

The Genealogy of Croft 3 Calbost

The area round about crofts 2, 3, and 4 is the oldest known inhabited part of Calbost. It was the centre of Robert Weir's Tack and his 'lios-mor' (big-garden) extends practically right across the three crofts. Probably that was the main part of his arable land and it was protected by a stone wall with his home built into the garden wall on the west side, just within the present boundary of Croft 3.

The first few crofts were set out about 1818 and the present croft boundaries of the 14 crofts were not established until about 1852. However, local tradition, 'beul-aithris' relate that some of the early crofter settlers such as Norman Mackenzie (1780-1864) 'Tormod Buidhe', came to Calbost towards the end of the 18th century and he must therefore have been under the earlier system of tenure called 'run-rig' with the tacksman Robert Weir, during his early years at Calbost.

Robert Weir the tacksman was at Calbost during most, or the whole, of the last quarter of the 18th century and as he was one of the most progressive entrepreneur tacksman in the Island, carrying on business in kelping, fishing and agriculture. He must have been surrounded by run-rig small tenants long before 'Tormod Buidhe' came. 'Tormod' was not born until 1780 and he was only 20 years old at the turn of the century. We do not know who was with the tacksman during his early years at Calbost. Strong local tradition relate that 'Tormod Buidhe' came to Calbost from Carloway area with his widowed mother, Marion Macarthur and a brother of Tormod who returned to Carloway after a while. Also, with them was the orphan Kenneth Macleod (1880-1837) who was the son of a sister of Marion Macarthur. Kenneth was being raised by Marion, his aunt, as a member of her own family. It was said that Kenneth Macleod's mother fell to her death from a high cliff. His father had died previously. We refer to Kenneth later as the soldier tenant of croft 13 Calbost. Norman 'Buidhe' Mackenzie married Kirsty Macarthur in 1805, daughter of Angus Macarthur who resided at Gravir but it is thought he came from Carloway area originally. Two other sisters of Norman's wife were married in Calbost. Margaret Macarthur was married to Murdo Morrison, 'Murchadh Breabadair', 9 Calbost, and Catherine Macarthur, was the first wife of Malcolm Finlayson, 'Calum ic Dhomhnuill Ruadh' 14 Calbost. Another sister was married to Angus Campbell 11 Marvig as his first wife. At that time Carloway was part of the Parish of Lochs and the Parish Church was at Keose.

The following are the family of Tormod 'Buidhe' Mackenzie the first tenant on Croft 3 Calbost.

3 Calbost		Tormod 'Buidhe'
Norman 'Buidhe' Mackenzie	1780-1864	Came from Carloway
Kirsty Macarthur	1788-1868	Daughter of Angus Macarthur Gravir
Catriona	1809	?
Iain	1811-1892	settled at 19 Cromore
Norman 'Og'	1817	settled at 4 Calbost
Donald	1819	settled at 12 Calbost
Margaret	1822-1900	Mrs James Macdonald 23 Crossbost
Mary	1827	Mrs Murdo Kennedy 3 Calbost

Seaforth Mackenzie the Lewis Landlord offered to raise yet another Battalion of recruits on his estates to be known as the 2nd Battalion, 78th Seaforth Highlanders. His recruiting agent came to Calbost early in 1804 and according to tradition it was Norman 'Buidhe' Mackenzie they first approached. He would then have been about 24 years old and unmarried. Apparently such recruiting drives were not voluntary and once a man was approached he had no option but to go. Norman however protested vigorously, pointing out that his aged widowed mother was dependant on him and that he should therefore be excused, but said Norman, my orphan cousin Kenneth Macleod has no family obligations. Accordingly Kenneth who was brought up by Norman's mother was taken as a recruit for the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders and he fought at El-Hammed in Egypt.

