 Calbost.

Generation after generation of Calbost youth congregated round the hospitable peat fire of the Morrison household, where he regaled us with the traditions of the community, and stories about the fishing. He was a crofter/fisherman all his life. It was there we heard about 'Sabaid Mor Wick' in detail and many other events and subjects such as genealogy and other aspects of our culture. Neither he nor his wife Ishbel or Peggy their daughter was ever ruffled. Their household was the social centre and meeting place of the youth of the village.

Centre: Ishbel Morrison, the old man's granddaughter. She is the daughter of Angus' son Donald who was married in Glasgow and who was lost in the First World War.

Right: Murdo, 1887, another son of Angus, who set up home on croft 9 but because there were five other families on the croft Murdo moved out to the common grazings outside the village boundary wall. He is also referred to under 'Halfway House'.



Above: is another son, Angus, 1884, popularly known as 'Sapper'. He emigrated to the sheep farms of South America early in the 20th century, subsequently he was murdered in that wild country.



Mary Morrison 'Merag'
Bella Morrison
Mary Ann Morrison
9 Calbost



Iain an Mhurchaidh agus a bhean 'Mor Dhomhnuill Neill,' 2 Leumrabhagh.

John Morrison 1855-1947 and his wife Marion Macinnes, 1859-1945 from 2 Lemreway. This couple married about 1884 and was therefore married for over 60 years. They raised a family of seven, 3 girls and 4 boys. They lost one infant. When their daughter Anna, 1885, who was married to John Macaskill of 17 Gravir, died early they raised members of her family as well, particularly Allan, Donald and Annabella.

Neil, 1893, the son who was lost in the 'Clan-McNaughton' disaster in February 1915, aged 22 years. Previously he was a survivor of the 'Hermes' sinking.

John Murdo, 1898, another son also served in the First World War in the Royal Navy. After the war he became the 23-year-old skipper of a large 80 foot Zulu sail fishing boat called 'Vine'. After a year or two he emigrated to Australia where he lived all his life.

Angus, 1895, fought in the First World War in the 3rd Cameronians at Salonika and then served in the Second World War in the Merchant Navy. Iain an Mhurchaidh was a fisherman all his life sharing croft 9 Calbost with five families all their days.

The land-owning system under which they lived refused to allocate more land to crofting, preferring to use large proportions of the land of Lewis for commercial sheep farms and sporting deer parks. However, the establishments were not slow to demand military service and sacrifice from these same crofters and their sons.



Allan Macaskill of 17 Gravir and 9 Calbost with his wife Annabella Macleod of 37 Gravir. Allan's mother Anna Morrison, daughter of John Morrison 9 Calbost, died early and her children, including in particular Allan, Iain, Annabella, Donald and Anna spent a lot of their time with their grandparents at 9 Calbost.



Anna Macaskill, 17 Gravir and 9 Calbost

Below: Neil Macaskill of 17 Gravir and 9 Calbost drowned early in Second World War and he is buried in Rangoon.

On the right in the picture is Morag Macaskill his sister; child: Ann Nicolson, 6 Holm Road Stornoway
And on the left is Christy Philip from Back district.



Left: Donald Macaskill, 17 Gravir and 9 Calbost;
Angus 'Mac a Loon', 11 Calbost;
Murdo Macleod, 8 Calbost





Donald Morrison, 1866, of 9 Calbost and his wife Peggy Macinnes, 1874, daughter of Donald Macinnes, 2 Lem-reway, and one of their grandchildren.

Donald was the son of John Morrison 'Iain Mhurchaidh' who shared croft 9 Calbost as joint tenants with his brother Alastair Mhurchaidh. After these two men died Alasdair Mhurchaidh's part of the croft went to his son Calum Morrison, the other part of the joint tenancy went from Iain Mhurchaidh unofficially to his four sons, Angus, John, Neil and Donald, but in Angus' name.

In that way croft 9 Calbost was divided between five large families during the period towards the end of the 19th century and on to the 20th century. These five families had 40 children between them.

The above Donald Morrison and his wife and family of eleven children, who ranged in age between 6 and 26 years, decided in 1922 to join four other families from Calbost (one of them being Donald's brother Neil's family) in the land raiding of Steimreway, a former crofter township overrun by the Park Sheep Farm in 1857. On the way to Steimreway in a sail boat with building material the Calbost group of raiders were involved in a drowning accident when the small boat they were towing foundered and both Donald and Neil's sons were drowned at the age of 20 years.

