

Fingon MacKinnon and Christena McLean

from Salum, Tiree, Argyll, Scotland
to Kincardine Township, Bruce County, Ontario,
Canada



Salum Bay, Tiree (2006)

Russ McGillivray

December 2013
Revised 2021

© Copyright 2020, Albert Russell McGillivray
All rights reserved

Contents

Introduction	iv
Fingon MacKinnon's Parents and Siblings	1
Christena McLean's Parents and Grandparents	2
Incident on Tiree (1833)	5
Hard Times on Tiree (1846-51)	9
Emigration to Canada (1851)	10
Brock Township (1851-57)	12
The Sons of Fingon and Christena	15
<i>John</i>	15
<i>Charles</i>	16
<i>Archibald</i>	16
<i>Donald</i>	18
<i>Hugh</i>	20
<i>Allan</i>	21
<i>George</i>	22
References	23
Photographs	25

Introduction

Fingon MacKinnon, his wife Christena McLean and seven sons were typical of the emigrants from Tیره who pioneered the “Queen’s Bush” of Bruce and Grey Counties in the 1850’s and Manitoba at the turn of the 20th century.

I am fortunate to be old enough to have had some contact with Fingon’s grandchildren and to have attended some of the last of the “MacKinnon Reunions” that were held on the farm and at Inverhuron. Nevertheless, my contact with this area was limited to brief summer vacations in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s. The family history presented here is mostly “the facts”. Much more of the lives of these people has been preserved and recorded by Dr. A.R. (Archie) MacKinnon who grew up on the “home farm”. His works include “Gaelic in the Bruce” and “Audentes”, the story of three brothers and a sister that served overseas in the First World War.

As to the spelling of MacKinnon vs McKinnon, I have tried to respect what the people themselves used, as far as one can tell from documents. Generally, Hugh and Donald’s lines have used Mc, while the others have used Mac.

Comments or corrections are appreciated. I can be reached at russmcgillivray@hotmail.com

Russ McGillivray
Caledon, Ontario
December, 2013

Fingon MacKinnon, Christena McLean and their family story

Fingon MacKinnon's Parents and Siblings

Fingon was baptized on 13 March 1795. He was the son of Archibald MacKinnon and Ann McLean of Ruaig.

The Tiree census of 1792 for Ruaig lists Archibald McInnon (sic) aged 40, with Ann McLean (25), Archibald (5) and John (3). The ages of adults are rounded, but it gives us approximate birthdates of 1742 for Archibald Sr. and 1767 for Mary McLean. It also suggests a marriage date of around 1786.

Additional children, according to the baptismal records, were Donald (1793), Fingon (1795) and Catherine (1799).

Archibald the son married and had eight children. He was a crofter in Ruaig but died before the 1841 census. One son Charles settled in Australia where he became a prosperous master mariner, ship owner and businessman.

John was a boatman in Ruaig and then became a crofter in Salum as did Fingon. The family seems to have left Tiree sometime between 1842 and 1851. John had an illegitimate daughter, and then six children with his wife, Rebecca McLean.

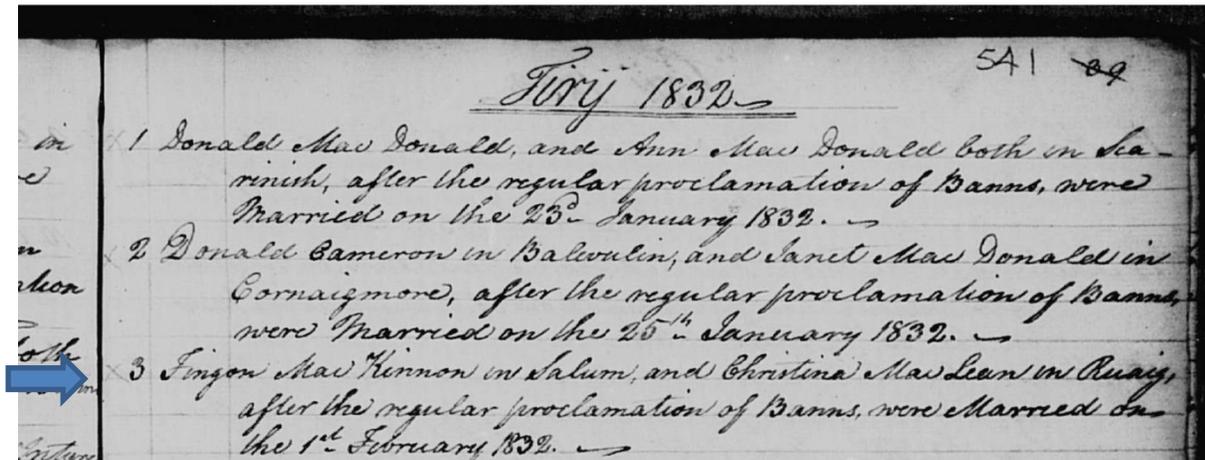
Nothing is known about Donald. Catherine did not marry but she raised her niece Mary McKinnon, the illegitimate daughter of John. Catherine died at Ruaig in 1873.