3 Calbost		'Murchadh Ceaneady'
Murdo Kennedy	1815-1905	son of Donald Kennedy 2 Calbost
Mary Mackenzie	1827	daughter Norman Mackenzie 3 Calbost
Catherine	1851	Mrs Norman Campbell 19 Lemreway
Donald	1852	Cottar 3 Calbost/moved to Stornoway
Mary	1855	Mrs John Macleod 13 Calbost
Ann	1857	Mrs Alastair Smith 6 Marvig
Isabella	1859	Mrs Iain Ferguson Stornoway
Peggy	1862	Mrs Alastair Macdonald 23 Cromore
Marion	1864	Spinster at Stornoway

Murdo Kennedy 1815 son of Donald Kennedy 2 Calbost was a sailor, having served in the Navy for many years, as well as serving in ocean going Merchant Sailing Ships. He was as accomplished storyteller and given to referring to 'Montevideo' in South America, which eventually became known locally as Baile Mhurchaidh Ceaneadach'. Some of the local folks including his wife were not quite sure if his stories about black people etc; were to be believed. Murdo was able to read the newspapers.

3 Calbost

Donald Kennedy	1852-1908
Marion MacIennan	1865
Murdo	1891
Christy	
Dolina	
Jessie Mary	
Kenneth	
Alex 'Baby'	

Domhnall Mhurchadh Cheannadach

Son of Murdo Kennedy 3 Calbost
 Daughter of Alex MacIennan 6 Marvig
 Emigrated to Africa
 Married on Scottish mainland
 Married on Scottish mainland
 Settled in Stornoway
 Bachelor in Stornoway

Donald Kennedy was a shoemaker to trade and he moved to Stornoway in due course and his sister Mary and her husband John Macleod, son of Iain Macleod 13 Calbost became tenants of Croft 3 Calbost as follows: -

3 Calbost 'Crofting Tenant'

John Macleod	1855
Mary Kennedy	1855
Christy	1878
Kenneth	1880
Norman	1882
Johnnie	1883
Norman	1885
Johanna	1890
Murdo	1890
Robert	1892
Murdo Kennedy	1895-1979
Mary Ann	1889

'Iain an Choinnich'

Son John Macleod 13 Calbost
 Daughter Murdo Kennedy 3 Calbost
 Mrs Calum Macleod 14 Cromore
 Emigrated to South Africa/returned to Sty
 Infant
 Emigrated to S. America - returned as bachelor
 Emigrated to S. America - returned as bachelor
 Mrs Kenneth Mackay 7 Calbost
 Infant
 Settled 3 Calbost
 Rev. Dr. Principal Chaplain R.A.F
 Infant

Christy 1878 of the above family lost her husband Calum Macleod 14 Cromore when he was a young man and she as a widow left Cromore and returned with two of her three children to live with her parents at 3 Calbost as follows: -

Mrs Christy Macleod
 Mary
 Kenneth

'widow' of Calum Macleod 14 Cromore
 Mrs Brown, Schoolteacher, Glasgow
 Head teacher, Settled at 14 Cromore

Katie Mary, the third member of the family was brought up by her grandparents, Coinneach Mhurchaidh Bhàn at 14 Cromore. Subsequently Katie Mary married Donald Macleod 3 Marvig and settled at 6 Marvig.

3 Calbost 'Crofting Tenant'

Robert Macleod	1892
Catriona Morrison	1890
Mary Ann	1913
Johanna	1915
Neil	1918
Muriel	
Robert	1925-1991
Johanna	
Morag	
Iain	

Rob Iain an Choinnich

Son John Macleod 3 Calbost
 Daughter of John Morrison 9 Calbost
 Mrs K Ferguson 3 Lemreway/Glasgow
 Died - school age
 Settled at 3 Calbost/moved to Laxdale
 Mrs Nicolson Stornoway at Glasgow
 Settled in Glasgow
 Mrs Ferguson Gress/ Glasgow
 Mrs John Mackenzie 12 Marvig
 Settled in Glasgow

3 Calbost 'Cottar'

John Brown	
Mary Macleod Schoolteacher	
Hughie	1934
Christy Mary	1936
Peggy Ann	1937
Kenneth John	1939
Calum Iain	

'Iain Brown'

from Islivig Uig, Lewis
 Daughter M Macleod 14 Cromore
 Mrs. Lynch, Glasgow
 Mrs. Dugald Dixon, Glasgow

The Brown family moved to Glasgow after the Second World War.

