

Chapter 15 - Our People of the Isle of Tiree

Introduction: Finding our people on the Isle of Tiree was perhaps the most straight forward task I had completed in my research on our family history. It started with the same source as my research into John McLean and Mary McKinnon. Namely with the handwritten pedigree chart done by Don Hensel. However, unlike the very sketchy information he had on John McLean and Mary McKinnon, he had some rather detailed information about our Great Great Grandparents Neil McDonald and Catherine McDonald. He had very specific information as to their births, marriage and deaths and that they were from the Isle of Tiree. Later I had obtained from Don Hensel the copy of some notes taken from the family bible of Neil McDonald, our great great grandfather. These notes had all the full dates of the children's births and a marriage date of March 2, 1862 to his first wife, our great great grandmother, Catherine McDonald.

Reference to the marriage record was quickly found in the LDS International Genealogical Index, however the date was actually March 2, 1863. Then I obtained the correct microfilm for the Bruce County Marriage Register and found the record. The record showed Neil McDonald as age 25, born in Scotland, with parents named Alex McDonald and Jane McDonald. Catherine McDonald was shown as age 18, born in Scotland, and her parents were Donald McDonald and Eliza McDonald.

From that marriage record, I then examined the 1841 Scotland census for Tiree, I found a child named Neil of about the right age living in a household headed by an Alexander McDonald and Jane McDonald on the Kenovay farmlands on Tiree. Catherine was too young to be found in the 1841 Scotland census. However, I found a household headed by a Donald McDonald and Elizabeth McDonald on the Cornaigby farmlands on Tiree. I then located this family in subsequent Canada census to confirm it to be the right family. The rest was just a matter of filling in the blanks. I then followed up through the various Tiree families and ended up extracting 80 birth and marriage events to build the histories of each of our Tiree families. I identified five foundational families on Tiree and published their data in my *Island Roots* book. Ultimately, some DNA matches would serve to confirm my work. I am happy to say that I got all of these families correct except one. I had identified a Janet McLean (1815 - 1851) as the daughter of a John McLean and Effie Lamont. As it turns out there were two Janet McLeans both born in March 1815. After reviewing a DNA match, I determined that the correct Janet McLean was actually the daughter of Donald McLean and Flory Lamont.

It would be the advent of autosomal DNA matches from AncestryDNA that would renew my interest and created greater research into the Tiree families. The research on the matches would extend the proven pedigree and extend it by one to two more generations. The number of DNA matches to Tiree is astounding. There are no less than 35 matches that I was able to confirm with a search through the paper trail. Then there is another 11 matches that seem to lead to families on Tiree, but I was unable to confirm the actual connection to our family. The following is a list of the foundational families of Tiree that we descend from and the number of

Traces Through World History

confirmed matches for each.

- Hugh McDonald/Catherine McNeill 16 matches
- John Clarke/Mary Lamont 11 matches
- Charles Lamont/Mary McDonald 3 matches
- Donald Lamont/Isobel Gillespie 4 matches
- Allan McLean/Isabell McLean 1 match
- Donald McLean/Effie McNeill 1 match
- Neil Lamont/Janet McLean 1 match
- John MacKinnon/Catherine MacKinnon 2 matches to their daughter Marrison

These are the families that I call the foundational families because of the DNA matches and the paper trail research I have done on them. I am very confident that these are indeed our ancestors and they called the Isle of Tiree their home.

Connections to the Ancient Scottish Pedigree

In the introduction to Chapter 4, I have already explained how our Tiree ancestors connect with the Ancient Scottish Pedigree. That pedigree includes much of the royalty, nobles, and families significant to the history of Scotland. Our connection to these trees or pedigrees is somewhat nebulous. But it starts with proven ancestors of the Tiree foundational families listed above.

Tiree genealogist Gene Donald Lamont was successful in determining that our Tiree ancestor Donald Maclean in Ruaig is a direct descendant in the male line of Gillean of the Battle Axe, the founder of Clan MacLean. Among his other ancestors were also the Gallo-Norse hero, Somerled, the founders of Clans Donald, Campbell, Cameron, and Lamont, as well as the early Kings of Scots. Lamont further provides that:

Anyone with ancestors who lived in the Inner Hebrides of Scotland probably can boast of many of the same ancestors of Donald Maclean in Ruaig, just as any Scot is probably a descendant of Kenneth MacAlpin.

With eight foundational families that are confirmed to be our ancestors, the odds are that at least some of their ancestral lines will lead to the Ancient Scottish Pedigree. For example, I found Public Member Trees (PMTs) on Ancestry.com that provided the following:

- Donald McLean was found to descend, in four generations, from Charles McLean, 1st of Ardnacross and he is found in the Family Tree on familysearch.org with connection to the Ancient Scottish Pedigree.
- Hugh McDonald was found to descend, in four generations, from a couple named Donald Gorm Og MacDonald and Margaret Cameron. This couple was found in the Family Tree on familysearch.org with connection to the Ancient Scottish Pedigree.
- John MacKinnon was found to descend, in four generations, from a couple named John

Traces Through World History

MacKinnon and Lady Margaret McDonald. This couple was found in the Family Tree on familysearch.org with connection to the Ancient Scottish Pedigree.

- Allan McLean's father was Niel MacLean (born in Ardgour). Niel MacLean descends through the MacLean Laird of Boreray in eleven generations from the 7th Clan Chief, Lachlan Bronnach MacLean. Allan McLean's grandmother was Florence MacLean, wife of Niel MacLean. She descends in five generations from the 13th Clan Chief, Eachuinn Hector Og MacLean. She also descends in five generations from the 12th Clan Chief, Euchuinn Mor MacLean. These connections are found in the Family Tree on familysearch.org with connection to the Ancient Scottish Pedigree.

What makes these connections somewhat nebulous is that the people that post these trees often make connections for which they do not provide any reference to a source or a record that "proves" the connection. But certainly one or more of these paths to the Ancient Scottish Pedigree has a high likelihood of being true. Further, considering that we descend from numerous McLean, McDonald, McKinnon, and Lamont families that came from the Inner Hebrides, it is more likely than not that we descend from the persons found in the Ancient Scottish Pedigree. So I would estimate that there is at least a 70% chance that our connections to the pedigree and accuracy of the pedigree is true.

History of Tiree

Tiree is the most westerly island in the Inner Hebrides of Scotland. The low-lying island, southwest of Coll, has an area of 30 square miles. Tiree experiences a maritime climate with cool summers and mild winters. Despite it being on the same latitude as Labrador on the opposite side of the Atlantic Ocean, snow and frost are rare, and if they occur, short-lived. The land is highly fertile. Tiree enjoys a relatively high number of total hours of sunshine during the late spring and early summer compared to the average for the United Kingdom. This made the island ideal for agricultural purposes.

Tiree's name derives from Tìr Iodh, "land of the corn", from the days of the 6th century Celtic missionary and abbot St Columba (d. 597). Tiree provided the monastic community on the island of Iona, south-east of the island, with grain. A number of early monasteries once existed on Tiree itself, and several sites have stone cross-slabs from this period such as St Patrick's Chapel.

Tiree is known for the 1st-century-AD Dùn Mòr broch, for the prehistoric carved Ringing Stone and for the birds of the Ceann a' Mhara headland. Adomnan of Iona recorded several stories relating to St Columba and the island of Tiree.

The first settlers probably arrived around 7000 BC, a period consistent with proven settlement of other nearby islands of the Inner Hebrides. Legend has it that the first settlement were that of the Picts from mainland Scotland.

In their own country they were known as the Fénibut, but the Gael were the raiders and settlers of around 500 AD of the south-western corner of the land of the Picts in an area that would become Argyll (coastland of the Gael). They were given the old Roman label of "Scotti"

Traces Through World History

for all trans-maritime Irish migrants and now best remembered as the people who gave their name to Scotland. One of the three chief tribes of Dal Riada in the 7th century were the Cenél Loarn (Kindred of Lorn) who inhabited the Isle of Colonsay, and all the islands and mainland districts to the north of these that were not held by the Picts, which included Mull, Coll and Tiree and, on the mainland, Ardnamurchan and Morvern.

Soon after his coming to Iona in 563, St Columba founded in Tiree, a monastery or penitential house over which presided his successor St. Baithene, one of his original disciples and St Columba's foster-son. There was frequent communication between Ireland and Tiree in the 6th century. St. Kenneth of Aghaboe is said to have lived for some time in Tiree.

Findchan, a contemporary of St Columba, founded a monastery at Artchain in about 565. Also in about 565, St Columba once sailed into Gott Bay on his way to visit the monastery.

In another old burial ground on Tiree there is a tombstone to a prior named Fingonvs' derived from MacFhionghuin or MacKinnon. He was an ancestor of the MacQuarries and the MacKinnons, two important clans in Iona and Tiree.

By the 6th century Tiree, along with much of the nearby mainland and adjacent islands lay within the Gaelic kingdom of Dál Riada with strong links to Ireland. The widely accepted view is that Dál Riada was established by Gaelic migrants from Ulster, displacing a former Brythonic culture (such as the Picts). Nevertheless, it has been claimed that the Gaels in this part of Scotland were indigenous to the area.

In 798 the Vikings plundered the Hebrides, and in 802 and 806 ravaged Iona. The latter raids led to the dispersion of the Columban community to Kells and Dunkeld. By 872 the Norsemen had burnt down the monasteries on Tiree including that at Sorobaidh and some had settled on the island.

The 9th century arrival of Scandinavian settlers on the western seaboard of the mainland had a long-lasting effect, beginning with the destruction of Dál Riada. Consolidating their gains, the Norse settlers established the Kingdom of the Isles, which became part of the crown of Norway following Norwegian unification. To Norway, the islands became known as Suðreyjar, meaning southern isles. For the next four centuries and more this Kingdom was under the control of rulers of mostly Norse origin.

Some sources provide that the first prominent Viking settler, whose name would be associated with Tiree, was Ketil Flat Nose Bjarnason (our 28th great grandfather in the Ancient Icelandic Pedigree). Ketil was a Norse King of the Western Isles in Scotland in the 9th century. According to one statement, Ketil was sent by King Harald Fairhair Halfdanarson (our 27th great grandfather in the Ancient Icelandic Pedigree) to the Hebrides to chastise some Vikings who had taken up their abode there, but other sources say that Ketil went to Hebrides because of his obnoxiousness to the king. It is thought by some that Ketil may have had his headquarters for governing the Suðreyjar at Tiree.