Regarding their parents, an every name census of the Argyll Estates was taken in 1776 and again in 1779, but no Archibald McKinnon that might fit is found. Nor is there a MacKinnon family in Ruaig. This is odd, especially as a John MacKinnon, son of Archibald of Ruaig (not Fingon's father) was baptized on 12 October 1779. Nor are Fingon's parent's marriage found in the Tiree marriage register which goes back to 1766.

These gaps suggest that Fingon's parents may have come to Tiree from somewhere else after having married. But no records have been found to support this hypothesis.

Christena McLean's Parents and Grandparents

Fingon married Christena McLean of Ruaig on 1 Feb 1832. Fingon at that time was from Salum which is just north of Ruaig.

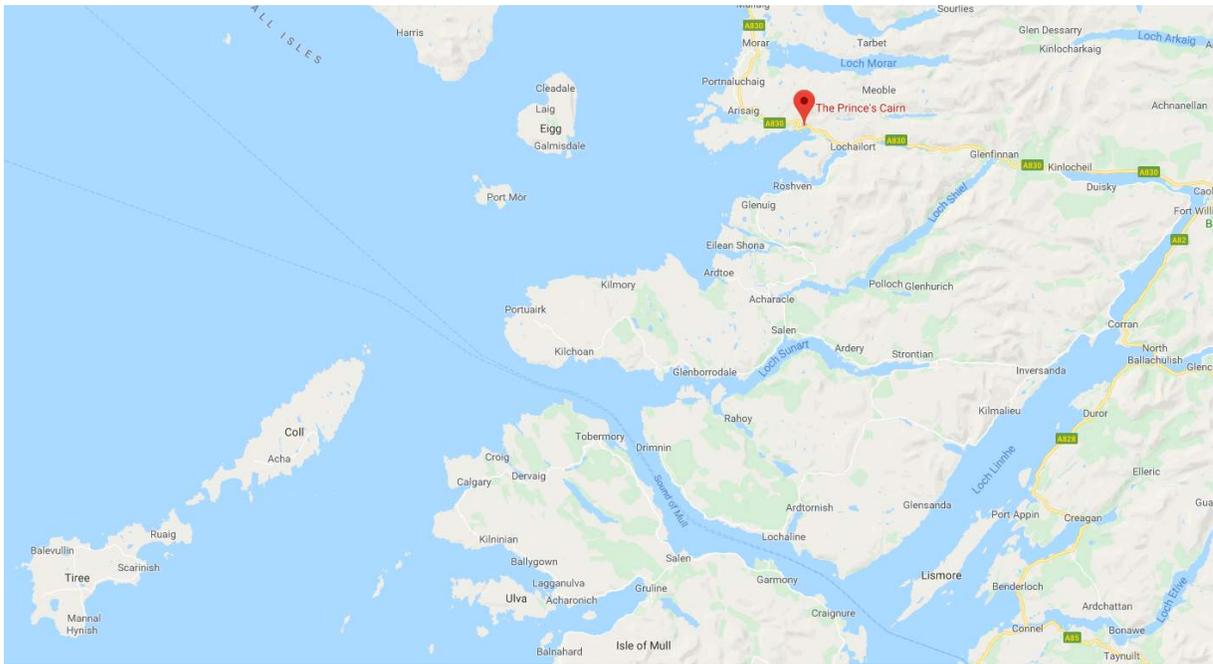


Christena was the daughter of Charles McLean and Ann McLeod of Ruaig. Charles and Ann were married on 28 April 1801 and Christena, the fourth of 12 children, was baptized on 6 May 1809.

