

The Genealogy of Croft 13 Calbost

The first crofting tenant to occupy croft 13 Calbost was Kenneth MacLeod 'Coinneach Mor' 1776-1837. Kenneth came originally from the Carloway/Tolsta Chaolais area along with his aunt Marion who raised him, and her son Norman Mackenzie 'Tormod Buidhe' (Coinneach Mor's parents died when he was very young - his mother met her death by falling from a high rock and his father had died earlier). They came to Calbost to work for the Calbost tacksman, Robert Weir, who was a very progressive entrepreneur, active in agriculture, fishing and fish curing as well as helping

Kenneth was brought up by his mother's sister - his aunt Marion who was married to Donald Mackenzie in the Carloway area, which at that time was part of the Parish of Lochs. Before the end of the 18th century Marion's husband had died and probably that is why the family moved over to Calbost where there were better opportunities for work. Tradition relates that another brother of 'Tormod Buidhe' came to Calbost with them (name unknown) and that he subsequently returned to Carloway. Both Kenneth Macleod and Norman 'Buidhe' Mackenzie who settled on croft 3 Calbost were among the first seven crofters to settle at Calbost at the time of the first lotting of the Island about 1818. Before that they were small landholders holding their tenancy from the tacksman Robert Weir under the clan system of land tenure, known as the run-rig system of tenure. Under that system the arable land rotated among the tenants annually by ballot or lot, hence the term 'lot' for a croft landholding. Kenneth Macleod married a girl from the area of his youth, Tolsta Chaolais, Anna Macleod 'Anna an Dhomhnuill', and they had the first four of their family of eight before they acquired a permanent croft of their own under the crofting system of tenure about 1818.

In 1804 Seaforth Mackenzie's recruiting agents came to Calbost and Kenneth Macleod was forcibly conscripted into the Army at the age of 28 years. At that time Seaforth was carrying favour with the establishment by offering to raise the 2nd Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders among the men on his estate in order to help the British in their efforts to protect their lines of communication with the Indian Sub-Continent. In that way Kenneth found himself fighting the Turkish Army in Egypt led by Muhammed Ali in the Campaign known locally as 'Cogadh na Tuirc'.

The 78th Seaforth Highland Regiment was originally proposed and recruited by Seaforth Mackenzie the Lewis Proprietor, in 1778, in gratitude to the Crown for their favour in 1771 of restoring the family estates and the Seaforth title, which was forfeited as a result of the Earl of Seaforth having taken part in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. The 1804 recruiting of the 2nd Battalion Seaforth's is associated with the Uig Lewis tradition of 'Saighdearan Mac a Mhinistear'.

It was Kenneth's cousin, Norman 'Buidhe' Mackenzie that the Mackenzie press gang approached first but Norman protested and pleaded family responsibilities and pointed to Kenneth as an unmarried orphan. Accordingly Kenneth was taken into the Army and that event is still remembered in the traditions of Calbost by the Gaelic saying, 'Tormod Buidhe na Car, chuir e mo sheanair do'n Airm' (Crafty Norman he sent my grandfather to the Army). The story of Kenneth Macleod's soldiering is related under a separate chapter under the title, 'El Hammed', the name of the famous Battle in 'Cogadh na Tuirc'.

It could hardly be said that a young Gaelic speaking orphan crofter from Lewis in 1804 knew what he was defending at the risk of his very life in distant overseas lands, and we may be sure he was not told he was expected to subjugate poor deprived people like himself in order to create and protect the Great British Empire. Kenneth lost his sight in Egypt with ophthalmia and he was an Army pensioner for the rest of his life after 'Cogadh na Tuirc'.

13 Calbost - crofter

Kenneth Macleod	1776-1837
Anna Macleod	1788-1871
Mary	1810
Murdo	1814
Norman	1815-1900
Peggy	1817
Catherine	1820
John	1826
Donald	1829
Neil	1834

'Coinneach Mor'

Came from Carloway area
Anna An Dhomhnuill, Tolsta Chaolais
Mrs Murdo 'Bàn' Macleod 11 Cromore
1st tenant at 6 Calbost
Mrs Donald Mackenzie, 5 Cromore
Mrs Murdo Nicolson, 11 Calbost
Cottar on croft 13 Calbost
Cottar on croft 13 Calbost
Cottar on croft 13 Calbost

13 Calbost - cottar

John Macleod	1826
Catrina Kennedy	1826-1900
Donald	1849
Kenneth	1851-1872
Peggy	1853
John	1855
Isabella	1857

