

The Genealogy of Croft 10 Calbost

Croft 10 was one of the crofts created in the second lotting of Calbost about 1852. The original crofter was Angus Finlayson, a son of the village, born in 1917, a son of Malcolm Finlayson, 14 Calbost. Angus married about 1841 and four members of his family of eight were born before he acquired croft 10. He must therefore have been a landless cottar in Calbost for 11 years before he became an official crofter.

10 Calbost - Original Crofter

Angus Finlayson	1817-1871
Isabella Smith	1819-1897
Catherine	1842-1913
Donald	1845
Anna	1848-1891
Alastair	1850
Mary	1854
Christy	1855
Christy	1857

'Aonghais, Chalum Dhol Ruadh'

Son of Calum Finlayson, 14 Calbost
 Daughter of Donald Smith, 5 Calbost
 Spinster at 10 Calbost
 Cottar at 10 Calbost
 Spinster at 10 Calbost
 Crofter at 10 Calbost
 Mrs Roderick Macleod, 28 Cromore
 Died about 1 year old

10 Calbost 'Cottar'

Donald Finlayson	1845
Peggy Nicolson	1848
Betty	1873
Angus 'Diry'	1874
Roderick	1877
Christine	1881
Donald	1882
Donald	1884
noway	
Murdo	1889
Christy-Betty, Granddaughter	1894-1919

'Domhnuill Aonghais Chalum'

Son of Angus Finlayson, 10 Calbost
 Daughter of Murdo Nicolson, 11 Calbost
 Spinster at 10 Calbost
 Cottar at 13 Calbost
 Lost at sea, East Coast fishing
 Infant
 Infant
 Married Mary Macleod, No.6 at Stor-
 noway
 Bachelor at 10 Calbost
 Spinster, died age 25 years

Donald Finlayson, 1884, and his brother Murdo, 1889, sons of the above family of 'Domhnuill Aonghais Chalum' served in the Royal Navy in the First World War.

10 Calbost - Crofter

Alexander Finlayson	1850-1923
Flora Campbell	1859-1920
Roderick 'Tailor'	1884
Angus	1887
Donald	1890
Marion	1892-1980
Infant	1894
Bellann	1896-1980
John	1898-1965
Mary	1901-1982

'Alastair Aonghais'

Son of Angus Finlayson, 10 Calbost
 Daughter of Roderick Campbell, 18 Gravir
 Crofter at 10 Calbost/moved to Laxdale
 Cottar at 10 Calbost
 Emigrated, married in Australia
 Spinster, worked on mainland
 Mrs Murdo Mackenzie, 1 Marvig
 Seaman, married in Inverness
 Mrs Angus Mackenzie, 12 Calbost/Stornoway

Three sons from the above family fought in the First World War, Roderick, 1884, Angus, 1887, and John, 1898. The last named participated in the Second World War as well, in the Merchant Navy as a Boson on troopships where he was wounded on two occasions during operations in the Mediterranean area.

10 Calbost - Cottar

Roderick Finlayson	1884
Tina Mackenzie	1895
Charles	
Alastair	
Infant	
Sandra	

'Ruairidh, Alastair Aonghais'

Son of Alastair Finlayson, 10 Calbost
 Daughter of Alex Mackenzie, 13 Marvig
 Settled in Laxdale, Stornoway
 Settled in Laxdale, Stornoway
 Married on mainland

Roderick Finlayson was a tailor by profession and he operated a tailors business and village grocery shop at Calbost. In the 1920s and 1930s he employed one and sometimes two assistants in his tailoring business. He catered for the whole of Park. After the Second World War the bespoke tailoring trade slowed down because of the ready-to-wear service provided by the multiple shops. The family then moved to Laxdale, Stornoway, where Roderick continued his tailoring business until retiring age.