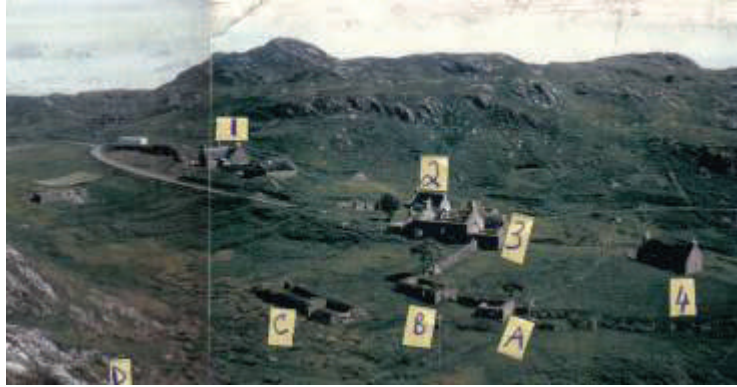
3 Calbost 'Crofting Tenant'

Neil Macleod	1919
Catriona Mackay	
Kirsty	1956
Catriona	1961

'Niall Rob'

Son Robert Macleod 3 Calbost
 from Melbost Borge Lewis
 Radio operator in WRENS

Neil Macleod's family moved to Laxdale Stornoway in the 1950s.



Photograph 1958 covering the oldest part of Calbost. The last dwelling house on crofts 1, 2, 3, and 4 are numbered as such.

'A' identifies the ruins of the house of Robert Weir the tacksman, just within the boundary of croft 3. It was there before the village was first lotted about 1818.

'B' marks Robert Weirs barn, later on converted into a dwelling house for Donald Kennedy born 1852, who was a shoemaker who moved to Stornoway later on.

'C' indicates the ruins of Norman 'Buidhe' Mackenzie's dwelling house with Murdo Kennedy's house as an extension to the right (downhill). After Tormod 'Buidhe', Murdo Kennedy took over the whole building. He was married to Mary a daughter of Tormod 'Buidhe' Mackenzie.

Later on Mary Kennedy a daughter of Murdo Kennedy married John Macleod 'Iain an Choinnich' from 13 Calbost and they set up home in this building until they built the big department house marked No 3 in 1922.

'D' in the bottom left hand corner may be seen a little of the wall of Norman 'òg' Mackenzie born 1817, he was the son of Tormod 'Buidhe' and he was the first tenant on Croft 4 which was established in the second lotting of the village about 1850. Norman 'òg' Mackenzie was the man that claimed his wife Matilda in the Church at Keose when she was about to be married to another man.

'Lios Mor' the garden of Robert Weir the tacksman may be seen with the last dwelling houses on Croft 3 and 4 built within it. It also extended on to Croft 2.

'Road' Just below the dwelling house on Croft 1 may be seen the first vehicular road that came to Calbost about 1924 from the direction of Marvig.

'Road' the road on the hill in the background is a side-road extending to Crofts 8 and 9 towards the sea, it was built in 1943/44.

Kenneth Macleod 'Shoemaker' born 1867 at 1 Calbost whose home may be seen below the road top left.



Above is John Macleod 1855 'Iain an Choinnich', son of John Macleod 13 Calbost, he married Mary Kennedy, daughter of Murdo Kennedy, 3 Calbost about 1877. They settled down at 3 Calbost and raised a family of seven children, five boys and two girls. Subsequently three of their sons emigrated to the sheep farms of South America - Kenneth 1880,



Johnnie 1883, he is seen above in army uniform before he emigrated and Norman 1885. All three of them returned to Lewis in due course. Robert 1882 settled at 3 Calbost and Murdo K. 1895 was a Minister of Religion and he served in the RAF as Principal Chaplain. Christy 1878 married Malcolm Macleod, 14 Cromore and Joan 1890 married Kenneth Mackay, 7 Calbost.