'Iain Choinneach'

Son of Kenneth Macleod, 13 Calbost
Daughter of Donald Kennedy, 2 Calbost
Cottar at 13 Calbost/moved to 23 Marvig
Died Young
Mrs Alex Kennedy 17 Cromore/Mrs D Kennedy 16 Cromore
Tenant at 3 Calbost
Died as a child

Alastair	1858	Cottar at 13 Calbost
Norman	1860	Cottar at 13 Calbost, moved to Stornoway
Robert	1862-1887	Died young
Murdo	1865	Cottar at 13 Calbost
Roderick	1869	Married Effie Macleod at 2 Portvoller

13 Calbost - cottar

Donald Macleod	1829
Peggy Macarthur	1838-1910
Peggy	1861
Christine	1864
Catherine	1866
Ishbel	1869
Anna	1871
Christy	1872
Murdo	1874

'Domhnuill Choinneach'

Son of Kenneth Macleod, 13 Calbost
 Daughter of Murdo 'Ruadh' Macarthur, 10 Cromore
 Mrs Angus Mackenzie, 12 Calbost

Mrs Murdo Macleod, 13 Calbost
 Spinster at Stornoway
 Mrs Fulton at Glasgow
 Mrs Montgomery, 17 Cromore at Stornoway
 Infant

13 Calbost - cottar

Neil Macleod	1834-1892
Peggy Chisholm	1848
John	1870
Ann	1872
Peggy	1874
Catherine	1876
Joan	1878
Christy Maggie	1881
Christina	1886
2 Infants	

'Niall Mor Choinneach'

Son of Kenneth Macleod, 13 Calbost
 Daughter of John Chisholm, 29 Gravir
 Died young
 Mrs Norman Macleod, 13 Calbost, Stornoway
 Mrs Murdo Macdonald, 7 Lemreway
 Mrs Angus Finlayson, 13 Calbost
 Mrs Angus Macmillan, 2 Orinsay
 Mrs Finlay Macdonald, Stornoway

Peggy Chisholm, 1848, daughter of John Chisholm, 29 Gravir, and mother of the above family was a sister of Margaret Chisholm, 1847, first wife of Calum 'Beag' Mackay, 7 Calbost. Also Christy Ann, 1831, mother of 'Bean Domhnuill Dhuill', 2 Calbost, was a sister. Anna Chisholm, 1823, wife of Donald Mackenzie, 12 Calbost 'Domhnuill Thormoid', was a first cousin of these three ladies. Her father was Angus Chisholm, 29 Gravir or Cromore. Her mother was the second wife of Malcolm Finlayson, 14 Calbost.

13 Calbost - cottar

Norman Macleod	1860
Ann Macleod 1st wife	1862-1889
Robert John	1888
Robert John	1889
Ann Macdonald 2nd wife	1871
John	1902-1989
Neil	1905
Anna	1913
4 Infants	

'Tormod an Choinneach'

Son of John Macleod, 13 Calbost
 From Breascleite
 Infant
 Infant
 Daughter of Neil Macleod, 13 Calbost
 Minister of Religion, Edinburgh
 Minister of Religion, Australia
 Married in Stornoway

Norman's family moved to Stornoway in 1907.

13 Calbost - cottar

Alastair Macleod	1858
Annabella Mackenzie	1862
Dugald	1892-1917
Katie	1894
Maggie	1896
John Robert	1900
Christy Bell	
Johanna	

'Alastair an Choinneach'

Son of John Macleod, 13 Calbost
 Daughter of Dugald Kennedy, 2 Calbost
 Died from First World War wounds - age 25
 Spinster
 Mrs Dickson, Glasgow
 Died young result First World War
 Died young woman
 Died young woman

Lance Corporal Dugald Macleod, 2nd Gordon's, twice wounded, last time at Ypres, medically discharged and died at home in 1917, aged 25 years. Hold Mon's Star. John Robert Macleod, Royal Navy First World War, developed Pulmonary T.B in the service and died young, as did his sisters Christy Bell and Johanna from the same complaint.

