



Seonaid and Tormod Macanndras (early 19th century)

Tormod or Norman Macanndras was one of the early settlers at Marvig, and he was the progenitor of numerous descendants, one of which related the following story to us about his early ancestor. We also heard the story in the village ceilidh house.

Seonaid or Janet was from Stornoway, and apparently people regarded her as belonging to a higher social circle than Tormod, and naturally the couple would soon become the object of local humorous stories, not necessarily true.

At that time the upper strata of Stornoway society, such as the Sea Captains etc., lived in the Newton area, that was, as it were, the West-end of the town. According to my Marvig friend:

It was somewhere in Newton, Stornoway that Tormod met Janet, a fine picture of womanhood with flowing fair hair and lovely complexion, and being aware that he was not in the same social class as Janet, but egged on by his desire to win the hand of this fair lady in marriage, he resorted to deception, by describing to his open mouthed lovebird the number of fishing boats and the extensive lands and fine home he owned in Lochs.

The poor girl succumbed to the blandishments of Tormod and gave her hand in marriage. Forthwith he led her across the sea to his humble thatched home at Marvig, which they reached as evening was approaching. Tormod suggested that they pass the night there before proceeding further into the interior.

Seonaid passed the rest of her days in that same humble cottage, and all the evidence points to the fact that the couple were happily married. They raised a large family of six daughters and two sons all born between 1814 and 1835, some of whose descendants were among the most worthy of the people of Marvig.

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