Donald (above) continued with his plans to settle in Steimreway where he remained until old age forced him out. The other Calbost land raiders withdrew when they realised that the Government was not going to recognise them officially as crofters despite the fact that Steimreway was scheduled along with Orinsay for a resettlement scheme before the First World War, under the 1911 Smallholders Act.

Neil Morrison returned to croft 9 Calbost as a landless cottar to share that overcrowded croft along with three other families for the rest of their lives.

Steimreway was never again acknowledged as a resident crofting township despite the overcrowding in all the villages of Lochs. Local opinion maintains that it was too close to the sporting estate of Eishkin to tolerate crofters on their doorstep.



The 1st of November 1922 was a sad and tragic day in the history of Calbost, because it was on that day that two young 20 year old men from croft 9 Calbost lost their lives assisting their fathers and other Calbost families trying to secure landholdings for their landless cottar families, by land raiding 'Steimreway', a former crofter township located a few miles along the coast.

Centre: Iain Morrison 'Iain Domhnuill', 1902, and his cousin 'Iain Neill', 1902, were lost at the approaches to Loch Shell when their rowing boat which was being towed by a medium sized sail fishing boat, the 'Ribhinn Donn', foundered when a violent gale blew up and tore off the sail.

The accident happened as they were drifting helplessly to sea and the Fleetwood Trawler 'Glen Bervis' approached them and offered to tow them into Loch Shell if skipper Kenneth Mackay of the 'Ribhinn Donn' acted as their pilot. Earlier on the two boys were advised to come out of the rowing boat and join the others on board the 'Ribhinn Donn' but they declined, preferring the excitement of being together in the small boat.

Four of the five land raiding Calbost families withdrew from their intention to settle in Steimreway.

Only Donald Morrison, 9 Calbost, continued with his plans and joined families from Lemreway and lived there for 20 years, but the British Board of Agriculture never acknowledged them as genuine crofters and they were denied all facilities until in the end they were forced to leave.



Peggy Morrison 'Peggy Aonghais an Mhurchaidh', 9 Calbost, thrashing the oats on the tarpaulin in the stackyard with Angus Macleod, 8 Calbost, giving neighbourly assistance. 'A Frasaidh na cruach corc as a leas'.

Left: The Fisher Girls
 Back: Peggy Macleod 'Peggy Mhurchaidh Ivor', 35 Gravir
 Calbost twins, Peggy & Marion Morrison, 9 Calbost / Stornoway
 Not known;
 Seated - Annabella Macleod, 37 Gravir



Above: Wedding Photo of C.S.M. Murdo Morrison born 1888, son of Neil Morrison, 9 Calbost.

Left: Best Man - not known; Bride - Catherine Campbell 'Catriona Iain Ruadh', 5 Marvig; Bridesmaid - Christy Ann Mackenzie, daughter of Murdo Mackenzie, 13 Marvig, a cousin of the bride who was brought up with the bride's family.

Murdo and his brother Angus emigrated to Canada before the First World War. They both joined the Canadian expeditionary force and fought in France. Murdo won the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery on the battlefield. After the war they both went back to North America.

Marianne 1907, a sister who died in her 20s.



Neil Morrison, 1893-1915, son of Iain 'Beag' Morrison, 9 Calbost. Neil and another man from Calbost, Dugald Kennedy, 1897-1915 were drowned as war casualties when the 'Clan McNaughton' was sunk by enemy action in 1915. They were respectively aged 22 and 18 years of age.



Below: Marion Mackay Morrison, 1878, with her husband Calum Morrison 'Calum Alastair Mhurchaidh', 1875, 9 Calbost. In the centre is Peggy Ann Morrison, daughter of Angus Morrison Halfway House, Calbost.

Calum and Marion had a family of two daughters and five sons. Their five sons served in the Armed Forces during the full duration of the Second World War.



The following four were at sea: Alastair, 1908; Angus, 1914; Donald, 1916; and Malcolm, 1921. Angie, 1919, was in the Army. They all survived although only by the narrowest of margins on several occasions. Alastair survived after being in the ocean three times when his various ships were sunk by enemy action. Angie survived the desert campaign and young deck-boy Malcolm was thrown into the sea at the age of 18 years in Mid Atlantic when his ship the 'Arlington Court' was sunk by enemy action. He scrambled onboard a damaged ship's lifeboat and finding he was the only person among the original eight survivors that had any steamship experience, he took charge of the lifeboat and navigated, steered and handled the sail until they were picked up near the British Coast. He was the only one able to climb the ladder unaided when they were picked up at the end of a week.