In the late 11th century, Magnus Barefoot Olafsson (our 26th great grandfather in the Ancient Icelandic Pedigree), the Norwegian king, launched a military campaign which in 1098 led the king of Scotland to quitclaim to Magnus all claim of sovereign authority over the territory of the Kingdom of the Isles. However, a coup some 60 years later, led by a Norse-Gael named Somerled (our 24th great grandfather), detached the whole of the Suðreyjar from Norway and

Traces Through World History

transformed it into an independent kingdom. After Somerled's death in 1164, nominal Norwegian authority was established, but practical control of the realm was divided between Somerled's sons and the heirs of Somerled's brother-in-law, the Crovan Dynasty. His son Dougall (our 25th great grandfather) received the former territory of the Cenél Loairn, now known as Lorn, of which Mull formed part.

The Battle of the Sheaves reputedly took place at Cornaigmore on Tiree in 1190 when the desperate islanders of Tiree, armed only with tightly-bound corn sheaves, defeated marauding Vikings. The islanders were busy harvesting corn when the raiders struck. With nothing to defend themselves but sheaves, the men of Tiree engaged the Norsemen in battle. Blinded with the grain from the sheaves, the enemy fled, but it was only after heavy losses that they managed to gain the safety of their galley.

After King Hakon Hakonarson (our 21st great grandfather in the Ancient Icelandic Pedigree) recognized defeat at the Battle of Largs in 1263, Alexander III, King of Scotland, had granted ownership of Lorn and Benderloch, Mull, Lismore, Coll, Tiree, the Treshnish and the Garvellachs islands to the MacDougalls but they were indecisive owners and there were continual disputes.

As Lords of the Isles, the descendants of Somerled exercised so much control over other clan chiefs in the western Highlands that, at the height of their power, they approached the style and status of a second royal house in Scotland. In 1266 Tiree became part of the Lordship of the Isles and the MacDonalds ruled there until 1517.

In 1367 Lachlan Lubenach MacLean of Duart (our 21st great grandfather) married Mary MacDonald, daughter of John of the Isles, and claimed Tiree as dowry. In 1390 Lachlan MacLean was Bailie of Tiree and Coll which led to his descendants claiming ownership. The MacLeans had now risen to prominence in the Hebrides as stewards to the MacDonald Lords of the Isles, who rewarded them with lands in Mull, Morvern, Tiree, Coll, Islay, Jura and Lochaber. The MacDougalls and MacKinnons were soon dispossessed of many of their Mull lands under the Lord of the Isles, which led to the continued rise of both the MacLeans and Campbells.

Tiree would remain in the possession of the MacLeans under the rule of the next 6 MacLean clan chiefs, until it fell into the possession of 11th Clan Chief Lachlan Catanach Maclean (our 14th great grandfather). He resisted the attempt by James IV to bring the isles under royal control, in revolt by 1503 and, on March 18, 1504, he forfeited his lands, including Tiree.

In 1527 Tiree was laid waste by the Campbells. Although Lachlan Mor MacLean (our 13th great grandfather) of Duart's estates had been forfeit in 1594, the MacLeans held on to Tiree until 1674 but the island lost its links with the MacLean clan hierarchy when the Campbells dispossessed the chief of Duart. The Campbell assault on the MacLeans was hinged on the growing financial problems of their chiefs. Between 1642 and the 1680s Campbells used debts to lay claim to MacLean lands and rentals. In 1681 Archibald Campbell, the 9th Earl of Argyll, acquired the coveted Duart lands, including Tiree.

Tiree was now no longer part of the lands pertaining to the Clan MacLean, having been anciently granted to them, as they had been granted by the Lord of the Isles (MacDonalds). But despite the loss of clan ownership, the surnames MacLean and MacDonald would remain

Traces Through World History

predominate among the inhabitants of Tiree until modern times.

The inhabitants of Tiree did not take kindly to the Campbells as landlords. Following annexation of the MacLean lands on Tiree and Coll in 1674, the new population of Campbell tacksmen, sub-tacksmen and their sub-tenants lived as loyal, privileged and envied colonists amidst the dispossessed clansmen. It was these Campbell tacksmen that spearheaded the estate's assertion of authority over the area. Their action was twofold. Either they showed little favor to MacLean tenants when fixing rents or they established Campbells in their place. Both were guaranteed to produce social conflict.

The people of Tiree, ever loyal to the chief of the MacLeans, although he no longer had any hold on them, rose to his call to arms in 1715. The rebels of Tiree forced Colin Campbell, the bailie of Tiree, to give up the rent money in his possession. They evidently did little other harm to this Campbell official, because he later made his way to Inverary to join the government militia. The only support the bailie received from the islanders came from his servants and a few others, totaling no more than half a dozen, who also joined the militia with him. About 22% of the able-bodied men of the island made their way to Mull, joined the MacLean muster, and fought at the Battle of Sheriffmuir. After Sheriffmuir, with the government in complete control, Colin Campbell and Archibald Campbell of Barnacarrie were directed to disarm all rebels and those suspected of abetting the rebellion on Tiree. Of the 434 adult males on Tiree, 95 confessed to having taken part in the insurrection and gave up their guns, swords, pistols, and dirks. This signified the end of the MacLean's influence on Tiree. The superiority of Clan Campbell on Tiree had been reinforced by the failure of the '45 and the misfortunes suffered by Clan MacLean. It would now be virtually impossible for the MacLeans to claim loyalty from clansmen of their name resident on Tiree who were tenants of the hated Campbells.

An event of major importance to Tiree occurred in 1737, when the entire Argyll Estate underwent a major reorganization. In that year Tiree was divided into thirteen or fourteen smaller tacks. The revolutionary step was taken of offering these and other tacks of the estate on open bid to the highest bidder. Thus notice was served that such tacks were hereafter to be considered on their economic merit, rather than on any possible military contribution as had been the case for the past centuries. Some of these new tacks went to Campbell supporters on Tiree, some went to absentee lairds of the Campbell name residing on Mull, and some even went to former MacLean tacksmen now considered safe from a political viewpoint. Almost half of these new tacks on Tiree, however, were not leased to any one individual, but were let to those prepared to operate as joint-tenants. This radical departure from the old Highland custom eliminated the middleman in the form of the tacksmen, and made the joint-tenants direct tenants of the Duke of Argyll.

The Heritable Jurisdictions (Scotland) Act of 1747 removed from chiefs their hereditary power to impose punishments of imprisonment or death. They became ordinary landlords. As the clan chief was cunningly transformed into a laird, his clansmen became mere tenants holding their land on disadvantageous terms and without security of tenure. Cottars, at the bottom of the farm hierarchy, usually had only an acre or so plus their cottage. They were usually relatives of the legal tenant and occasionally paid a share of the rent. In short, they were farm laborers and carried out the husbandry tasks necessary on a large holding. Given the increase in population over the 18th century, the increase in number of these landless peasants as a class throughout the

Traces Through World History

Highlands is not surprising. Subsistence in the Highlands meant land, and few were entirely removed from it, either directly or indirectly. Squatters, on the other hand, usually lived in houses built on the edge of a township's common grazing and paid no rent.

Tiree was mainly devoted to the production of grain, and for this reason the small tenant was of greater importance than the tacksman to the estate. In 1768 the houses of the tenants and the servants clustering together fairly near to the sea, and the farms carved out of the island to give each of them access to the shore, with its bounty of sea-ware, drift-wood and fish, and to the common mosses and pastures that occupied the interior of the island. Hay and potatoes had been recently introduced.

John Campbell, the 5th Duke of Argyll, who was a dedicated "improver," had succeeded to the Argyll estates and was endeavoring to increase the rental returns from Tiree and his other estates. He maintained a close and intimate familiarity with his Tiree estate and its management and conducted regular correspondence with his Chamberlains or factors. In October of each year he gave renewed "Instructions" for the forthcoming year and interrogated his Chamberlains where it was considered that they had not fulfilled his goals set at the previous year's meeting. In 1756, in the "Instructions to the Chamberlain" he said, "I will fall on some proper way of showing my displeasure to such as are refractory and to encourage those who do as I direct. I'm resolved to keep no tenants but such as will be peaceable and apply to industry. You'll cause intimate this some Sabbath after sermon." This was in respect of the tenants of Tiree being required to grow flax and to pay part of their rents in spun yarn. In 1771 he would say, "The small tenants of Tiree are disaffected to the family of Argyll. Long leases might render them too much independence. They are naturally prone, and much incited by their chieftains of the MacLean gentry." By October 1771 of that year, he had concluded that, "Tiree was over-peopled and my farms oppress'd with a numerous set of indigent [impoverished] tenants & cottars. I am desirous to relieve the farms of these supernumeraries."

The Chamberlain of Tiree from 1769 to 1800 was Major Donald Campbell, the son of Donald Campbell, tacksman of Aros and other farms in Mull. He resided at Crossapoll in Tiree and occupied the farms of Crossapol, Balemartine and Balephuill. Duncan Campbell of Treshnish, who was tacksman of Ruaig, was appointed as his replacement but resigned the following year. Malcolm McLaurin succeeded him as Chamberlain of Tiree in June 1801 and served both the 5th and 6th Dukes in that capacity.

Tiree was also exporting up to 3,000 gallons of whisky a year at the end of the 18th century. The Chamberlain replied, "Every tenth man culpable of illegal distilling was removed from their land excepting Hector McLean, tenant in Cornaigbeg, who had a lease until Whitsunday 1804." These men were Lachlan McLean of Kenovay, Allan MaLean his son, Peter McInnis in Vaul, James McDonald in Muirdale, Hector McLean in Ballimeanach, Ferquhar Brown in Ballimeanach, Hector Kennedy in Kilchenichmore, John Kennedy his son, John McLean in Haugh, Donald McInnis in Ballivulin, John McArthur in Vauil and Donald McLean in Kenovay.

There would be a rapid upsurge in population, which had become established by the second half of the 18th century, is clearly illustrated by the evidence from Tiree. Around 1750, its population was 1,509. By 1768, it had increased to 1,676 and by 1792, to 2,443 and in 1794 to

Traces Through World History

2,555. When the Duke wrote to his Chamberlain in Tiree he said that, “The tenants on many of the farms being too numerous, you must reduce them to one to each 4 mail land, and such of the supernumeraries as are deserving may be continued as they are until 1796 when the leases of Archibald Campbell of Frackadale and Duncan Campbell of Treshinish expire & then they may be accommodated upon their farms and the present plan of reducing the tacksmen to one for each 4 mail land be carried into execution.”