In the 1779 census, Charles McLean is found aged 15 at Ruaig, the son of Donald McLean and Effie Chrosbie. In the 1776 census his mother's name is Effie McNeill. Donald the father was then 62 so he was born about 1714.

Tradition on Tiree asserts that Christy's grandfather 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 kidnapped 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 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.

Donald married Effie McNeill about 1753 and lived at Ruaig where they raised eight children.

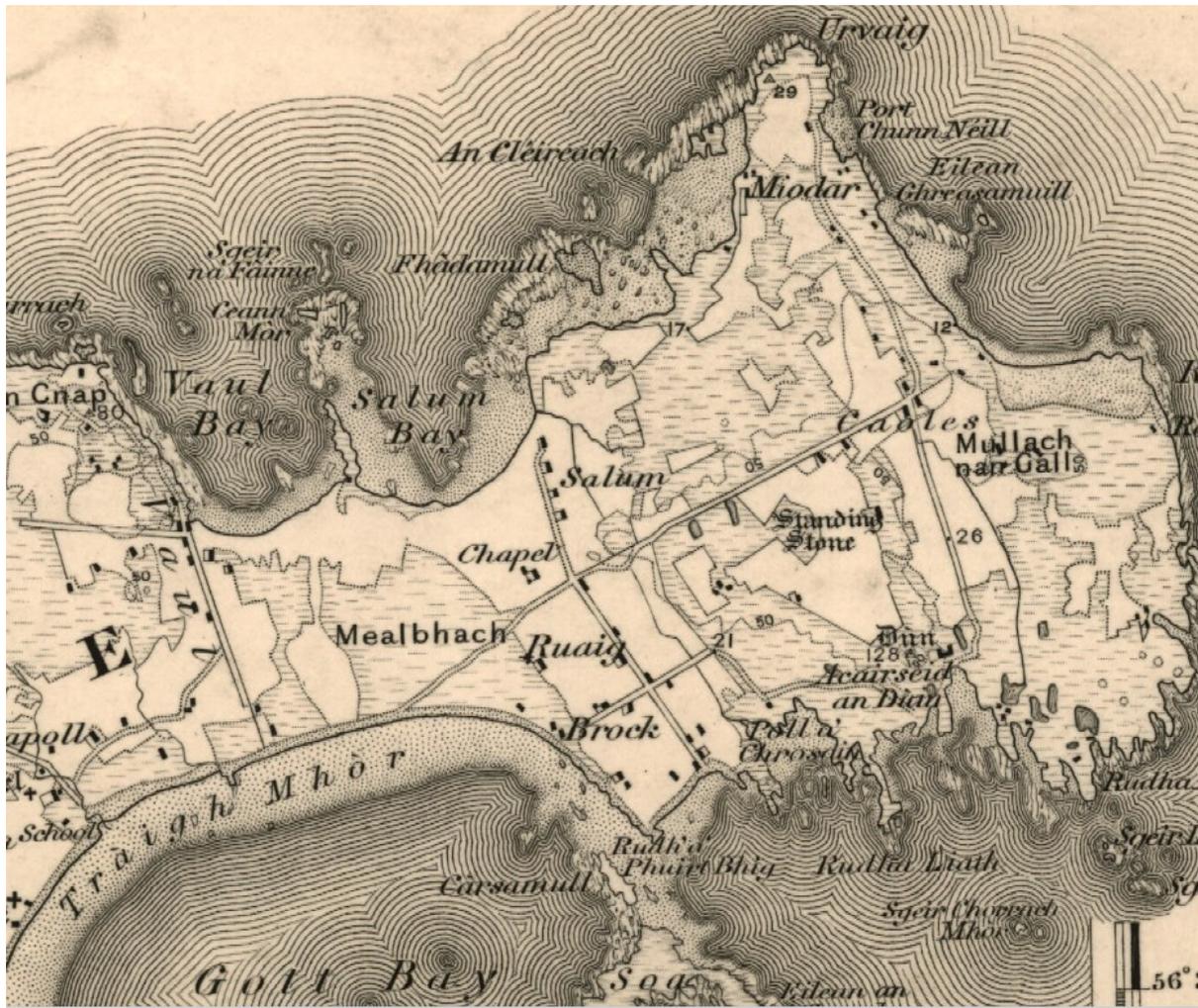


Map showing the Prince's Cairn on Loch nan Uamh, which marks the traditional departure point of Prince Charlie, and Tìree at the lower left.