The head of the family was a crofter/fisherman and weaver. He also served for a while as a village foot postman for three days a week after a sub-post office and sorting office was opened at Cromore in 1914. The mail was ferried across Loch Erisort from Crossbost and the Calbost/Marvig mail was collected at Cromore by John Macleod 3 Calbost and distributed in the two villages on the way home.

When John Macleod retired in 1918 Alexander Mackenzie, 12 Calbost, took over the Marvig/Calbost delivery.

It was 1883 that a South Lochs mail service for the summer months was commenced. It continued that way for 8 years. Ishbel Mackenzie 'Bell' of the Crossbost Post Office (a lady from Calbost, daughter of Murdo Nicolson 11 Calbost) brought the mail to Calbost and deposited it in a box for onward distribution to Gravir and Lemreway. The box survived into the 1930s outside of John Macleod's house at 3 Calbost. It was referred to as 'The Post Office'.

Robert Macleod 1892, 'Rob Iain an Choinnich'. Robert served in the Royal Navy in the First World War.



Robert's daughter Mary Ann, left, born 1912. Subsequently married Kenneth Ferguson 3 Lemreway and settled in Glasgow.



Niall Rob , above right, born 1914, a brother of Mary Ann. There were five girls and three boys in Robert Macleod's family. One girl, Joan, died of meningitis at school age. Muriel, Robert, Johann and Iain settled in Glasgow and Morag settled in Marvig.



This photo shows a group of Lochs people leaving for South America in 1914.

Left - John F Mackenzie born 1886, son of Calum Ruadh Mackenzie, 4 Calbost. He worked in South America as a manager of a meat factory. He was married with 3 daughters: Annie, Flora and Mary.

The lady in the photo is from Leurbost and the man is thought to be from Keose.

Right - Norman Macleod born 1885, son of Iain Macleod 3 Calbost. Norman, a bachelor, returned home after many years working on isolated sheep stations, usually alone with his dog. An accomplished musician he played the bagpipes. He regaled us youngsters at Calbost with stories about 'Tierra del Fuego' and other places in South America.

Rev. Donald McCallum, the Parish Minister at Keose was a recruiting agent for emigrants for South America and the following is a copy letter from Mr McCallum's contacts at Inverness.

53 Church Street
Inverness
19th July 1906

The Reverend D. McCallum
Manse of Lochs
Stornoway

Revd. Dear Sir,

We have been asked to send out to the Argentine six good shepherds on a five (5) years engagement. The rate of wages is £55 for 1st year, £60 for 2nd year, £65 for 3rd, 4th and 5th years with the usual allowances. Each shepherd would be required to take out two dogs with him. The men to supply the dogs themselves and of course will be their own property. The cost of taking out the dogs would in the first instance be paid by us but would be deducted from the men's wages. The dogs most suitable would be from 1 to 2 year old and shorthaired as the climate is somewhat warm. It would pay the men to take the dogs with them, as the pups would be valuable.

The place is Commodore Rivadavia in the neighbourhood of the Cameroon's and the climate is delightful. The company is a new one in which our good friend Mr Menendez has large interests.

We have a long list of applicants and there are several from your district, the last two we had being from Malcolm Macdonald, 36 Leurbost and Norman Maclean, 47 Leurbost. If you can recommend us six good reliable men who would provide the dogs with them we would give them a preference.

In any case we will be glad to hear from you.

Yours faithfully



Kenneth Macleod 1880-1938 son of John Macleod 3 Calbost 'Iain an Choinnich'. Kenneth is photographed here with his family about the time they returned from South America in 1927. His wife was Catherine Maclean, 55 Leurbost and their daughter Kennag and son Johnnie. They lost two other children in South America, one of whom was only a few years old.

Kenneth emigrated to the Argentine, South America before the 1st World War and he worked there as a Sheep Farm Manager. He returned home on holiday only once during the 20 years he was there. Shortly after he came home he purchased the Landholding of Plasterfield outside Stornoway and his son Johnnie still lives there. Kenneth died at the comparatively early age of 57 years.