10 Calbost - Cottar

Angus Finlayson	1887
Christy Finlayson	1890
Murdo	1913
Angus	1915
Flora	
Alex	1919-1939
John Neil	
John Neil	
Murdina	1927

'Aonghais, Alastair Aonghais'

Son of Alastair Finlayson, 10 Calbost
Daughter of Neil Morrison, 9 Calbost
Lost in Royal Navy, Second World War
Married in Stornoway
Died at school age
Lost in Royal Navy, Second World War
accidentally scalded as a child, died
Married in Inverness
Mrs DM Macleod, 4 Kershader

Angus Finlayson, 1887, head of the above family, was a fishing boat skipper. He skippered the 'Sceptre', a 70 foot Zulu sailing boat and the motor boats 'Proceed 1' and 'Proceed 2'.



View of Croft 10 towards Calbost Bay

A view of croft 10 towards Calbost Bay, the photo was taken from croft 11 where part of the house of Kenneth Nicolson, No. 11, may be seen in the foreground on the left. This is the first white house in Calbost about 1890 or slightly before. It was converted from a thatched house.

Across the stream, right of centre, may be seen the house of Donald Finlayson 'Domhnuill Aonghais' (born 1845). His son Murdo lived in it until the 1950s. It was the last thatched house in Calbost and it was joined to the Hydro Electric supply in its latter years. In the centre is Murdo Finlayson's small new house and further on is the ruin of Alastair Aonghais' (born 1850's) house built about 1880. To the left of that may be seen the gable end of Roderick Finlayson's house (born 1884) with his tailors shop and grocery shop extending to the west of the dwelling house. Nearer the sea may be seen Angus Finlayson's house (born 1887). The plan of construction of this house was two stone and clay gable ends and timber sides and roof with both sides and roof covered in felt or canvas and an annual coat of coal tar applied to it.



Donald Finlayson, 1890-1952, son of 'Alastair Aonghais', 10 Calbost. Donald emigrated to Melbourne, Australia about 1908 at the age of about 18 years. He left Lewis on the mail boat 'Sheila' in the month of May and subsequently he named his first born daughter 'Sheila May'.

He worked in the docks and at sea mainly on pilot-boats and he joined the 5th Battalion A.I.F and fought at Gallipoli in the First World War where he was very badly wounded.

He married an Australian lady of American extraction, Vera Collins, and they had a family of four, two girls and two boys, Sheila, Ninette, Eric and Roderick.

They had a very traumatic experience when their younger son Roderick was kidnapped at the age of 16 years and despite a widespread search it was his remains that were eventually found three years later and his father was able to identify the clothing etc. Donald's health was indifferent since his experiences at Gallipoli, but he lived to the age of 62 years. He died in 1952 and his wife died a few months later also in 1952.

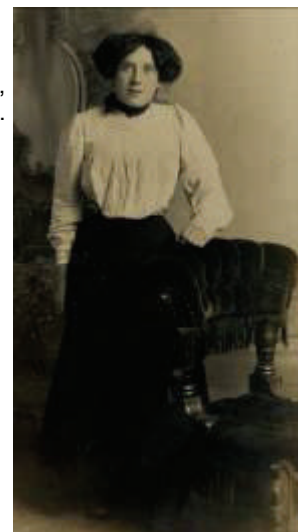
Ninette's daughter, Janet, came to Lewis on a working holiday and to meet her relations. While in Lewis she met and married her husband John Maciver, a teacher in the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway, and they set up home in Newvalley near Stornoway.



Left - Mary Finlayson 'Mairi Alastair Aonghais', 1901-1982, 10 Calbost. Subsequently married Angus Mackenzie 'Poggie', son of Angus Mackenzie, 12 Calbost, and they lived in Stornoway.

Right - Christy Finlayson 'Christy Betty', 1894-1919, 10 Calbost. Photo taken in Glasgow. Christy died suddenly aged 25 years.

Miss Marion Finlayson 'Meron', daughter of Alastair Finlayson, 10 Calbost.





Wedding of Angus Finlayson 'Alastair', 1887, 10 Calbost, and Christy Morrison 'Neil', 1889, 9 Calbost at Fraserburgh in 1912.

Standing - Best Man, Donald Mackenzie 'Loons', 12 Calbost; Bridesmaid, Bellann Finlayson 'Alastair', 10 Calbost.

Hebridean men and women followed the herring fishing from port to port and many of them married at the fishing port and travelled home as married couples.