Deck-boy, 18 year old Malcolm Morrison, 9 Calbost, hero of the 'Arlington Court' in the centre of the picture shaking hands with the famous film star Gracie Field. On his left is the Scottish entertainer Harry Lauder. He was feted, honoured and entertained as the 'hero' he was. He was called to the Admiralty and the girls lined the railings waving white handkerchiefs.





The family of Malcolm Morrison, 9 Calbost, consisted of 2 daughters and 5 sons and all five sons served in the Armed Forces during the whole of the Second World War and survived.

Left: Angus Morrison 'Tom', 1914, joined the Royal Navel Reserve at 18 years of age and like all R.N.R.s he was called up at the outbreak of hostilities.

Donald 'Urquhart', 1916, also joined the R.N.R when he reached the qualifying age of 18 years. He also served afloat in the Royal Navy throughout the war years. Both he and Angus served on destroyers in various theatres of war including Russian convoy duties etc.

Malcolm, 1921, 18 year old hero of the 'Arlington Court', which was sunk by enemy action in mid-Atlantic. He scrambled onboard a damaged ship's lifeboat and finding he was the only person among the original eight survivors that had any steamship experience, he took charge of the lifeboat and navigated, steered and handled the sail until they were picked up near the British Coast. He was the only one able to climb the ladder unaided when they were picked up at the end of a week.

Angie, 1919, served in the Army on the Western Front, North Africa and Italy. He was held as a Prisoner of War.

Alastair 'Slumman', 1908, served in the Merchant Navy and he survived the sinking of his ships by enemy action in mid-Atlantic on three occasions. Shortly after the war he nearly lost his life when his fishing boat 'Delight' developed engine trouble and was blown across the Minch and on to the rocks at 'Gruinard Island' on the north west coast of Scotland in a howling gale (read full story in Ceilidh House Stories No. 53.



Malcolm Morrison, 9 Calbost



Alastair Morrison 'Slumman', 1908, son of Calum Alastair Mhurchaidh, 1875, 9 Calbost, and Marion Mackay 1878, 7 Calbost. Alastair was a weaver along with his father on the big wooden loom, 'beart mhor' and then joined the Merchant Navy and for a time worked in South Georgia, in the Antarctic Whaling Stations, sometimes they were there all winter.

He returned to the United Kingdom in 1939 and served during the whole of the Second World War in the Merchant Navy. He survived three incidents of being sunk by enemy action, first on the 'SS Cumberland' in 1940, then in 1941 on the 'SS Michael E' and on the 'SS Aldersdale' on the Russian run.

After that, he very nearly lost his life fishing in the Minch while serving as an engineer on the motor fishing boat 'Delight', an 80 foot converted Zulu sail boat, skippered by Calum Sandie from Knock, Point. Before that the 'Delight' was owned by a crew from Gravir and skippered by Donald Campbell, 13 Gravir.

They set their gill herring nets off Bayble on a fine December evening in 1953, an evening that will live on in the memory as that of the disaster of the 'Princess Victoria' Stranraer/Larne ferry.

By 2am, they had hauled their nets and 40 cran of herring and set off for the market at Ullapool with a light NNE breeze. They had not gone far when the wind came up suddenly and a heavy sea struck the boat smashing a bulk head and the bilge pump and washing the mizzen mast and sail and some nets overboard. The nets fouled the two propellers and the engine stopped and the boat drifted helplessly in pitch darkness.

Every effort was made by the crew to influence the hopeless situation they found themselves in, but all to no avail due to the unusual force of the wind and the ferocious sea. They drifted all night and all the next day across the Minch. By evening they were approaching Gruinard Bay on the west mainland of Scotland.

Their only hope of survival was to set a small sail on the forward light mast and hopefully ease the boat round the edge of the rocky Island and if successful on to a sandy beach. There was no point in launching a lifeboat so the crew clung to buoys and miraculously they were all washed up safely on the sandy beach while the boat was smashed to bits.



Donald Morrison 'Domhnuill Alastair Mhurchaidh', popularly known as 'Duncan' dressed as a Royal Navy Reservist.