Christina's mother Ann McLeod lived until 1863. Her statutory death registration states that she was the widow of Charles McLean, Crofter and was living in Ruaiq, Tìree. She was 84. Cause of death was old age and she had been unwell for 3 months. Her parents were Dugald McLeod, Crofter and Margaret McLean. The informant was her son John who was present when she died, and who signed with his mark. He was described as son and occupier.

Ann McLeod was 18 months old in the 1779 Tìree census. She was the youngest of at least six children. Her parents Dugald McLeod and Margaret McLean were married about 1758. Based on early census data Dugald was born about 1730 and Margaret about 1742.

Several of Christena's siblings also went to Ontario, Canada. Her brother Hugh with his wife and first two children came to Brock Township in 1846 and later settled in Bruce Township. Her sister Mary emigrated in 1848 and shortly after married John McPhadden from Tìree at Pointe Fortune in Hawkesbury in eastern Ontario. Her young brother Dugald came in the late 1850's with his wife and first two children and settled in Waterloo, Ontario as a carpenter.



East end of Tiree showing Ruaig and Salem in 1865.

Source: Ordnance Survey Map, one inch to one mile, 1865. <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74489043>.
Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

Incident on Tiree (1833)

Some 18 months after Fingon's marriage, he was summoned to appear before the Session of the Presbyterian Church in circumstances that do not cast our ancestor Fingon in a good light. Nevertheless I include the account from the Session minutes because it gives us a small glimpse into life on Tiree.

At Scarinish the 22^d September 1833 the Kirk Session of Tiry being met after Divine Service. Compeared¹ Rebecca MacLean wife of John MacKinnon Tenant at Salum, craving that her character might be vindicated from the foul and invidious aspersions attached thereto by Fingon MacKinnon Tenant also at Salum her brother-in-law, who asserted in a scold in which he & her husband were the only Parties, that she was a common whore, or words which obviously conveyed the Idea that that was his meaning.

The said John MacKinnon who was present, was desired to rehearse the very words, which his Brother Fingon had used regarding his wife. He Declared that the words were "Bi falbh dhashaidh agus pog ton ruaig no huile fir"². He Declared further that the said Fingon told him that he found Alex^r MacDonald at Kenovay in Bed with the said Rebecca MacLean, between her Contract & Marriage, and that she was a common Street walker in Glasgow while there.

The said Fingon MacKinnon being interrogated denied the whole of what his Brother John had laid to his charge, except that he found Alex^r MacDonald in bed with Rebecca as above stated. Reference however was made on a former occasion to Niel MacKinnon and Christina MacKinnon both in the said Fingon's service, as witnesses who heard him expressing himself in the manner complained of, and they were therefore Summoned to appear before the Session. The said Niel MacKinnon refused to obey the summons, but left a paper with his Declaration written thereon, which was emitted by him in the presence of Charles MacLean & Hector MacKinnon both Elders at Kilmaluag, and which corroborates the assertions of the Complainers Rebecca MacLean & her husband, but the Session were not satisfied of the validity of his Declarations, in a case of such importance as he refused to come present to emit the same in a regular manner. The said Christina MacKinnon appeared & being Solemnly Sworn and interrogated Deponed that she heard Fingon MacKinnon say to his

¹ Compeared is a legal term meaning to appear in court.

² Basically that she had consorted with all the men in Ruaig.

Brother John when they were scolding “Bi falbh dhachaidh, agus pog ton Ruaig no huile fir.”

Alex^r MacDonald at Kenovay came forward and expressed his willingness to free the said Rebecca MacLean upon Oath if the Session thought that to be necessary.