Murdina Finlayson, 1927, youngest daughter of Angus Finlayson and Christy at 10 Calbost. Murdina married Donald M Macleod, 4 Kershader, and they lived in Laxdale, near Stornoway.



Left: centre of picture: Christy Morrison, 1890, daughter of Neil Morrison, 9 Calbost, wife of Angus Finlayson, 10 Calbost
 Left: Their daughter, Flora who died young.
 Right: Murdina, another daughter

Right: Angus Finlayson, 1887, son of Alastair Finlayson, 10 Calbost, as a young Naval Reservist.



Left: Murdo Finlayson 'Murdaigean, Aonghais Alastair', bachelor, son of Angus Finlayson, 10 Calbost, who was a Royal Naval Reservist who was called up in 1938 and killed on 1st February 1944 aged about 30 years, when his ship 'SS Calep-Sprague' was sunk by enemy action at Newhaven. He is interred in Gravir Cemetery.

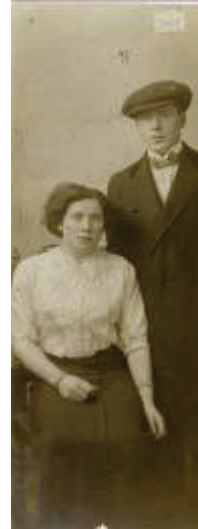
Centre: His younger brother, Alexander Finlayson, bachelor, 10 Calbost, was the first Lewis casualty in the Second World War, when at the age of 20 years his ship, the aircraft carrier 'HMS Courageous', was sunk by enemy action on 17th September 1939 at Scapa Flow.

Right: A third brother, Angus Finlayson, who served in the Royal Navy in the Second World War in his mid 20s as a Leading Seaman Gunner on the minesweeper 'HMS Calliope'. He survived the war.

Marion Finlayson 'Meron' (Alasdair), 1891-1980, and her brother Roderick Finlayson 'Toum', 1884-1965.

Marion (unmarried) worked in Oban most of her life. As a young man Roderick served his trade as a tailor and worked in Oban. He was called up at the beginning of the First World War and served in the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders in the trenches on the Western Front, where he was awarded the 'Mons Star'.

His other three brothers also served in the First World War, Angus in the R.N.R., Donald in the Army, and John served at sea in both wars. After the First World War, Roderick married Tina Mackenzie, 13 Marvig, and set up in business as a tailor at 10 Calbost serving the whole district of Park. He also operated a village grocery store until the family moved to Laxdale after the Second World War.



Bellann Finlayson 'Bellann Alastair Aonghais', 10 Calbost; Mrs Murdo Mackenzie, 1 Marvig.



Copy Birth Certificate of Margaret Nicolson

A certificate certifying the date of birth of Margaret 'Peggy' Nicolson, daughter of Murdo Nicolson, 11 Calbost 'Murchaidh Mac Dhomhnuill ic Thormoid', and signed on behalf of the Kirk Session of the Lochs Free Church at Crossbost by Donald Mackinnon, Leurbost Session Clerk, in February 1916. When the Old Age Pension first came out, some of the older people in Lewis were unable to provide proof of their age by submitting an official certificate from the Registrar of Births and Deaths because their births were never recorded officially. Compulsory recording of births and deaths had not commenced in Lewis when the older people were born.

Peggy was the wife of Donald Finlayson 'Domhnuill Ruadh', 10 Calbost.

Fortunately, the Old Age Pension authorities accepted a baptismal certificate from the records of their local congregation, and they were most grateful to the Liberal Government who introduced this very necessary social reform.



Donald Finlayson, 1884, son of Donald Finlayson, 10 Calbost, dressed as a fisherman.



Left; Murdo Finlayson 1889 a brother of the above Donald dressed as a Royal Navy Reservist.



Right: Betty Finlayson 1873 sister of Donald and Murdo



Left: Christy 'Betty' Finlayson 1894-1919. Died suddenly aged 25 at the time she was about to get married to a man from Orinsay. Her wedding dress was used as a shroud in her coffin.

Right: Charles Finlayson and his brother Alastair, the sons of Roderick and Tina Finlayson, 10 Calbost dressed the way we went to school in the summer months.



On the left in the photo is John Finlayson, 10 Calbost.