In 1770, half of the island was held by fourteen farmers who had drained land for hay and pasture. Instead of exporting live cattle (which were often exhausted by the long journey to market and so fetched low prices), they began to export salt beef in barrels to get better prices. The rest of the island was let to 45 groups of tenants on co-operative joint farms: agricultural organizations probably dating from clan times. Field strips were allocated by annual ballot. Sowing and harvesting dates were decided communally. It is reported that in 1774, Tiree inhabitants were 'well-clothed and well-fed, having an abundance of corn and cattle'.

The Duke of Argyll ordered a census of the inhabitants of Tiree in 1776 and again in 1779. These census would be pivotal in establishing and identifying the foundational families of Tiree.

It was against this background of rising population that the 5th Duke's plans for new industries and crofting farms were formed. Emigration was a last resort for the people of the Highlands. “Not emigration but industry and fishing settlements” were the Duke's bold answer to the challenge of a burgeoning population. Population would peak in Argyll in 1831. After the middle of the 18th century, mortality in Scotland fell dramatically; the principal reasons being the introduction first of inoculation and especially of vaccination, after 1803, against smallpox, autonomous changes in the virulence of disease, a decline of deaths from famine, the advent of the potato, improved transport and more effective poor relief.

On Tiree it was said that in the early decades of the 19th century half the families were squatters existing on the bounty of the other half. The peasants themselves subdivided them into still smaller units, until the land-holding pattern began to resemble the 19th century maze of crofts, each with its own individual patch where a family grew potatoes and oats and with its rights on the moor where they could pasture one or two cows or three or four sheep. Where possible the kelp industry was introduced, or fishing begun as an ancillary to agriculture. The price of cattle and of kelp rose, especially rapidly in the decades hinging on 1800. In material terms the peasants did not seem to be any worse off than they had been when they lived under the subsistence economy of the old Highlands. The conditions necessary which could lead to a rise in the standard of living simply did not exist. Peasant housing was in “cottages” made with low and feeble walls constructed of a few stones jumbled together with mortar to cement them. No chimneys, only holes in the turf-covered roofs for smoke from the fire in the middle of the earthen floor to pass through. There was no market town on Tiree. The nearest market town was Oban, 56 miles distant (by sea). With sub-post office for Tiree and Coll at Tobermory on Mull.

Tiree would undergo another reorganization at the turn of the 19th century with the division of many of the townships into the small crofts that the people of the island had desired in order to accommodate the swelling population. This, too, worked to the advantage of the Duke of Argyll, who needed a large labor force for the then very profitable kelp manufacturing. Even in

Traces Through World History

the midst of the kelp boom, however, this was no panacea for the economic problems present in the island. The year of 1802 was one of crop failure on Tiree.

The MacLeans of Duart had little use for the rigid Calvinism of the Presbyterian Church and while they were the owners of Tiree the islanders were led by the tolerant ministers they appointed. This was not materially changed with the coming of the Campbells, who, while espousing Presbyterianism, were content to allow the islanders time to adjust to the new order. But, during the early decades of the 19th century, however, a strong evangelical movement swept Scotland, and found very fertile ground in the Highlands and Islands. It reached somewhat fanatical proportions in the northern Hebrides, and while less virulent in Tiree it became a significant force in the island. Evangelical teachings gave hope, consolation, and spiritual comfort to those whose world was disintegrating before their eyes. In part it was a reaction to the passive role of the Presbyterian Kirk, which was widely identified with the moneyed interests and had not stood up for the Hebridean crofters when they were faced with eviction. Within the Presbyterian Church there was also a powerful faction, greatly influenced by Evangelicalism pushing for reform, which gained many adherents throughout the Hebrides. This finally caused a rupture with the establishment and nearly 40% of the ministry and a third of the congregations left to form The Free and Established Church. On Tiree many of the islanders became followers of two charismatic native Gaelic speakers, Duncan MacDougall, the Baptist minister, and the Reverend Archibald Farquharson, who led the Congregational, or Independent group. They were spirited evangelists, who preached with a messianic fervor. Each composed hymns, often set to popular tunes, emphasized lay participation, and attracted large crowds. This may have been the reason why some known Tiree inhabitants found in the Scotland census would not be subsequently found mentioned in the records for baptisms and marriages of the Old Parish Registers of the Church of Scotland.

By 1811, potatoes were reckoned to provide the typical Hebridean crofter with four-fifths of his food. The first attack of potato blight in Europe occurred in 1845 and, although the fungus was fairly widespread in southern Scotland that year, most of the Highlands and Islands escaped its devastations until the following year. In July 1846, after a good season, rain fell and with the rain came the blight. It appeared in Skye in the middle of the month and by the end of August the potato crop was devastated. No area of the Highlands escaped the blight. 1846 then had an early winter with frequent storms and gales. Typhus and cholera broke out in several places. The Highland famine of 1846 was a catastrophe that would cause the disappearance of the crofters' cash earnings and begin the growing tendency of landlords to take their land from them to give it to sheep farmers resulting on further dependence on their diminishing arable land and the universal crop, the potato. The following year, 1847, proved to be equally disastrous.

Emigration overseas from Tiree began in a small way soon after the end of the Napoleonic Wars with most settling in Nova Scotia among other Highlanders. The repeal of the Passenger Vessel Act in 1827 allowed others who could afford the passage to go as well. These were, of course, not only the people who could pay their way, but those with the will and determination to begin anew in a new and alien land. The majority of the people of Tiree clung to the hope, however, that their dismal conditions would improve with time. The Duke of Argyll did everything to encourage emigration, short of assisting his tenants to do so. This policy was

Traces Through World History

reversed when the effects of the famine years convinced Argyll that only emigration would relieve the destitution of the islanders and improve the productivity of his Tiree estate.

Throughout north-west Scotland, the requirements of an effective arable agriculture were strictly subordinated to landlord's overarching desire to make money by whatever method came to hand. Ownership of the land upon which the peasant lived remained the monopoly of a small group of men whose pursuit of easy profits had reduced their tenants to the status of kelping laborers or unsuccessful fishermen. By 1850 the landowners could see that the solution to their economic woes, now that kelping and the "bold" agrarian improvements had failed to substantially increase rents, was to return to the way out offered by emigration and the replacement of crofting tenants with sheep. In other words, clear their land of the people.

In the decade from 1841 to 1851, 1,470 or 36% of the Tiree inhabitants would leave the island. It is known that 160 people left Tiree for overseas in 1846, the year that the potato blight first hit the island, but it is unclear if they were aided by the Argyll Estate. As the potato famine intensified early in the winter of that same year the Marquis of Lorne, son and heir of the 7th Duke, came to the conclusion that the health of the estate depended upon ridding Tiree of those least able to provide for themselves. He therefore "directed the attention of the people most seriously to emigration to Canada in the following spring." Assisted passage was promised to those unable to pay their own way. Lorne explained that ".....less expense will be incurred in aiding the proprietor to send the poorest class out, than will certainly be incurred in aiding by the necessity of keeping them alive, if they remain where they are now." More than 1,000 of the islanders jumped at this offer, and it would appear that no coercion was needed to make them step forward. Lorne continued to energetically pursue the goal of culling the estate of its weakest members, after he succeeded to the dukedom in 1847, but it could not be acted upon immediately. Only 340 left Tiree and the Ross of Mull in 1847 for overseas. It is not clear how many of these were from Tiree, but many of these emigrants were described as "respectable crofters in pretty good circumstances." The Chamberlain of Tiree, Colonel Jock Campbell, who was better known as "the Big Factor," amassed a list of 1,059 names of those interested in emigrating in April of 1847. He concluded that of that number 241 could either pay their own way or contribute substantially toward their passage, but the majority would require assistance. In his report to the 8th Duke he stated that those "who had means" had volunteered to emigrate in 1847, and of those others "there only remain the really destitute."

In June of 1849 the Argyll Estate sent 364 men, women, and children of Tiree to Canada aboard two ships, the *Charlotte* and the *Barlow*, paying £1387 for their passage. Of these passengers, 74% were of the tenant class, while 26% were classified as cottars. Their crops, livestock and farm implements, which were sold and credited against the cost of sending them overseas, totaled a meager £387. This does indicate that the Duke was following up on his announced policy of speeding the exodus of those who were the biggest drag on the estate. Evidently 236 others from the Ross of Mull were sent out to Canada at the same time, as the Canadian press reported that there were many deaths from cholera among the 600 passengers from Tiree and Mull at that time. After 1849 the Duke had several added incentives to continue, and even speed up, the process of assisting the unwanted people on his estate to go overseas. One was the announcement on the part of the Central Board that they would discontinue their

Traces Through World History

program of famine relief in 1850, and the burden of feeding the starving would then fall entirely upon the landowners. Another was the rumor that the government would put into effect 'an able-bodied Poor Law,' which would give those destitute a legal right to claim relief from the proprietors. Under such a system many would stubbornly resist giving up their homes, and the Argyll Estate might never be what the Duke desired it to be. An additional 167 left Tiree for overseas in 1850, but little is known of them except that they were "all miserably poor," according to the Chamberlain of Tiree, who had to supply them with clothing since "they were so naked." Their ship was the *Conrad*. There were 825 people of Tiree who petitioned the estate for assisted emigration in 1851.

In that year a Greenock banker, Alexander Thompson, acted as an agent of the Duke to contract with owners of small ships to pick up the emigrants from Hynish take them to Greenock, the port, from which they would leave for Canada. Thompson evidently also arranged the ocean going transport, which consisted of three ships, as well as a reception for the emigrants on their arrival in Canada. These left Tiree in July of 1851. The *Conrad*, carrying 389 people, was the largest, being a sailing ship of 142 feet in length and 30 feet in width. It had three masts, a single deck, and was marked by a square stern. Two other smaller ships, the *Birman*, and the *Onyx*, carried 70 and 6 passengers respectively.