It was stated on the part of Rebecca MacLean that she and [her] sister Mary MacLean who is married to Alex^r MacDonald’s Brother were in the same Bed, on the night to which Fingon refers, and that her Sister desired the said Alex^r MacDonald to remain where they were till morning, that he might accompany her home, that he and several other persons of whom Fingon himself was one had leaned upon the Bed, so that there was no reason whatsoever to impeach her with being guilty with him on the occasion to which he alludes; but that as her husband has taken it into his head that there might be truth in his Brother’s statement and as he has given her much trouble upon that account and put her twice away from him, she begged that Alex^r MacDonald’s oath or her own Oath of purgation might be taken. The Session considering that the peace of Alex^r MacDonalds own family was in danger of being disturbed by this vile surmise, as well as that of John MacKinnon’s, agreed in opinion that the Oath of Alex^r MacDonald should be taken, He being accordingly Solemnly sworn and interrogated Deponed that he never had any Criminal intercourse with the said Rebecca MacLean.

Fingon MacKinnon now finding that there was proof positive against him already adduced, and that more could be adduced, and that Rebecca MacLean had gone to Glasgow and brought ample Certificates of her good conduct from the different People with whom she served there, began to show signs of repentance, and expressed his readiness to submit to the decision of the Session whatever that same might be.

The Session however came to no decision for the present, but dismissed the parties with suitable exhortations as to their future conduct.

John MacKinnon of Ruaig and Rebecca MacLean of Heylipol had married on 9 May 1827 some 6 ½ years before this Session meeting. The brother of Alexander MacDonald of Kenovay referred to was probably John MacDonald of Kenovay who

married Mary MacLean of Heylipol on 1 Dec 1819³. One can infer that the incident occurred in Heylipol and Mary desired that Alexander walk back with her to her home in Kenovay where Alexander also lived.

It is hard to imagine why Fingon would have caused such a serious rift between himself and his brother and sister-in-law. What might have started as an insult hurled in a fight between brothers unfortunately took on a life of its own when John apparently believed that there might be some truth to this accusation and twice sent his wife away. Rebecca, determined to save her marriage, went so far as to travel to Glasgow to gather affidavits to her good character.

Despite the blowup between them, in the census taken on 6 June 1841 Fingon and John were still in Salum and were in fact neighbours. Both were crofters, indicating that they were several rungs above the bottom of the economic ladder on Tiree. Each had servants living with them (as Fingon had had in 1833). These were likely young relatives. Living with Fingon and his family were two agricultural labourers, Donald Beaton (age 12) and John MacLean (20), and two female servants, Effy MacKinnon (15) and Ann Stewart (8). John had Hugh Lamont (20) agricultural labourer and Sandy MacDonald (12).

On the census taken 30 March 1851, Fingon was still in Salum, but he had fallen to the status of an agricultural labourer. John and his family had left Tiree. The last record for them is the baptism of their youngest, Isabella, on 13 Jun 1842. There is no further record of where John and his family went. However, in an interesting twist to the story, Fingon's son Donald married in Michigan an Isabella MacKinnon. Isabella is almost certainly his first cousin, the daughter of John and Rebecca. When they had twin girls, they named them Christina and Rebecca after the girls' two grandmothers.

³ Mary and Rebecca weren't actually sisters, but were no doubt friends. Mary was the daughter of John McLean and Flory McLean, while Rebecca was the daughter of another John McLean and Isabell MacFarlane. Both grew up in Heylipol but Mary was eight years older.

Parish of Tyrie

1		2			3	4		
PLACE	HOUSES	NAME and SURNAME, SEX and AGE, of each Person who abode in each House on the Night of 6th June.			OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN		
Here insert Name of Village, Street, Square, Close, Court, &c.	Uninhabited or Building	Inhabited	NAME and SURNAME	AGE		Of what Profession, Trade, Employment, or whether of Independent Means.	If Born in Scotland, state whether in County or otherwise.	Whether Foreign-born, or whether Born in England or Ireland.
				Male	Female			
Salum	1		Finney McKinnon	40	1	Crofter	11	
			Christy Do		30		11	
			John Do	8			11	
			Charles Do	6			11	
			Archibald Do	3			11	
			Donald Do	14			11	
			Donald Bitter	12		Ag Lab	11	
			Effy Mac Kinnon		15	S. L.	11	
			Ann Stewart		8	S. L.	11	
			John Mc Leane	20		Ag Lab	11	

The household of Finney and Christy McKinnon in the 1841 census of Tyrie

Hard Times on Tiree (1846-51)

In 1792, just before Fingon was born, the population on Tiree was counted as 2,416. In 1841 it had doubled to 4,961. With farming on Tiree subsistence at best, this population explosion drove the people into truly desperate circumstances. Gene Lamont in his work *They Came From Tiree* has extensively researched life on Tiree at this period, and what follows is drawn from this work⁴.

