



People of Marvig

Of all the villages in Park, Marvig is outstanding as a village of music, song and humour. Coming readily to mind is Robert Finlayson 1865-1916 of 2 Marvig 'Rob Dhomhnuill'. He was a prolific composer of Gaelic verse mainly in the satirical vein. Unfortunately most of his work is lost. It was however Donald, his brother, who composed the well-known Gaelic song 'An Daisy' in praise of the Zulu sail fishing boats returning home from the Wick herring fishing in a strong favourable wind, 'Bàta Dhomhnuill Phadruig'.

Then Rev. Angus Finlayson of croft 8. He was of the same Finlayson's. He wrote the well-known song 'Dùrachd Teachdaire Chriosd' beginning with 'Tha sgeul agam ri aithris'.

Murdani Kennedy of croft 13 is a prolific composer. 'Oran Na Beart' is well known and many others.

The Macdonald brothers of Hector and John, along with others, were also well known.

Then there were quite a number of pipers, including Donald Macdonald 'Fido' who was perhaps one of the outstanding pipers of his day.

Then there were two Gospel Ministers, Rev. Angus Finlayson and Rev. Alastair Macfarlane, and a formidable list of men or Church office bearers. Both these Ministers and Murdani were accomplished Gaelic singers in the national class.

There were plenty of fishing skippers and three deep sea captains, and quite a few school teachers and head teachers, and various others too numerous to mention.

Marvig and Calbost [written by Angus Macleod for the 'Stornoway Gazette']

It is with profound sadness that we record the passing of two notable Marvig postmistresses who between them gave about 50 years' cheerful public service to the Marvig/Calbost communities.

Louise Kennedy:

Nee Macleod, born at 3 Marvig, wife of the well-known Gaelic singer and village Bàrd, Murdani Kennedy, 13 Marvig, passed away in the Western Isles Hospital on Friday 24th November 2000, at the age of 67 years. She was in indifferent health for some time, but the end came suddenly and peacefully. Louise and Murdani had a family of five, three girls and two boys. Catriona, the eldest, is a University Lecturer in England, Duncan is a well-known self-employed fishing skipper, Louise, now Mrs Macmillan is a lady of the Manse in Kirkcaldy, Sandra is an accomplished artist, and Murdo is a boat builder/fisherman.

Christina Macfarlane:

Nee Mackenzie, born in Calbost, in 1908 and wife of the late Angus Macfarlane 'Samson', 10 Marvig, passed away at Dun Berisay in Stornoway on 19th November 2000, at the age of 92 years. Her health was good and she managed on her own until she went to Dun Berisay about 2 years ago, where she was looked after well. Ciorstag, as she was popularly known, was a colourful character who was well known and respected throughout the Island for her regular attendance at communion sessions. She became a communicant church member in 1924 at the age of 16 years and she maintained a consistent and credible Christian witness for 76 years.

They died within 5 days of each other. Louise gave about 19 years cheerful service at the Marvig Post Office and Ciorstag served the public for about 32 years as Marvig postmistress and shopkeeper.

The whole community extend their condolences to the families on both sides, and honour the memory of two fine ladies.

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