



[Alastair 'an Bhuidhe and the Wedding Feast (late 19th century)]

Alastair 'an Bhuidhe, Alastair Mackenzie, 1846 was born at 19 Cromore. His father 'Iain Bhuidhe' was a Calbost man, son of 'Tormod Buidhe', 3 Calbost. Alastair was thought by some people to be somewhat simple 'Iagchùiseach'. He spent a lot of his time at 6 Marvig with his cousin 'Deas', Jess, daughter of Tormod Og, 4 Calbost who was married to the well-known merchant Alexander MacIannan of 6 Marvig 'Alastair Bàn', who retained Alastair 'an Bhuidhe as a servant 'Sgalag'.

Many tales were told about Alastair 'an Bhuidhe's exploits. On one occasion Alastair attended a wedding feast at Habost, Lochs and he felt very tired in the morning. He was reluctant to face the long walk back to Marvig, so he joined in with a boat full of guests from Balallan, accepting of their hospitality for a few days. That kind of thing was not unusual at that time and the Marvig folk felt he was OK, and would make his way home after a while.

However, it occurred to Alastair that 'Alastair Bàn' and 'Deas' might be worried about his absence and he sent them a telegram, as follows: 'Mackenzie arriving in Marvig this evening'.

As 'Alastair Bàn' was a leading Churchman he concluded at once that the telegram was from Rev. Roderick Mackenzie, Crossbost and Back, who was Moderator of the Park congregation at that time.

Lavish preparations were made for the reception of the great man. Ishbel Ruairidh Choinneach, a neighbour who had cooking experience in Glasgow, was called in to assist with the preparation of a big dinner for Mackenzie, but who arrived in the evening but 'Alastair an Bhuidhe', the Sgalag, and his first greeting to Alastair Bàn was to ask if they received his telegram.

[ends]

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See also Hebridean Connections, for more information about Alastair 'an Bhuidhe:

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