There is no agreement among historians as to the conditions of the emigrant ships that carried the Highlanders overseas. Some describe them as little better than 'floating pesthouses,' and compare them to the 'coffin ships' that carried the famine Irish to America. Others claim that the conditions under which the Scottish Highlander procured ocean passage were much better than what the Irish experienced. James Hunter reported that the Duke of Argyll shipped almost 600 people from Tiree to Canada in 1849, and that cholera broke out on the voyage across the Atlantic. Upon their arrival in Quebec they found the emigrant sheds at Grosse Ile overflowing with destitute Irish, and had to huddle upon the wharves without shelter. According to Hunter "many died of disease and exposure." Other historians tell of typhoid fever and dysentery being common among the malnourished famine victims on these emigrant ships, while cholera and smallpox were also prevalent. Death rates have been estimated as high as 10%. In the early 1850s a cholera epidemic raged in Brock Township, which was a stopping place for many of the famine emigrants, and it was believed that it had been brought to that Canadian settlement by those recent arrivals. The Canadian press, commenting on the wretched condition of the Tiree emigrants of 1849, reported that only a third made their way to their destination. If this was correct, a number very near 120 died.

The Duke pointed out that there had been few actual evictions from Tiree, admitting to only 40, and that the emigration had been completely voluntary. He was deliberately deceptive in that statement, however, since there was a total of 175 Summonses of Removal and Sequestration obtained in the sheriff-court at Tobermory for Tiree during the period of 1846-1851. The majority of these were after 1849, with 78 in 1850 alone, during the phase in which the factor was most energetic in pursuing the policy of ridding the estate of the cottars and the poorest of the small tenants. Eviction was mainly employed when the tenant was unable to reduce rent arrears, and occasionally as reaction to unruly conduct, selling whisky, or indolence.

After their arrival in Montreal or Quebec many of the Tiree emigrants of the famine years

Traces Through World History

made their way by water and land to Brock Township. A number of people from Tiree had settled there along the 7th Concession in the 1820s and 1830s, probably encouraged by the lifting of the Passenger Vessel Act in 1827.

While a few of the newcomers did take up land in Brock, most used it as a temporary stopping place, because most of the good arable land was already occupied. Until land to the west was surveyed and opened for settlement, however, they worked as laborers in public works projects, such as road-building, or on the farms of the district. For some this stay was only over the winter, but others remained in Brock for several years before moving on to the west. There was one group of Tiree emigrants, who did not stop in Brock Township. These people, who ultimately settled near Priceville in Grey County, came to Canada in the late 1840s or 1850s. They went directly down the waterway to present day Hamilton, and then made their way through the bush to the Fergus area of Wellington County. There, unprepared for the harsh Canadian winter, many met their deaths. The survivors moved on the next spring to the concessions along the Durham road in Glenelg, Artemesia, Osprey, and Egremont townships, near Priceville. A secondary migration took place from Brock, when the Queen's Bush was opened for settlement in Grey and Bruce Counties. One of the settlements was in Osprey Township of Grey County and the concessions immediately north and south. This community on the Blue Mountain Plateau, whose topography reminded many Highlanders of Scotland, had as its center McIntyres' Corners. This hamlet, which was named after two brothers from Tiree, later had a church, cemetery, school, tavern, post office, smithy, and a general store. Another settlement to the west, which drew many from those who had first stopped in Brock was in Bruce County in the two neighboring townships of Bruce and Kincardine. Many Tiree families settled along 'the tenth of Kincardine', and most used the little village of Tiverton as the center of their social and commercial activity.

Our Surnames on Tiree

It is important to note that most of the tenants of the Duart estate were not using surnames in 1673 and 1675. Patronymics were used by all but for a few of the MacLean gentry, who carried the MacLean surname. This was also true in 1716, when a list of men was kept of those capable of bearing arms at the time of the collapse of the Jacobite rebellion of the prior year. Fortunately for us, the Lamonts were an exception to this practice, and it would appear that most, if not all, had adopted the surname of Lamont by 1716.

During its long history it was common for outsiders to come to dwell on Tiree. They came or were brought to the island for a variety of reasons, many to provide skills the islanders lacked. For example, the surnames of McLean and McDonald are predominant on Tiree. So much so that it can be difficult to distinguish between specific families. The McLeans of Cornaigbeg were known to come from Ardgour and the McDonalds of Caolas had their roots on Mull. Some of the Lamonts of Tiree are the descendants of some of the refugees of 1646, who came to Mull shortly after that date.

The male line of the Lamonts of Tiree had its roots in Cowal, or perhaps Glassary, within the ancient territory of Clan Lamont on the mainland of Argyll. The Lamonts had been the most

Traces Through World History

powerful clan on the Cowal Peninsula at a time when many other clans, who are better known today, were just beginning to emerge from obscurity. The chiefs of Clan Lamont were descended from a scion of the O'Neills, the royal house of Ulster and the former High Kings of Ireland.

The name Lamont is derived from Lagman, which is Norse in origin. The name was given to the first chief of the clan by his mother, who, tradition has held, was the daughter of the great Gallo-Norse chieftain, Somerled.

The Lamonts of Tiree are probably descended from those who migrated to the Isle of Tiree from its neighbor, Mull. Migration to Tiree from either the mainland or other Hebridean islands was not unusual.

The origin and history of Clan MacLean is provided in a chapter 11 previously.

The MacDonalds have their roots in the Clan Donald and they were the Lords of the Isles. Their primary origin was the Isle of Islay. Although, through the ages they were well distributed throughout the Inner and Outer Hebrides. A significant branch of the family would be known as the McDonnells who were dominate in County Antrim in Ireland.

Clan MacKinnon is a Highland Scottish clan associated with the islands of Mull and Skye, in the Inner Hebrides. Popular tradition gives the clan a Dal Riada origin. Though little is known of the early history of the clan, it is likely to have served under the Lords of the Isles. After the forfeiture of the Lordship of the Isles in 1493 the clan would have gained some independence, and was at various times allied or at war with neighboring clans such as the MacLeans and the MacDonalds.

The surnames of our foundational families include: McDonald, McNeill, McKinnon, McLean, Lamont, Gillespie, and Clarke.

Our People of Tiree

Foundational families of our Tiree ancestors are those confirmed to be inhabitants of Tiree in the *1776 List of Inhabitants of the Island of Tiry* or the *1779 Inhabitants of the Argyll Estate*. As actual records, these "census" are only predated by the Old Parish Register (OPR) for Tiree that starts in 1766.

The *1776 List of Inhabitants of the Island of Tiry* (herein after called the 1776 list) was created when the Duke of Argyll directed his chamberlain in Tiree to undertake a census of the island. The census recorded the name, age and class (e.g. tenant, cotter, hynd, servant, etc.) of inhabitants in each occupied dwelling in the island. In some cases the area of land a tenant occupied, the number of cows and horses he owned, and whether or not he was well disposed towards the Duke of Argyll (i.e. "well affected" or "not subject") were also recorded.

The *1779 Inhabitants of the Argyll Estate* (herein after called the 1779 list) was commissioned by the Duke of Argyll for a census of his Argyll Estate, which included the whole of Tiree and lands in Mull, Iona and mainland Argyll. The people who collected and recorded the information were tacksmen or church ministers, and their styles of recording varied. In Tiree, women were listed by maiden name and age, but their relationship to those listed near them (e.g. wife, mother, daughter, etc.) was not recorded.

Traces Through World History

Map of Tiree



Donald McLean and Effie McNeill of Ruaig (our 6th great grandparents)

Among the most prominent inhabitants of Tiree was Donald McLean and his wife Effie McNeill (sometimes shown as Chrosbie) of the farmland (township) of Ruaig. I found a connection to this family through a public member tree (PMT) affiliated with a DNA match to a Randall Blayney. However, this family was not among our known Tiree ancestors identified in my own research. Therefore, I believed that the connection to this family was most likely through one of their children. I found that our known ancestor Janet McLean was born about 1855 on Tiree and she had married Neil Lamont on 6 Dec 1773. So for this DNA match to make sense, Janet was most likely a daughter of Donald McLean and Effie McNeill.

Tradition on Tiree asserts that Donald McLean was Donald “the Pilot.” Louise MacDougall has researched this story and brought it back to life. In 1746 Donald, along with another Tiree man Neil McFadyen, were kidnaped by the French to help them rescue Bonnie Prince Charlie following his disastrous defeat at the battle of Culloden. Donald was to help pilot the ship through the treacherous Scottish waters to the rendezvous with the Prince at a secret

Traces Through World History

location. On the return trip from Loch nan Uamh with the Prince and a retinue of 130 followers, Donald and Neil jumped ship as it passed near Coll. Now a fugitive from the government with a price on his head, Donald hid in caves on Tiree from the militia for nine months. Finally he agreed to go with his father to Tobermory on Mull to surrender. Though officially pardoned, Donald was forced to serve in the militia for two years before being set free.

The Donald McLean and Effie McNeill family is found in both the 1776 list and the 1779 list in the farmland of Ruaig. However, both these lists were created prior to the marriage date of Neil Lamont and Janet McLean. Janet McLean's estimated birth year of 1755 puts her in the same generation of that of a child of Donald McLean and Effie McNeill. Further, the Lamont family appears to have consistently lived nearby the Donald McLean family. In fact, a Mary McLean (b. 1752) was married to a Hugh Lamont. This couple is found in the 1776 and 1779 lists living right next to the Donald McLean family in Ruaig. So considering the DNA match and the circumstances of the generational fit and the location in Ruaig, it is my belief that both Janet McLean and Mary McLean are the daughters of Donald McLean and Effie McNeill.

The ancestors of Donald McLean go back at least three generations on the Isle of Tiree. John McCharles MacLean was Donald McLean's great grandfather. He was the illegitimate son of Charles McLean, 1st of Ardincross. John McCharles MacLean was born about 1630 on the Isle of Mull. John was the first of his line to settle on Tiree, and in 1662 was in possession of the tack of Salum on Tiree, and was still in this location in 1675. It is presumed that John's father, Charles of Ardnacross, was instrumental in John acquiring this tack for his son. It is believed that he died at the farmland of Salum on Tiree.

John McCharles MacLean's son was Lachlan Bàn MacLean who may have succeeded his father as tacksman on Tiree. This premise is based on an entry in the List of Men Capable of Bearing Arms in 1716, which shows a Lachlan Maclean of Salum turning in a large number of weapons; an indication he was of the tacksman class.

Ewen MacLean was the son of Lachlan Bàn MacLean and was born about 1690 on Tiree. It is not known if Ewen inherited the tack of Salum from his father. But if he did, he may have lost it with the reorganization of the Argyll Estate in 1737, because the MacFadyens were firmly in place in Salum in 1743, and probably earlier in 1737. So he probable was the first of these MacLeans to settle in Ruaig.