“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.”

This last sentence probably describes why Rebecca McLean went to Glasgow prior to her marriage to John MacKinnon.

Poor harvests in 1836 and 1837 affected the potato and oat crops. Tiree scraped through with the assistance of the government, landowners and Lowland charities.

In the summer of 1846 the potato blight that had devastated Ireland the previous year struck the Hebrides and Northwest Scotland, including Tiree.

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 raged in Tiree 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 1000 islanders volunteered for emigration, and about 340 left in the first wave in 1847. More left in June 1849 and in 1850. In 1851

⁴ *They Came From Tiree* is available for download at <http://www.tireegenealogy.com/HistoryGene.html>

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.

Parish of Tیره and Goll		Quad. Sacra Parish of		Within the limits of the Parliamentary Burgh of		Within the limits of the Royal Burgh of		Town or Village of Tیره	
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Number No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Males Females	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born		W	H
	Finlay MacKinnon	Head	Mar	35	Agri. Lab.	Tیره	Tیره		
	Christian Mc	Wife	Mar	39		Tیره	Tیره		
	John Do	Son	Un	18		Tیره	Tیره		
	John Do	Son	Un	13		Tیره	Tیره		
	John Do	Son	Un	10		Tیره	Tیره		
	John Do	Son	Un	8	Scholar	Tیره	Tیره		
	John Do	Son	Un	7	Scholar	Tیره	Tیره		
	John Do	Son	Un	4	Scholar	Tیره	Tیره		

Finlay and Christian McKinnon family in the Tیره census of 30 March 1851

Emigration to Canada (1851)

Fingon MacKinnon and his family of 9 were among the 389 Tیره islanders who left on the ship the *Conrad* in July 1851. Another 70 left on the *Birman*. Small boats would have taken them from Hynish on Tیره 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. 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.

AT GLASGOW—FOR QUEBEC AND MONTREAL.

THE well-known and fast-sailing Ship CONRAD,
A 1 first-class at Lloyd's, and copper-fastened,
841 tons register, 1200 tons burthen, JAMES BARCLAY,
Commander, will be pointedly despatched on the
Morning of the 12th June.

This Vessel being upwards of eight feet in height between decks,
and thoroughly ventilated, presents at this season an unusually
favourable opportunity to Steerage Passengers.

Passengers supplied with Provisions, Free of Charge, according
to the Government Emigration Scale.

No Goods, Baggage, &c., received after 11th.

For freight or passage, apply to
THOMAS C. ORR,
20 Union Street.

Glasgow, May 29, 1850.

To be followed by a first-class Vessel, 30th June.

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, present[ing] at this season an unusually favourable opportunity to Steerage Passengers. Passengers supplied with Provisions, Free of Charge, according to the Government Emigration Scale.”

The *Conrad* landed at Quebec City on 26 August. 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.

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

JULY 1851 PAGE 2

List of Emigrants Continued

Residence	Name of Head	Service on Board	Age	Family	Sex
Hillbush	Mary Dawson	Servant	53	8	Female
"	Donald Brown	"	1	1	Male
"	Donald MacLean	"	11	1	Male
"	Archibald MacCallister	Servant	11	1	Male
"	Edward Macdonald	Servant	6	6	Male
"	Thomas MacKinnon	"		9	Male
Total per Ship <i>Conrad</i>			589		

Total per Ship *Conrad* 589 Souls = 3132 Pounds

List of Emigrants on the *Conrad* showing Finnon MacKinnon of Salem with a family of 9 persons

Brock Township (1851-57)

The 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 influx came in 1846, including Hugh Clark's family from Ruaig and Christena's brother, shoemaker Hugh McLean and his family who had moved from Ruaig to Mannal following his marriage.

The other Tiree emigrants who had been on the *Birman* had landed at Quebec on August 22nd and so were probably a couple of days ahead of them. 459 Tiree emigrants – 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.

In Canada, the 1851 census enumeration was delayed until 12 January 1852, so the MacKinnons were counted again. They were living in a one storey log house. Finnon, John, Charles and Archibald were labourers, and nobody was going to school. Denominationally the family was “Old Presbyterian”.