13 Calbost - cottar

Donald Macleod	1849
Mary Macdonald 1st wife	1855-1886
Kenneth	1879
Anna	1881

'Domhnuill an Choinneach'

Son of John Macleod, 13 Calbost
 Daughter of James Macdonald, 9 Habost
 Bachelor at 23 Marvig
 Mrs Alastair Macleod, 9 Marvig

Alastair	1884	Settled at 23 Marvig
James	1885-1953	Emigrated to North America
Bella Kennedy 2nd wife	1850	Daughter of Kenneth Kennedy, 4 Marvig
No issue		

Donald Macleod's family moved from the congested croft of 13 Calbost to the new croft extension of 23 Marvig

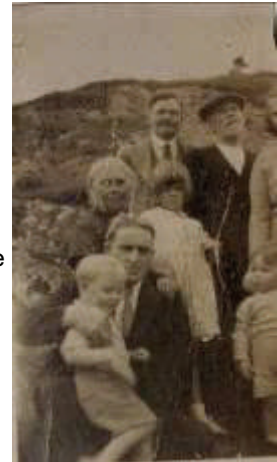
13 Calbost - cottar		'Murchadh an Choinneach'
Murdo Macleod	1865	Son of John Macleod, 13 Calbost
Catriona	1866	Daughter of Donald Macleod, 13 Calbost
Kate	1900	Spinster, died middle age

13 Calbost - cottar		'Aonghais Dhomhnuill Aonghais'
Angus Finlayson	1874	Son of Angus Finlayson, 10 Calbost
Catherine Macleod	1875	Daughter of Neil Macleod, 13 Calbost
Nellie		Spinster, died early
Roderick		Bachelor
Joan		Married in Stornoway
Peggy		Spinster at Calbost

Angus Finlayson, 1874, cottar, moved out to the common grazings at the west-end of the village boundary wall in the 1940s.



Left: Dugald Macleod, 13 Calbost son of Alastair Macleod and Barabal Lance Corporal, Gordon Highlanders. Twice wounded in the First World War, last time in the chest at Ypres Western Front. Discharged and died at home on 29th September 1917 aged 35 years. He held the Mons Star.



Right: Baily John Kennedy, Stornoway son of Iain Kennedy 2 Calbost; and his uncle Alastair Macleod 'Alastair an Choinneach', 13 Calbost; Child - Peggy Macfarlane, Inverness; William Hutchison, husband of 'Cathie an Dhuill,' 2 Calbost;

Below left: Maggie Dixon Macleod 'Maggie Alastair an Choinneach' 13 Calbost, and Glasgow.



Right: Barabal 'Dhuill' Kennedy, 2 Calbost, wife of Alastair Macleod, 13 Calbost; Jack Hutchison; Mrs Ishbel Kennedy, wife of Baily John Kennedy, Stornoway and 2 Calbost; Master John Kennedy; and Mrs Mary Doig; Mrs Cathie Hutchison 'Cathie an Dhuill' Kennedy, 2 Calbost; child - Peggy Macfarlane, Inverness.



John Robert 1900, served in First World War in R.N.R.T. Died Young



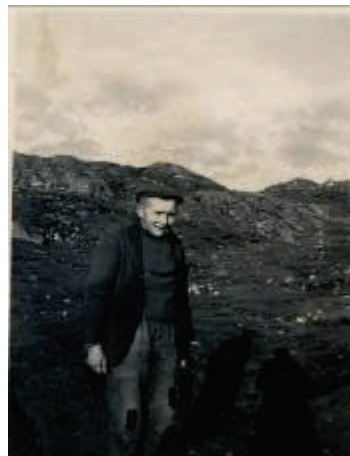
A Fishing Girl Kate 'Bhàn' Macleod, 13 Calbost 'Kate Bhàn Alastair an Choinneach'

There were two other girls in the family Christy Bell and Johanna born after the turn of the century and they both died in their early 20s.

Right: Angus Finlayson 'Diry', 1874, 13 Calbost, son of Donald Finlayson, 10 Calbost. His eldest daughter Nellie (below left) died in her thirties. Ruaraidh 'Diry', his son (below right) is facing into the camera.

Angus Finlayson's wife Catherine Macleod, 1875, died in the 1920s after her skirt caught fire in the home and she suffered severe burns. There were two other daughters Joan and Peggy. There were three families on croft 13 Calbost and Angus Finlayson's family were one of the 5 Steimreway land raiders of 1922.

Eventually the family moved out to the common grazings at the west-end of Calbost.



Right: Christy Maggie 'Neill' Macleod, 13 Calbost, married in Stornoway

Right: Roderick Finlayson 'Ruaraidh Diry', 13 Calbost, son of Angus Finlayson



Above: Joan Macleod 'Seonag Neill', 13 Calbost
Mrs Angus Macmillan 'Bean a Mhate'