Ewen MacLean's son was Donald McLean who was born about 1727 on Tiree. Donald McLean married Effie McNeill (her surname was also found as Chrosbie). Donald and Effie had at least ten children (birth years in parentheses): Mary (1752), Lachlan (1754), Janet (1755), Christy (1757), Mary (1759), Charles (1764), Catherine (1766), Margaret (1768), Ann (1771), and John (1773).

In the 1776 list in Ruaig are found (with age in parentheses): Donald McLean (62), his wife Effie McNeill (56), their sons Lachlan (22), Charles (12), and John (3), and their daughters Christy (19), Mary (17), Catherine (10), Margaret (8), and Ann (5). Donald was listed as a subtenant at Ruaig who could occupy four maile land and had five cows and six horses.

In the 1779 list in Ruaig are found (with age in parentheses): Donald McLean (50), his wife Effie Chrosbie (45), their sons Lachlan (22), Charles (15), and John (10), and their daughters Christy (22), Mary (18), Catherine (8), Margaret (6), and Ann (5). Donald was listed as

Traces Through World History

a tenant at Ruaig.

Donald MacLean and Effie McNeill's children would be inhabitants of the farmland of Ruaig and other Tiree farmlands for the next few generations. Their daughter Mary McLean married Hugh Lamont in 1773. They lived at Ruaig and had eight children from 1773 to 1792. Son Lachlan married a Catherine McLean in 1777 and they had 14 children between 1779 and 1807, all born at Ruaig. Son Charles married Ann McLeod in 1801 and they had ten children from 1802 to 1825, all born at Ruaig. Daughter Catherine married Neil Kennedy in 1789 and they had at least three children from 1792 to 1801 while they lived at a location called Muirstadt. Daughter Margaret married Charles McDonald in 1796 and they had at least four children from 1797 to 1802 born at Ruaig. Son John married Flora McKinnon in 1807 and they had 13 children between 1808 and 1829, all born at Ruaig.

It appears that all the sons of Donald MacLean and Effie McNeill were able to secure some degree of tenant or crofting status at Ruaig. However, it seems that the daughters moved on to other farmlands on Tiree with their husbands. This was true for their daughter Janet (our ancestor) as well. She married Neil Lamont in 1773 and they took up residency at the farmland of Kenovay. See below.

Donald Lamont and Isobel Gillespie of Ruaig (our 6th great grandparents)

Angus Lamont is another of our oldest known ancestors on Tiree. This initial information was courtesy of a PMT affiliated with a DNA match to a Bruce Stockfish. It is believed that Angus Lamont was born as early as 1703 on Tiree. Angus Lamont was listed as a joint-tenant of the farm Caolas in 1742 and 1747. Angus had a son named Donald Lamont on Tiree in about 1723. Donald Lamont married Isobel Gillespie and they were known to have at least six children (birth years in parentheses): Hugh (1746), Neil (1847), John (1748), Charles (1749), Mary (1761), and Flory (1761). Three children of this family, Neil, Charles, and Mary are our ancestors.

In the 1776 list in Ruaig are found (with age in parentheses): John Lamont (28), his wife Katherine McDougall (34), their son Archibald (1), and John's sister Flory (15). John is a cotter with no livestock. Also found in Ruaig is his brother Hugh Lamont (30), his wife Mary McLean (24), and daughter Marion (1). Hugh is a cotter with no livestock. John, Hugh, and Flory are not direct ancestors of ours. However, Hugh Lamont is found in Ruaig right next to the family of Donald McLean and Effie McNeill (above). It is believed that Hugh's wife Mary (b. 1752) was probably the daughter of Donald McLean and Effie McNeill. This is the same Donald McLean that Tiree genealogist Gene Donald Lamont had determined to be a direct descendant in the male line of Gillean of the Battle Axe, the founder of Clan Maclean. So perhaps our Lamont ancestor may have had similar ancestral lines to Clan MacLean.

Neil Lamont and Janet McLean of Kenovay are our 5th great grandparents. They were married on 6 Dec 1773 in Tiree. In the 1776 list in Scarinish are found (with age in parentheses): Niel Lamont (38), his wife Gormal McLean (30), and their children Hugh (3) and Mary (1). In the 1779 list in Ceannabhagh (Kenovay) are found (with age in parentheses): Neil Lamont (30), his wife Janet McLean (30), and their daughters Mary (4) and Catherine (4 months).

Traces Through World History

Charles Lamont and Mary McDonald are our 5th great grandparents. They were married in about 1776. In the 1779 list in Ruaig are found (with age in parentheses): Charles Lamont (36), Mary McDonald (30), and their son Donald (3).

In the 1779 list in Ruaig are found (with age in parentheses): John Lamont (36), his wife Katherine McDougall (40), John's sister Flory (20), and John's sister Mary (20)(our 5th great grandmother)(see John Clarke and Mary Lamont below). Also found in Ruaig is his brother Hugh Lamont (36), his wife Mary McLean (36), son Hector (3), daughter Marion (5), and daughter Flory (1 month).

Neil Lamont and Janet McLean were known to have at least 11 children. Although baptism records for three children (Mary, Katherine, and Flory) were not found in the OPR, the others were found which showed that from 1774 to 1790, the family lived at the farmland of Kenovay, but from 1791 on they lived at Balevulin. Their children (with birth year in parentheses) are: Mary (1774), John (1776), Sarah (1777), Katherine (1778), John (1780), Donald (1785), Flory (1787), Duncan (1788), Allan (1791), Angus (1791), and Marian (1791). Flory Lamont is our 4th great grandmother. See Donald McLean and Flory Lamont below.

Charles Lamont and Mary McDonald were known to have at least two children. As they apparently avoided baptisms recorded in the OPR, little is known about their other potential children. Their son John was born about 1781 and he married Margaret McLeod in 1816. They had eight children: Catherine (1818), Charles (1820), Neil (1822), Mary (1824), Hector (1826), Donald (1828), John (1830), Mary Flora (1833), and Ann (1835). He and his family are found in the 1841 Scotland Census in the farm Kirkapol where he was a crofter. He and his family are still in Kirkapol in the 1851 Scotland Census where he was a crofter and he and his wife were both identified as being born in Tiree.

Donald Lamont and Isobel Gillespie's daughter Mary Lamont married John Clarke in 1782. See John Clarke and Mary Lamont below.

Our ancestor Donald Lamont, son of Charles Lamont and Mary McDonald, was born about 1776. It follows that since his brother John was born on Tiree, Donald most likely was also born there. He married his first cousin Christy Clarke on 7 July 1807. She was the daughter of John Clarke and Mary Lamont (see below). Donald Lamont and Christy Clarke had eight children: Mary (1808), Elizabeth (1810), Charles (1812), Hector (1815), Hugh (1819), Flora (1821), John (1824), and Neil (1829). All the children were born on the farmland Ruaig. He and his family are found in the 1841 Scotland Census in the farmland Ruaig where he was a crofter. Their daughter Elizabeth Lamont (our 3rd great grandmother) would marry Donald McDonald (see below).

Hugh Clarke/Marion McNeill of Ruaig (our 6th great grandparents)

With eleven DNA matches to the couple John Clarke and Mary Lamont our connection to the Clarke family of Tiree is fairly certain. However, it gets a little sketchy beyond that. Several Ancestry PMTs have John Clarke's parents as Hugh Clarke and Marion McNeill. It is inferred from the records found in the 1776 list and the 1779 list that Marion McNeill was probably married to Hugh Clarke first and a person with the surname McLean was her second spouse.

Traces Through World History

In the 1776 list in Ruaig are found (with age in parentheses): Marion McNeill (36), her son John Clerk (15) and her other children Donald McLean (5), Mary McLean (9), Flory McLean (4) and Marion McLean (1). In the 1779 list in Ruaig are found (with age in parentheses): Marion McChrossan (50), her son John Clerk (22) and her other children Donald McLean (9), Mary McLean (14), Flory McLean (8) and Marion McLean (5).

John Clarke and Mary Lamont are our 5th great grandparents. John and Mary had at least six children (with birth year in parentheses): Hugh (1783), Donald (1785), Christy (1788), Lachlan (1792), Catherine (1795), and Neil (1798). John Clarke and Mary Lamont lived at Ruaig and all of their children were born there.

Hugh Clarke married Christina McLean in 1812 and they had 12 children from 1814 to 1840, all born while the family resided at the farmland Ruaig. Some of their children would emigrate to Canada. Donald Clarke married a different Christina McLean in 1821 and they had eight children between 1823 and 1840, all born while the family resided at the farmland Ruaig. Donald and his family would still be found on Tiree in the 1851 Scotland Census. Lachlan married Effie McLean in 1828 and they had possibly six children. In about 1830, he moved to Greenock in Renfrewshire, Scotland where he was a ship builder. Catherine Clarke married a Lachlan McLean in 1845 and her whereabouts after that are not known.

Christy Clarke married Donald Lamont on 7 Jul 1807. See Donald Lamont and Christy Clarke above.

Lachlan McLean/Flory McLean of Hough (our 6th great grandparents)

Another McLean ancestral line of ours is Lachlan McLean and his wife Flory McLean of Hough. Allan's father is believed to be Hector McLean, born about 1710 on the Isle of Coll.

In the 1776 list are found in the farmland of Hough (with age in parentheses): Lachlan McLean (40), his wife Flory McLean (38), their sons Charles (16), Allan (9) and Archibald (1), and their daughters Katherine (14), Giles (7), and Ann (3). Lachlan was identified as a tenant and honest person who has three cows and four horses. This family is found again in the 1779 list as tenants in Hough (with ages in parentheses): Lachlan McLean (48), Flory McLean (38), their sons Charles (18), Allan (12), and Archibald (3), and their daughters Katherine (16), Giles (11), and Ann (8). Their son Allan would marry Isabell McLean.

In the 1776 list is found Isabell McLean's household with her parents Allan McLean and Una McLean (our 6th great grandparents). Allan McLean's father was Niel MacLean (born in Ardgour). Niel MacLean descends through the MacLean Laird of Boreray in eleven generations from the 7th Clan Chief, Lachlan Bronnach MacLean. Allan McLean's grandmother was Florence MacLean, wife of Niel MacLean. She descends in five generations from the 13th Clan Chief, Eachuinn Hector Og MacLean. She also descends in five generations from the 12th Clan Chief, Euchuinn Mor MacLean.