33	Miss W. Campbell						
34	Finnon M. Kinnon	Labourer	Scotland	Old Presbyterian		57	1
35	Christian M. Kinnon		"	"		40	1
36	John M. Kinnon	"	"	"		20	1
37	Charles M. Kinnon	"	"	"		17	1
38	Archibald M. Kinnon	"	"	"		16	1
39	Ronald M. Kinnon		"	"		12	1
40	Hugh M. Kinnon		"	"		10	1
41	Allan M. Kinnon		"	"		8	1
42	George M. Kinnon		"	"		5	1

The family in Brock Township on 12 January 1852

They stayed in Brock Township for six years. The youngest, George, died there on 23 November 1854 and is buried in the Scotch Cemetery in Manilla. His stone is amazingly well preserved. He died just short of his ninth birthday, of typhoid it is said.

Little is remembered of the Brock Township period. The men must have worked as labourers 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 250 km 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. Norman Robertson records that two or three thousand would-be purchasers attended the sale which took place in Southampton, including a large party of Highland Scots. The first transaction on Lot

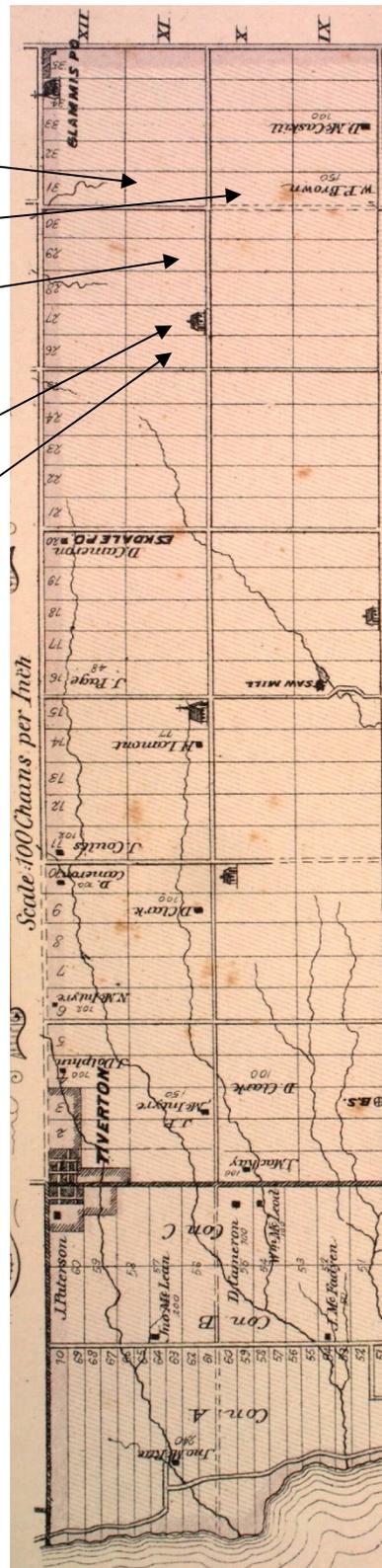
29, Concession 11 of Kincardine Township was a deposit of £5 paid by Alex McLean to the Crown Land Agent, Alex McNabb, on 3 March 1855. Alex McLean sold the lot in 1857 to Fingon's son John McKinnon and is likely the same person who purchased the neighbouring Lot 28 in the same year⁵.

Mary MacKinnon Ferguson preserved the story that they came up to Kincardine Township in 1857 by way of Kinloss with oxen. From 1857 to 1874 the early homestead was a log cabin. There were no shingles for the roof, only troughs. There was only one room in the cabin but woven curtains separated the room into bedrooms at night.

Fingon died in early 1859 and is buried in Tiverton Cemetery, where many of his descendants also lie. He was 63 years of age. Christena lived until 1896 when she died at the age of 87.

⁵ If so, then according to *Toil, Tears & Triumph, A History of Kincardine Township*, pg 320, he was the son of Hector McLean (1797-1882) and Anne McLeod (1797-1861) of Tiree who came to Canada in 1854. Their marriage and their children's one baptismal records shows that they were from Ruaig. For some reason they are not in the 1841 or 1851 census. Hector and Ann settled on Lot 26, Con 11 of Kincardine Township.

