



## [The Drowning of Ten-year-old Calum Macleod (1940)]

Donald Macleod, born in 1874 and known as 'Domhnuill Cruaidh 'an Sheoc' spent his early life as a Merchant Navy sailor. About 1921 he married Annie Macarthur (1892-1935) daughter of Calum 'Fada' Macarthur of 8 Tolsta Chaolais, and they had a family of six children, two girls and four boys.

At the time of the birth of Mary Ann, the last member of the family, in 1935, Anna died leaving a young family of six all aged under 12 years of age for the father to raise on his own. Her aunt, Katie Ann Macarthur, brought up the baby.

The father attended to the croft work and peats by taking the younger two boys with him, one on his back and one in his hand, and seating them on a blanket near him at the peat bank.

When Calum, the 4 year old, who was born in 1930, reached 10 years of age, his father sent him out to the common grazing at 'Rudha Na Creaga Mora' one day to fetch the family domestic cow home. He was last seen near the sea at 'Mol na Bràithrean' by a lady from Marvig who warned him to keep away from the sea, because she suspected that he was likely to go after pieces of wood that were coming ashore in the strong onshore east wind.

He took the lady's advice and walked away, but he must have returned to the shore later and was caught by the big waves and swept away. In vain did the grieving father and the whole neighbourhood search the shoreline daily, over a long period of time, but his remains were never found.

[ends]

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See also Hebridean Connections, for more information about Calum Macleod:

<http://www.hebrideanconnections.com/Details.aspx?subjectid=23091>