In the 1776 list in the farmland of Cornaigbeg is found (with age in parentheses): Allan McLean (48), his wife Una McLean (40), their sons Neil (20) and Archibald (14), and their daughters Marion (21), Katherine (17), Isabell (9), and Flory (8). Allan McLean is identified as a tenant who can occupy 4 maile land and has six cows and five horses. The same family is found

Traces Through World History

in the 1779 list in Cornaigbeg as follows (with age in parentheses): Allan McLean (56), his wife Una McLean (46), their sons Neil (18) and Archibald (13), and their daughters Katherine (20), Flory (15) and Isabell (12).

Lachlan McLean and Flory McLean's son Charles married Ann Campbell on April 19, 1796.

Lachlan McLean and Flory McLean's son Allan McLean married Isabell McLean, daughter of Allan McLean and Una McLean, in about 1784, but a marriage record was not found for them in the OPR for Tiree. They had at least seven children as follows (with birth year in parentheses): Donald, (1785) Isabell (1799), Hector (1799), Allan (1802), Elizabeth (1805), Annabella (1807), and Ann (1809). All of their baptisms are found in the Tiree OPR. Isabell and Hector are twins. They were all shown as being born in Hough, with the exception of Donald who was born in Kilmoluaig.

Allan McLean and Isabell McLean's son Allan married Effy Lamont on 20 Feb 1839 in Tiree. They had at least six children as follows (with birth year in parentheses): John (1839), Archibald (1842), Betty (1844), Alexander (1845), Hector (1847), and Isabella (1849). All of their baptisms are found in the Tiree OPR. They were all shown as being born in Kilmoluaig.

Allan McLean and Isabell McLean's son Donald McLean married Flory Lamont on 22 Jan 1808. Donald McLean and Flory Lamont are our 4th great grandparents. Flory Lamont was the daughter of Neil Lamont and Janet McLean (see above). They had at least nine children as follows (with birth year in parentheses): Alexander (1809), Catherine (1810), Allan (1812), Janet (1815), Niel (1817), Flora (1819), John (1822), Mary (1825), and Alexander (1829). All of their baptisms are found in the Tiree OPR. The first six children were born while the family lived at Hough. The last three children were born while the family lived at Kilmoluaig. The family is found in the 1841 Scotland Census in Kilmoluaig where Donald was a crofter. The family is found subsequently in the 1851 Scotland Census still residing in Kilmoluaig.

Donald McLean and Flory Lamont's daughter Janet McLean married Alexander McDonald on 26 Mar 1834 at Tiree. See Alexander McDonald and Janet McLean below.

John MacKinnon/Catherine MacKinnon of Vault (our 5th great grandparents)

John MacKinnon was born about 1750. The first record found for him on Tiree is a marriage record dated 24 July 1772 in the OPR and their location was identified as Vault. However, there are 236 PMTs on Ancestry.com that appear to match up with him and his family. Some have identified him as the husband of a Catherine Rankin with a 5 Feb 1772 marriage at the parish of Kilninian and Kilmore on Mull. All these PMTs show his birth place as the Isle of Barra in Inverness-shire. They all identify his parents as Gilleasbaig Archibald MacKinnon and Anna MacQuarrie. Gilleasbaig is the grandson of the 29th Chief of Clan MacKinnon, Iain Dubh MacKinnon. So this provides a more or less direct connection to the Ancient Scottish Pedigree. Unfortunately, with 236 PMTs, it is virtually impossible to determine who was the original person who posted this connection on-line. This means that I and others are unable to determine what evidence existed to support this connection. So it's reliability is at best questionable. However, it is not totally inconceivable that the connection to such a MacKinnon family might be

Traces Through World History

true. For example the Isle of Barra is about 32 miles northwest of Tiree and the Parish of Kilninian and Kilmore is only about 16 miles across the water.

A book titled *The MacDonald and MacKinnon Families (A Biographical Sketch)* written by Hugh N. MacDonald in 1937 makes several connections and relationships between these families and the Isle of Tiree. The book provides that Gilleasbaig Archibald MacKinnon's father Gilliecalum was a Roman Catholic and the father of a family of four or five boys and some daughters. Although some believe this name suggests Archie's father was a servant since the term Gille is synonymous with boy, servant, or attendant, but when written as Gilliecalum it can refer to the Christian name Malcolm. If this is so perhaps one of his other son's was Malcolm. Some "Ancestral Notes" go on to state that Gilliecalum's son, Archie, also a Roman Catholic married a Protestant woman named Anna MacQuarrie who, tradition suggests, was of exceptional gifts and graces. The union proved according to the story a mutually happy one. They agreed beforehand that neither one would in any way interfere with the other's religious views, and that both would worship together alternately. According to this rule they lived happily for some time, however, the priest did not approve of the union or of the arrangements. Archie becoming offended, one day got up and said to the priest that he would have no more occasion to declaim about him and walked out of the service with his wife and family. Archie embraced his wife's religion and his descendants formed a Protestant branch of the MacKinnon family. In the Isle of Eigg Roll, written after the name Archibald MacKinnon is one word, "convert." The fact that he is listed as convert only gives credence to the old family story told by Archie's great-grandson Alexander MacKinnon. The legend ends by saying the other brothers and sisters of Archie MacGilliecalum remained in the Catholic church and their descendants are the MacKinnons of Antigonish, etc. while the descendants of Gilleasbaig Archibald MacKinnon settled mainly in Cape Breton, but branches of both families are now widely scattered the world over. At this time it is impossible to establish a concrete connection between the MacKinnons of Antigonish and Gillie Calum MacKinnon.

The book goes on to describe how the MacKinnon family was engaged on the Isle of Muck in the harvesting and burning of kelp for the production of potash. The Isle of Muck is only about 30 miles northeast across the water from Tiree. So it is entirely possible that our ancestor John MacKinnon could be the son of Gilleasbaig MacKinnon of Barra and Muck.

In the 1776 list in Vault are found (with age in parentheses): John MacKinnon (26), his wife Katherine MacKinnon (28), their sons Niell (2) and Hugh (½) and a woman named Flory MacKinnon (64). John is identified as a sub-tenant who can occupy 4 maile land and has 5 cows and 6 horses. His possession of such livestock at a young age would imply that he comes from a better than average background. The woman named Flory MacKinnon is most likely his wife's mother. Further, it should be noted that it was the habit of the Laird's chamberlain to provide the maiden names of the tenant's wife, so John's wife most likely had the maiden name of MacKinnon. This means that any PMTs that provide her maiden name as Rankin are most likely erroneous.

In the 1779 list in Vault are found (with age in parentheses): John MacKinnon (30), his wife Katerine (30), and his sons Neil (6), Hugh (4), and John (1). Neil's baptism record was dated 30 Aug 1773 in the OPR. Four other baptism records are found in the OPR which reveals

Traces Through World History

the existence of the following family (with birth years in parentheses): John MacKinnon (1750), Catherine MacKinnon (1750), Neil (1773), Hugh (1775), John (1778), Marion (1780), Ann (1781), Catherine (1784), Catherine (1785), and Mary (1786).

John McKinnon married Sarah Currie in 1815. They had eight children from 1816 to 1831 all born at Kirkapol. John McKinnon and his family are found in the 1841 Scotland Census in Kirkapol where he was a crofter.

Hugh McKinnon married Effie McFadyen in 1799. They had ten children. The first four were born at Vault. The last six were born at Gott. Hugh McKinnon and his family are found in the 1841 Scotland Census in Gott where he was a crofter.

Catherine McKinnon married Donald McPhail in 1815. The birth of only one child, Mary McPhail in 1816, is found in the OPR. She was born while her parents lived at Vault.

Marion McKinnon married Alexander McDonald in 1799. See Alexander McDonald and Marion McKinnon below.

Hugh McDonald/Catherine McNeill (our 5th great grandparents)

The McDonald surname is very prominent and abundant on Tiree. We have more DNA matches to Hugh McDonald and Catherine McNeill than any other set of ancestors on Tiree. Further, the surname McDonald is carried by all our male ancestors down to Alexander McDonald and His brother Donald McDonald who went to Ontario, Canada by the 1850s.

So there is little doubt that we descend from Hugh McDonald and Catherine McNeill of Tiree. There is an intriguing connection of Hugh McDonald to a father named Allan MacDonald found in a total of 497 PMTs on Ancestry.com. This Allan MacLean was a person of prominence and title. He was the 8th Laird of Kingsburgh. Allan MacDonald would marry a virtuous woman (Flora Ann MacDonald) in 1750. However, our ancestor Hugh McDonald was born about 1740, when Allan MacDonald would have been about 20 years old. These facts do not entirely eliminate the possibility that the connection may be true. For example, it was common for a “titled Scottish gentleman” to have mistresses and illegitimate children in their younger years before they were properly married to a suitable mate. But like in the Gilleasbaig MacKinnon example above, with 497 PMTs, it is virtually impossible to determine who was the original person who posted this connection on-line. This means that I and others are unable to determine what evidence existed to support this connection. So it’s reliability is at best questionable.

However, the connection between our ancestor Hugh McDonald and Allan MacDonald, 8th of Kingsburgh does provide a more or less direct connection to the Ancient Scottish Pedigree. Allan MacDonald descends from six generations of the MacDonalds of Kingsburgh and three generations of MacDonalds of Sleat. So nine generations of ancestors leads to Alexander MacDonald, the 9th Lord of the Isles and Chief of Clan MacDonald. Seven more generations leads to Somerled. Further, eight generations of ancestors from Allan MacDonald leads to a Margaret MacLean who is three generations descendant from Ian Dubh MacLean the 4th Chief of Clan MacLean through the Lochbuie MacLeans.

Allan MacDonald has a most interesting biography. Upon his father's retirement in 1765, Allan replaced him as Chamberlain for MacDonald's Totternish lands. He lived on a tack at

Traces Through World History

Flodigarry until his father died and then he moved to Kingsburgh. In 1774 Allan and his wife Flora left Kingsburgh and sailed for America, settling at Cheek's Creek in Anson, now Montgomery, County, North Carolina. During the American War of Independence Captain Allan MacDonald served the British government in the 84th Regiment of Foot (Royal Highland Emigrants). Legend has it that Flora exhorted the Loyalist force at Cross Creek, North Carolina (present-day Fayetteville) that included her husband, Allan, as it headed off to its eventual defeat at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in February, 1776. Allan was captured after the battle and was held prisoner for two years until a prisoner exchange occurred in 1777. He was then sent to Fort Edward in Windsor, Nova Scotia where he took command of the 84th Regiment of Foot (Royal Highland Emigrants), Second Battalion. After her husband was taken prisoner, Flora remained in hiding while the American Patriots ravaged her family plantation and took all her possessions. When her husband was released from prison during the fall of 1778, she reunited with him at Fort Edward. Allan returned to Scotland four years after his wife and other members of the family who returned in 1779. Allan lived, for a time, at Daliburgh in South Uist, near Milton where Flora was from. About 1785 left South Uist for Skye, where they once again occupied Kingsburgh.