Murdina Macdonald and her husband Neil Morrison with their two nieces, Angusina Macleod, 11 Cromore and Peggy Ann Carmichael, 16 Lemreway.



Reunion after 40 years of brothers John Murdo (Left) and Angus Morrison at the ruins of the old family home at 9 Calbost.

When John Murdo emigrated to Sydney, Australia as a young man in the mid 1920s, his parents were comparatively young and both the family home and the village were bustling with activity. Like many others who emigrated in their youth he never saw his parents again.



Another reunion of neighbours in 1965 at 8 Calbost with John Murdo Morrison, 1898-1991, 9 Calbost (right) home from Sydney, Australia for the first time in 40 years and James Macleod 1900-1986 (2nd from right) home for the first time in 42 years from San Francisco U.S.A. He left on the 'Metagama' in 1923 and returned also to an empty home at 8 Calbost.

Others in the photos are Marion, 1878, wife of Calum Morrison, 9 Calbost, standing between John Murdo and James; Angus Macleod, 1916, (3rd from left); brother of James and Angus Morrison, 1895; brother of John Murdo; and Ina Morrison, 1906, daughter of Calum and Alastair Morrison, 9 Calbost (extreme left).



Angus Morrison, 1919, son of Calum Morrison, 9 Calbost, popularly known locally as 'Angie Marbh' because he took a serious illness as a child and at one point it was thought that he had passed away and preparations were in hand to bring his coffin from Stornoway by boat in the usual way along with that of another elderly village person. In those days the custom was to measure the remains and a team set off by boat to Stornoway for a coffin or 'Ceann Crioich'.

18 year old Malcolm Morrison born in 1921, the hero of the 'Arlington Court' which was sunk by enemy action in mid-Atlantic. Youngest son of Calum Morrison 'Calum Alastair Mhurchaidh', 9 Calbost. The story of 'The Arlington Court' is in Ceilidh House Stories No. 53.



Christy 'Bheag' Morrison, 1910, daughter of Murdo Morrison 'Mhurchaidh Aonghais an Mhurchaidh', 9 Calbost from his first marriage to Christy Nicolson, daughter of Calum Nicolson, 22 Gravir. Christy emigrated to New Zealand in the 1920s when she was still very young, subsequently she married there and her husband Mr Livingston is seen here with her. They visited the Island only once.



Left: Christy's brother Angus Morrison, 1908, a Royal Navy Reservist who served in the Second World War in various theatres of war including the Battle of Narvik on the Norwegian coast, where he was wounded and subsequently invalided out of service in 1944.

Angus married Peggy Mackinnon, Caros, Cromore and the family of 3 girls and 2 boys settled on croft 9 Calbost but after the war they moved to Laxdale, Stornoway. Three of the girls and one of the boys were school teachers.

Right: Angus Morrison 'Derrick', born 1908, 9 Calbost and his wife Peggy Mackinnon, born 1913, at 7 Cromore (family lived at Caros later). To begin with Angus and Peggy set up home at 9 Calbost where Angus personally built a new house. Later on after the Second World War (where Angus was wounded) the family moved to Laxdale, Stornoway where Angus built another substantial new house.



The Family

Left back: Calum Alex, born 1939. He was employed in the Merchant Navy and on the North Sea Oil Rigs. He married Elma Anderson and settled at 1 Laxay, Lochs. They have a family of 2 girls and 1 boy.

Right back: Joan, born 1944, is a primary school teacher at present in the Breasclate Gaelic Medium Unit. She was married to the late Norman Mackay with a family of 2 girls and 1 boy. Currently living in Stornoway.

Left front: Chrissie, born 1946. Is an English/Gaelic teacher at present in the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway, and married to Cameron Maclean with a family of 3 boys, and lives in the Stornoway area.



Centre: Murdo Angus, born 1949, died suddenly after surgery at the early age of 27 years. He was a Geography teacher in Lanark Grammar School where a Geography prize is awarded annually in his memory.

Right front: Greta, born 1947. Who sadly died at the early age of 46 years in 1994. She was a school teacher at Lemreway and Kershader until her children of 1 girls and 1 boy were born. She was married to Ivor Murray and they lived in Sandwick, Stornoway.

This family, all of whom were born in Calbost, spent many happy years teaching, both in Lewis and on the Scottish mainland.