Emigration to the large sheep farms of South America was very popular among Lewis men. Two other brothers of Kenneth were Norman 1882 and Johnnie 1883 who also emigrated to South America before the First World War. Both of them returned much earlier.



Left - Christy Macleod 1878 and her brother Murdo K. Macleod 1895 who were two members of the family of 'Iain an Choinnich' 3 Calbost. This photograph was taken in a studio in Stornoway probably in the second decade of the 20th century when Murdo K was a student and his sister Christy a widow.

Christy was married to Malcolm Macleod 1876-1911, son of Kenneth Macleod 14 Cromore, and they had a family of three. Mary, a schoolteacher, married John Brown from Uig Lewis, Kenneth, a head teacher in various schools in South Lochs, and Katie Mary who married Donald Macleod 3 Marvig. Christy returned to 3 Calbost after her husband died.

Right - Catriona 1890, wife of Robert Macleod 3 Calbost, a brother of Christy and Murdo K. Catriona was the daughter of Iain 'Beag' Morrison 9 Calbost, and she and her husband Robert raised a family of eight at 3 Calbost. Their son Neil 1918 was the last person in residence on the croft before the family moved to Laxdale, Stornoway in the 1950s. We have been unable to identify the child.



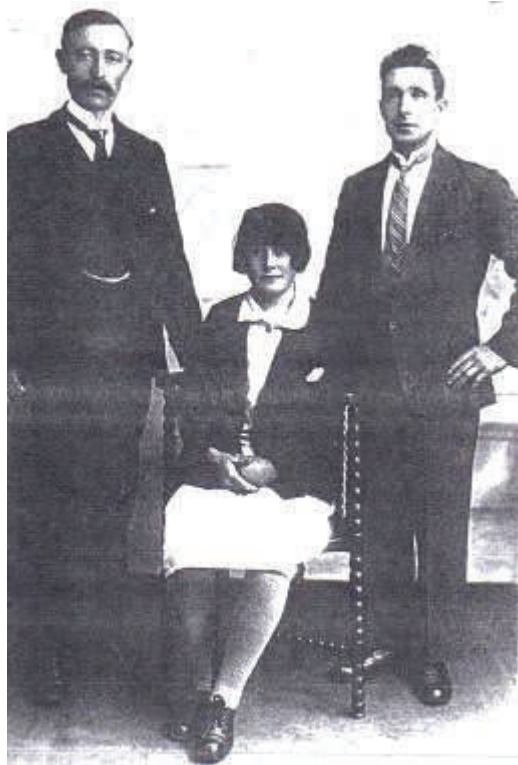
Kenneth Macleod 1908 and his sister Mary were both schoolteachers. Their father Malcolm Macleod, 14 Cromore, died when they were very young and their widowed mother Christy returned to her parent's home at 3 Calbost with them. Katie Mary, a third child, was brought up by her grandparents 'Coinneach Mhurchaidh Bhàn' at 14 Cromore.

After demobilisation from the Royal Air force at the end of the Second World War, Kenneth took up the post of Head teacher at his old school, Planisker Marvig in 1946 and remained there until 1953 when Planisker School was reduced to a one teacher school and the Planisker Junior Secondary pupils together with Kenneth the Headmaster went to Cromore School.

Subsequently the school roll at Cromore School dropped and Kenneth moved to Gravir old school as Head Teacher and later on went to Lemreway School. It was then decided to replace the five old schools in Park by one new school for the whole district. The new school was sited at Gravir and it was opened in 1973 with a school roll of 52 pupils and Kenneth was the first Head Teacher. In that way he was Head Teacher at five schools in turn at Park. He died in 1989.



Mary his sister taught at Uig Lewis and after she married John Brown the family subsequently moved to Glasgow after the war where she taught in various schools. They had a family of two daughters and three sons. All three sons are accountants and one daughter was a nurse and the other one an office worker.



Left - Robert Macleod 3 Calbost
His daughter Mary Ann Macleod or Ferguson
Angus Morrison 9 Calbost, Brother-in-Law