It is thought that Hugh McDonald was born around 1740 on the Island of Coll. Coll is an island just northeast of Tiree. Although a record for his marriage to Catherine McNeill was not found in the Tiree OPR, a marriage record dated 26 Jan 1768 was found for a Hugh McDonald and Catherine McNeill at the Parish of Kilninian and Kilmore. The Kilninian and Kilmore parish is located in the northwest corner of the Island of Mull. Mull is just 8 miles across the water from Coll. The record indicates that Hugh McDonald was from Coll and Catherine McNeill was from Kilmore. This date fits about right for what is known of this family.

An OPR baptism record dated 6 Jan 1767 was found for a John McDonald with parents as a John McDonald and Catherine McNeill in the Kilninian and Kilmore OPR. This seems to match the age found later for a John McDonald in the 1776 and 1779 lists on Tiree. Never-the-less by 1776 this couple would be located on Tiree.

In the 1776 list in Helipol are found (with age in parentheses): Hugh McDonald (36), his wife Kathrine McNiell (34), their son John (9), their daughters Kathrine (12), Kathrine (2), and Isobell (2) and a man named Lachlan McDonald (17) identified as an apprentice. Hugh is identified as a cottar who is a blacksmith.

In the 1779 list in Helipol are found (with age in parentheses): Hugh McDonald (50), his wife Katharine McNeill (36), and his sons John (13), Donald (3) Neil and Alexander, twins (9 months), and his daughters Katherine (15) and Margaret (5).

Although neither the 1776 list nor the 1779 list actually identifies the relationship between the head of household and the "children." It is assumed that the minor children in the household were most likely the children of Hugh McDonald and Catherine McNeill. A baptism record dated 15 Jul 1767 was found for a Donald McDonald in the Tiree OPR with the location shown as Helipol. A baptism record dated 13 Jan 1770 for a Isabel McDonald in the Tiree OPR with the location shown as Helipol, but the first name of the father was not shown. Finally, a baptism record dated 16 Jan 1778 was found for twins Neil and Alexander in the Tiree OPR with the location shown as Helipol. These OPR baptism records along with some DNA matches yields

Traces Through World History

the following family (with birth approximate birth years in parentheses): Hugh McDonald (1740), Catherine McNeill (1742), Catherine (1764), John (1767), Donald (1767), Christian (1768), Isabel (1770), Margaret (1773), Donald (1776), Neil (1778), and Alexander (1778).

A DNA match identified as George McCoy and its subsequent PMT indicates that the daughter Catherine McDonald went to Philadelphia in about 1778 and married a James Calderwood.

John McDonald married Marion Sarah Campbell in 1797. A record for their first child, Donald, was found in the OPR in 1797 where John was identified as a blacksmith at Helipol. Their subsequent seven children were all born when they lived at Balinoe. It would be John McDonald's sons Donald and John who would carry on the blacksmith business at Balinoe. This Donald McDonald married Annabella Black in 1838. Although, John McDonald was deceased by 1841, his wife Marion was living in the household of Donald McDonald in Balinoe where Donald was a blacksmith. John McDonald and Marion Campbell's son John was married first to Flora McPhail in 1843 and then married his second wife, Flora Campbell in 1848. John McDonald and Flora Campbell would take their family to Australia in 1854.

Donald McDonald married a Margaret McLean in 1801. They had eight children, all born at Kenovay. Donald McDonald and his family are found at Kenovay in the 1841 Scotland Census.

Neil McDonald married a Catherine McLean in 1803. Their first child, Peter, was born at Hianish. Their subsequent five children were all born at Mannal. Although, Neil was deceased by 1841, his wife Catherine was living at Mannal with three of her children in the 1841 Scotland Census.

Alexander McDonald and Marion McKinnon are our 4th great grandparents. Marion was the daughter of John McKinnon and Catherine McKinnon above. Alexander and Marion were married on 22 May 1796 at Tiree. Their children were all born at Kenovay. Their children (with birth dates in Parentheses) are as follows: John Alexander (1797), Mary (8 Jun 1799), Ann (8 Jul 1801), Mary (1 Aug 1803), Neil (27 Jul 1804), Alexander 4 May 1806), Donald (2 May 1806), Catharene (16 Jul 1809), Donald, (10 Jul 1810) and Una (4 Jan 1818). All have baptism records in the Tiree OPR with the exception of the John Alexander born in 1797. John Alexander's information is courtesy of a PMT posted by Steven Blondo and the connection to this family may be somewhat unreliable.

Alexander McDonald was apparently deceased by 1841 as his wife Marion was found in the 1841 Scotland Census living in the household of her brother-in-law Donald McDonald in Kenovay along with her daughter Una. In the 1851 Scotland Census she was found in the household of her son John and his wife Flora Campbell in Balinoe. Marion died on 25 Dec 1856 in Tiree.

Alexander McDonald and Marion McKinnon's daughter Mary married a Charles McDonald in 1843. They had four children, all born at Balemeanach. This family is found in the 1851 Scotland Census in Balemeanach.

Alexander McDonald and Marion McKinnon's daughter Catherine married an Allan McLean in 1833. Allan McLean and Catherine McDonald had six children, the first five were born at Kilmoluaig. Allan McLean and his family were found in the 1841 Scotland Census in

Traces Through World History

Kilmoluaig where he was a cottar. They emigrated to Canada between 1844 and 1856 where their daughter Catherine was born in Ontario, Canada in 1856.

Alexander McDonald and Marion McKinnon's son John first married Flora McPhail in 1843 and they had two daughters, Catherine (b. 1844) and Mary (b. 1846), both born at Balinoe where John was a blacksmith. John married his second wife, Flora Campbell in 1848. John is found in the 1851 Scotland Census in Balinoe.

Because our great great grandparents Neil McDonald and Catherine McDonald were first cousins, we descend from the families of two sons of Alexander McDonald and Marion McKinnon, namely Alexander McDonald and Donald McDonald.

Alexander McDonald married Janet McLean on 26 Mar 1834. They had the following children (with birth dates in parentheses): Neil (1 Dec 1837), Isabella (29 Apr 1840), Alexander (27 May 1841), John (17 Mar 1842), Elizabeth (8 Aug 1847), Allan (28 Jan 1847), and Donald (10 Feb 1849). All of these children except Donald were born at Kenovay where Alexander was a crofter. Donald was born at Cornaigmore where Alexander was a crofter. Alexander and his family are found in the 1841 Scotland Census in Kenovay. Alexander McDonald and his wife Janet with children Neil, Isabella, John, Elizabeth, and Donald left Tiree on the ship *Conrad* that departed Greenoch for Montreal, Canada on 18 June 1850.

Donald McDonald married Elizabeth Lamont on 29 Feb 1832. They had the following children (with birth dates in parentheses): John (18 Dec 1832), Ann (27 Oct 1834), Christina (8 Nov 1836), Marion (2 Nov 1838), Neil (1841), Alexander (26 May 1841), Catherine (1844), Hector (1850), Sarah (15 May 1853), Donald (Nov 1853), and Margaret (15 Jun 1856). Baptism records for John, Ann Christina, and Marion were found in the Tiree OPR. However, such records were not found for Neil, Alexander and Catherine. Their estimated birth dates were derived from the 1841 Scotland Census where Donald and his family were found in Cornaigbeg. The Donald McDonald and Elizabeth Lamont family was not subsequently found in the 1851 Scotland Census and had already left Tiree by that time. It appears that Donald McDonald and his wife Elizabeth Lamont and family were most likely in the first wave of Tiree emigrants to go to Canada in about 1847. Donald McDonald, his wife Elizabeth and children John, Christina, Catherine, Sarah, and Hector are found in the 1851 Canada Census in Brock Township, Ontario County, Ontario.

Migration to Canada and Australia

Migration from Tiree to Canada started as early as 1804 and 1819 with the sailings of the *Oughton* and the *Economy*, respectively. But emigration would not take place earnestly until about the 1840s. *They Came From Tiree* provides:

In years of a poor harvest, the Tiree crofters and their family lived at the edge of starvation. The unrealistic rent structure forced many into arrears, and those crofters lived in fear of eviction. Despondency was the order of the day, since the islanders of Tiree could see little hope of better days. This often stifled any initiative and made matters worse. Seasonal work in the Lowlands offered the only relief, and a great part of the young unmarried population, especially women, resorted to this at harvest time.

Traces Through World History

A completely healthy crop of potatoes turned into a rotten, fetid mass in 24 hours. . . . The potato is estimated at having provided 75-80% of the nutrition in the Hebrides prior to the famine. . . . To add to the crisis, bitter cold set in early in the winter of 1846-7, and severe winter storms only increased the anguish. Diseases, such as typhus and cholera, preyed upon the weakened people, particularly the children and elderly. In January of 1847 it was reported that the virulent disease of purpura (also called blood spots or skin hemorrhages) raged in Tìree and deaths occurred every day.

The lack of seed potatoes and grains meant the misery persisted for several more years. The Duke of Argyll provided some assistance in relief and in employment in public works, but came to the realization that assisting emigration would be cheaper than welfare in the long run. Over 1,000 islanders volunteered for emigration, and about 340 left in the first wave in 1847. More would leave in June 1849 and in 1850. In 1851 another 825 petitioned the estate for assisted emigration. Those chosen to go were the ones most likely to require aid if they remained at home.

Hugh McLean, grandson of Donald MacLean and Effie McNeill (Chrosbie), and his wife Christena McLeod and two children were among the first of our relatives to emigrate to Canada. They may have been among that first wave and emigrated to Brock Township in 1847. They are found in the 1851 Canada Census in Brock Township of Ontario County, Ontario. Their third child was born in Brock in 1847. They would later settle in Kincardine Township of Bruce county in about 1853. Hugh McLean's sister Mary McLean emigrated in 1848 and shortly after married John McFadyen from Tìree at Pointe Fortune in Hawkesbury in eastern Ontario.

