

Ann MacLean of Salum, Tiree, and Shoal Lake, Manitoba

by

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As a child, I knew my father's name was Allen McLean Anthony and that the McLean name had been given to my brother, but I had no connection to that name. As an adult I realized that I knew very little about my father's family and set out to discover who they were. This search led me to my Canadian family and cousin Mary MacLean. She connected me to my Scottish family and cousin Angus MacLean. We are all descendants of Hector MacLean and Mary McDonald. They had seven children: Marion (1831-1902), Allan (1835-1913), John (1841-1913), Hugh (1843-1930), Donald (1846-1930), Ann (1848-1926), and Neil (1852-1907).

My great-grandmother was Ann (or Annie as she was called) who started life in Tiree, Scotland, emigrated to Canada, and finally came to Redondo Beach, California, United States.

Ann was born on 26 June 1848 in Balephuill, Tyree, Argyshire, Scotland. She was baptized on 18 July 1848. She was the youngest daughter of Hector Maclean and Mary McDonald. Her father was listed as a crofter.¹

In the Scottish Census for 1851, 1861, and 1871 she is living in Salum, Tiree with her family. She would have experienced the good and bad of life on Tiree in the late 1800's as the daughter of a crofter with five brothers.

In 1872 her father died and in 1879 the decision was made to leave Tiree for the rich farm lands promised in the wilds of Canada. On 16 April 1879 twenty-two family members left Glasgow, Scotland on the S.S. Waldensian with the Allan Line. They arrived in Montreal, Quebec, Canada on 19 July 1879. Ann was 28 years old. With her were her brother, Neil; her mother; and her brother Donald's children. Also, with them were her brother, Allen and his family.¹



This picture was taken of Annie while she still lived in Scotland.

After their arrival in Canada they stayed for a time in Ontario, staying with family and renewing many old friendships and acquaintances. Soon they made their way to Manitoba close to the Saskatchewan border, to a small community that would become Shoal Lake. The family settled in close proximity—they helped one another during the difficult times, and they all prospered.²

¹ Canadian Passenger List 1865-1935

² *Captain Allan MacLean of Tiree, Iona, and Shoal Lake* by Mary MacLean

Sometime in 1879 she met her future husband, Jacob Antony. Jacob had been born in Prussia on 11 November 1845. His family emigrated to Canada between 1845 and 1850 and settled in Bruce, Ontario, Canada. He was a farmer and the lure of new lands in Manitoba may have drawn him there or was it a certain Scottish lady. Did they meet when Ann was in Ontario or when Jacob moved to Manitoba? Jacob had been a freeholder in Bruce Township, Ontario, Canada from 21 Oct 1874 until 11 March 1879.³ It is believed that he and his brother, Henry, moved to Manitoba in 1880. We will probably never know but Ann and Jacob were married on 8 November 1880 in Strathclair, Manitoba, Canada.⁴ Jacob and Annie had five children. They were Albert Henry (1882-1950), Hector (1882-1968), Mary "Marie" (1886-1980), William John (1888-19610), and Sarah (1890-?). My grandfather was William who were called Papa Jack.

Ann may have left Scotland, but she brought her traditions with her.



This picture is a favorite of mine of my grandfather, Papa Jack.

In the 1881 Census of Canada Ann is living in Western Extension-Little Saskatchewan, Manitoba Extension, Manitoba with her husband, brother John, brother Donald and his family, brother Neal, and her mother. John is listed as the head of household.

The 1891 Census of Canada shows Jacob and Ann living in Birtle, Marquette, Manitoba with five children.

In 1893 they had moved to Merkiwin, Lansdowne, Manitoba. Jacob was working construction for the Canadian Pacific Railway.⁵

The 1901 Canadian Census shows them living in Lansdowne, MacDonald, Manitoba with their five children.

In the 1906 Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta they have moved to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba with their five children. Jacob was a farmer. It says they owned six horses, ten milk cows, twenty cattle, and four hogs. They seem to be doing well.

³ Directory of Bruce County, Ontario, Canada

⁴ Manitoba Marriage Index 1879-1931

⁵ Lansdowne Booklet held by my cousin Charles Anthony

The 1911 Canadian Census has Jacob and Ann living in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. In the 1916 and 1921 Canadian Census they have moved back to Lansdowne, Manitoba. On 4 November 1925 a letter was sent by the Rural Municipality of Lansdowne verifying that Jacob and Annie Antony had lived there for upwards of thirty years. They were certified as “well conducted and respected man and woman, and well-known natural born British subjects”. This may have been necessary for visas to the United States. Jacob stated later that they came to the United States in 1925. There is a record of a border crossing on 13 November 1925.⁶



Annie and Jacob Antony in 1926

Jacob had retired from the farm and perhaps they were looking for a warmer climate. The United States City Directories, 1821-1989, places Jacob and Ann in Redondo Beach, California. They were living at the home of their son, William John, in 1927. On 18 October 1924, William and his wife, Mary Hromek had come to California on their honeymoon, but never returned to Canada. They would live the rest of their lives in the United States but would return to Canada to visit family. When my grandfather moved to the United States, he added the “h” to Antony. She died on 26 April 1927 in Redondo Beach, California.⁷ She is buried with her husband in Inglewood Park Cemetery, California.⁸

In 2009 my husband and I visited Scotland. We were invited to tea at the home of Elsie Black, Angus’ sister, in Oban. We went to Iona, Mull and Duart Castle. We finally made it to Tiree and were met by Mary and Angus. They showed us the island and all the places that my great-grandmother Annie would have known. It was a magical trip and one I will always remember. That MacLean family name now has so much meaning for me.

⁶ U.S., Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895-1956

⁷ California Death Index

⁸ Inglewood Park Cemetery Records



Angus McLean and Vickie Ewing, Tiree, 2009

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