It appears that Donald McDonald and his wife Elizabeth Lamont (our 3rd great grandparents) also had emigrated in the first wave in 1847. The children emigrating with them would have been: John, Ann, Christina, Marion, Neil, Alexander, and Catherine (our 2nd great grandmother). Their first child born in Canada was in Brock Township in May of 1847. Donald McDonald and Elizabeth Lamont and five children are found in the 1851 Canada Census in Brock Township of Ontario County, Ontario. In 1858, Donald McDonald acquired some Crown land in Bruce Township of Bruce County, Ontario and relocated there where he would spend the rest of his life.

Several of the Tìree Clarke families may have also been in the first wave in 1847. Hugh Clark (son of our 5th great grandparents John Clarke and Mary Lamont) and his wife Christina McLean probably made that journey with about 12 children. While Hugh Clarke was deceased by the 1851 Canada Census, his family is found in that census in Brock Township. Further, his son John Clarke and his wife Mary Lamont and 10 children are also found there as is his daughter Catherine Clarke and her husband Lachlan McLean and three children. Hugh Clarke and Christina McLean's 2nd great grandson Joseph Clark would become Canada's 16th Prime Minister from June 4, 1979 to March 3, 1980.

The *Conrad* sailed from Greenock and arrived in Montreal on June 18, 1850. Small boats would have taken the emigrants from Hynish on Tìree to Greenock, the main seaport on the west coast of Scotland, where they boarded the *Conrad* to Canada. The voyage would have been desperate, with the threat of disease and running out of food and water. On board the *Conrad* for this journey was Alexander McDonald and Janet McLean (our 3rd great grandparents) and their

Traces Through World History

children: Neil (our 2nd great grandfather), Isabella, John, Elizabeth, and Donald. Alexander and his family would first go to Nichol Township in Wellington County, Ontario. His wife Janet McLean died shortly after their arrival in about 1851. Alexander remarried about three years later on August 3, 1854 at Fergus, Ontario. His new bride was Sarah McKinnon and they had three children while living at Fergus. In 1858, Alexander acquired a farm in Bruce Township of Bruce County, Ontario. He would live in Bruce County for the rest of his life.

The *Conrad* would sail again from Greenock in July 1851, arriving at Quebec on August 26, 1851. Fingon MacKinnon and his wife Christena McLean (granddaughter of Donald MacLean and Effie McNeill (Chrosbie)) and their family of 9 were among the 389 Tiree islanders who emigrated on this journey of the *Conrad*. Fingon MacKinnon and Christena McLean and seven children are found in the 1851 Canada Census in Brock Township.

In 1851 an incredible 40,000 immigrants on 337 ships presented themselves at Quebec City. Only 27 ships carried more than 300 emigrants as had the *Conrad*. Fortunately the *Conrad* was a relatively new sailing ship, having being built in 1847 in Quebec City. It was advertised as “being upwards of eight feet in height between decks and thoroughly ventilated, presenting at this season an unusually favorable opportunity to Steerage Passengers. Passengers were supplied with Provisions, free of charge, according to the Government Emigration Scale.”

The *Conrad* landed at Quebec City on August 26, 1851. The Emigration Department reported that the passengers arrived in good health and there were no deaths during the passage. The passengers would have had to pass through the quarantine station at Grosse Isle before proceeding further. The Duke of Argyll had provided the passengers with free passage as far as Montreal, but they were otherwise destitute. Besides having no money for travel to Upper Canada, they would not have been able to purchase food for themselves.

A few other Tiree families who are our relatives would emigrate to Canada in the 1850s. Four children of Flory Lamont, granddaughter of Donald Lamont and Isobel Gillespie (our 6th great grandparents), and her husband Donald McLean were known to have emigrated to Canada. They are: Alexander who would end up settling in Oro Township, Simco County, Ontario; Catherine who would live in Osprey Township, Grey County, Ontario; Mary and her husband Lachlan McKinnon who would live in Mara Township, Ontario County, Ontario; and Janet and her husband Alexander McDonald who went to Nichol Township where she died in about 1851.

Another family of 1850s emigrants was Catherine McDonald, daughter of Alexander McDonald and Marion McKinnon (our 4th great grandparents) and her husband Allan McLean and five children. Their first child born in Canada was in 1856. They are found in the 1861 Canada Census in Bruce Township, Bruce County, Ontario. Also, Neil McKinnon, grandson of John MacKinnon and Catherine MacKinnon (our 5th great grandparents) settled in Osprey Township, Grey County, Ontario. Dugald McLean, grandson of Donald MacLean and Effie McNeill (Chrosbie), married Catherine McLeod at Glasgow, Scotland and they emigrated with their three oldest children to the Fergus, Ontario area in the late 1850s. They settled in Waterloo, Ontario.

The Emigration Department paid the emigrants travel to Hamilton, Ontario. Beginning in 1849, travel from Montreal to Hamilton was by steamer. The vessels were described as “large and commodious, and afford complete protection to the deck passengers from the weather at all

Traces Through World History

times”. The trip from Montreal to Hamilton took 3 days, with stops at intermediate ports along the way.

The Fingon MacKinnons probably left the steamer at Oshawa. They were heading for a settlement of Tiree people in Brock Township, some of whom had come out as early as 1822.

Another 70 Tiree emigrants left on the *Birman*. The Emigration Department in Quebec in its report for 1851 stated that the average transit time from Scotland to the quarantine station at Grosse Isle was 41 days. The *Birman* landed at Quebec on August 22, 1851.

There were at least 459 Tiree emigrants that arrived in Canada in 1851 – how could any farming settlement possibly absorb them? They would need to earn some cash quickly, likely by helping with the harvest, then get provisions and a cabin for the long winter ahead.

Many stayed in Brock Township for up to six years. The men must have worked as laborers to assemble the money to eventually buy a farm of their own. Established farms were too expensive, so the Tiree emigrants were waiting for the opening of new land for settlement. Their eye was on Bruce County, some 155 miles west of Brock. Kincardine Township was surveyed in 1851 and Bruce Township in 1852, but settlement was sporadic until the “Great Sale” of September 27th 1854.

The S.S *Utopia* arrived at Portland, Victoria, Australia on 25th January 1854. On board this journey was John McDonald, grandson of Hugh McDonald and Catherine McNeill (our 5th great grandparent) and his wife Flora Campbell and three children. Upon arrival, rather than accepting employment as a farm laborer for himself and domestic service for his wife, John McDonald chose to strike out on his own. In 1859, he and his family settled at the goldfields near the town of Ararat in central Victoria. In official documents of the period John McDonald’s occupation is given either as “Blacksmith,” “Miner” or “Gold Miner,” so it seems he ranged between the two occupations.

Captain Allan MacLean, great grandson of Hugh McDonald and Catherine McNeill (our 5th great grandparent) and his wife Catherine MacLean and all their children left from their Tiree family home, that is now Baugh Guest House, and emigrated to Canada in 1879. These relatives, the eldest being the matriarch Mary McLean, née MacDonald, aged 70 – left Tiree knowing that they would never return but excited for the adventure that would be their new lives in Canada. They sailed on April 16, 1879, leaving Glasgow on the S.S. *Waldensian*, of the Allan Line, arriving in Montreal April 29, 1879. They stopped for a time in Ontario, staying with family and renewing many old friendships and acquaintances. Soon they made their way to fertile land in Manitoba close to the Saskatchewan border, to a small community that would later become Shoal Lake. The family all settled in close proximity – they helped one another during the difficult times and they all prospered, but none so well as Captain Allan.

Other Tiree emigrants would follow Captain Allan MacLean to the Shoal Lake settlement. In about 1880, Neil Lamont, great grandson of Donald Lamont and Isobel Gillespie (our 6th great grandparents) and his wife Marion McLean, great granddaughter of Hugh McDonald and Catherine McNeill (our 5th great grandparents) made the journey to Shoal Lake.

Neil McDonald, son of Alexander McDonald and Janet McLean and Catherine McDonald, daughter of Donald McDonald and Elizabeth Lamont, were cousins living in Bruce Township. They married on March 2, 1863 at Port Elgin. Neil and Catherine lived on a farm in

Traces Through World History

Bruce Township. Their daughter Elizabeth (Lizzie) met Charles McLean while living there and they were married on February 28, 1894 at Paisley, Ontario. Their son John Harvey McLean is our grandfather. Neil and Catherine McDonald's daughter Isabella married Charles' brother Allan McLean in August 1897.

Sources:

- *Coll and Tiree*, Erskine Beveridge, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh, 1903.
- *History of the MacDonalDs and Lord of the Isles; with Genealogies of the Principle Families*, Alexander MacKenzie, Inverness, Scotland, 1880.
- Old Parish Register transcriptions for Tiree, Census transcriptions for Tiree, and other data on the Isle of Tiree Genealogy Page at <https://www.tireegenealogy.com>.
- Digital version of *The MacDonald and MacKinnon Families (A Biographical Sketch) - Tiree Immigrant Families in Canada*, Hugh N. MacDonald, available on the Isle of Tiree genealogy page at <https://www.tireegenealogy.com>.
- Article *They Came From Tiree* by Gene Lamont available on the Isle of Tiree genealogy page at <https://www.tireegenealogy.com>.
- Article *Donald Maclean in Ruaig: his Ancestors and Descendants* by Gene Lamont available on the Isle of Tiree genealogy page at <https://www.tireegenealogy.com>.
- Article *Captain Allan MacLean of Tiree, Iona and Shoal Lake, Manitoba* by Mary MacLean available on the Isle of Tiree genealogy page at <https://www.tireegenealogy.com>.
- Article *Fingon MacKinnon and Christena McLean, from Salum, Tiree to Kincardine, Bruce County* by Russ McGillivray available on the Isle of Tiree genealogy page at <https://www.tireegenealogy.com>.
- Emigrant Ships available on the Isle of Tiree genealogy page at <https://www.tireegenealogy.com>.
- Russ McGillivray papers including correspondence of Betty MacKinnon of Tiverton, Ontario.
- Various Wikipedia articles. A few of the narratives are extractions from Wikipedia articles which I have abridged and edited.
- DNA matches for Dennis McLane in Ancestry.DNA.
- Information on some of the above named persons can also be found in The Public Members Trees on Ancestry.com.
- Information on some of the above named persons can also be found in the FamilyTree on Familysearch.org.