- Lot 31 Con 11 – John
- Lot 31 Con 10 - John
- Lot 29 Con 11 Fingon
(later John's and then
Allan's)
- Lot 27 Con 11 – Archie
- 1/2 Lot 26 Con 11 – Hugh
(1878 - 83)



The Tenth of Kincardine

This map shows Concessions 9 to 12 of Kincardine Township, Bruce County and is taken from the atlas of Bruce County originally published by H. Belden & Co in 1880.

The digital image is taken from “The Canadian County Atlas Digital Project” of McGill University at

<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/CountyAtlas>

Note the schoolhouse on Archibald’s farm.

The Sons of Fingon and Christena

Fingon and Christena had seven sons: John (1832-1919), Charles (1834-1922), Archibald (1837-1914), Donald (Dan) (1839-aft 1902), Hugh (1841-1920), Allan (1843-1916) and George (1846-1854).

George died young and Charles did not marry. Of the five that married, all chose Tiree women, either born on Tiree (Christena Clark, Ann McDonald, Isabella MacKinnon) or born in Ontario of two Tiree parents (Catherine McDonald, Lillian McPhaiden). The connections were even tighter than simply being from Tiree. Two were first cousins of their husband (Isabella MacKinnon, Lillian McPhaiden), two were cousins of each other (Ann McDonald, Catherine McDonald) and one was a sister-in-law of another (Christena Clark, sister to Ann McDonald's first husband Malcolm Clark).

John

Fingon's eldest, John, married Christena Clark about 1853 while still in Brock Township. Christena was the daughter of Hugh Clark and Christena McLean from Ruaig. The Clarks were living very near Fingon's family in Brock Township but had come out in 1846. The 1851 census recorded that Hugh Clark had died of consumption in 1851 at the age of 68.

Christena's older brother (by seven years) was Malcolm who married Ann McDonald who later became the wife of Hugh McKinnon after Malcolm's death. Another older brother, Donald, was the great-grandfather of the Rt. Hon. Joseph Clark, the 16th Prime Minister of Canada. The Clarks also moved from Brock Township and settled on Concession 11 of Kincardine Township.

In the census of January 14th 1861 John was on 100 acres of Lot 29, Concession 11, Kincardine Township, of which 60 were cleared after 3 or 4 years of work. Living with John's family were his brothers Archibald, Charles, Hugh and Allan. Donald had already departed for Michigan. The crops included spring wheat, oats, potatoes and turnips. They also had two oxen (probably the ones they brought from Brock Township), 3 steers or heifers, 4 milk cows and 7 pigs.

In 1871, John had 200 acres, all cleared. Archibald and Allan were still living there, along with their mother Christy. Besides the field crops, they produced maple sugar, butter, cheese, wool and flannel. John's wife and children had switched from Presbyterian to Baptist. In 1871 John and his family moved to Lot 31, Concession 11 and he also owned Lot 31, Concession 10 across the road. His brother Allan took over Lot 29, Concession 11.

In 1881, John's Christena and Hugh were living with Allan, but in 1891 Hugh was back home. John died in 1919 of myocarditis which he had suffered for a month. He was 86 years of age. His wife Christena had died five months earlier.

Only one daughter married. There were no grandchildren.

John's niece Retta recalled:

Uncle John always prayed in Gaelic at church for the communion service, also said the grace in Gaelic, as did my father, but Uncle John always began his grace the same way - "Holaidh o Ghia".

Uncle John did not mince words when he spoke. I was down at Uncle Johns for supper one night, and as usual was plied with meat, potatoes, vegetables, biscuits, fruit and pie. I unfortunately make the remark "I ate too much supper", as more food was pressed on me. Uncle John looked at me as if I were a worm and said, "Your Uncle John is ashamed of you, not knowing when to stop eating." Cousin Finnie, sitting beside me, pressed my hand in sympathy! We were all a little afraid of Uncle John.

We respected Uncle John, but only once did I make him smile, and it was like ice breaking up after a long winter.

Charles

In the 1851 Tیره census it appears that Charles was working as an agricultural labourer at the household of his uncle John and Isabella McLean in Ruaig.

In 1861, Charles and his brothers were all working together on John's farm. However, Charles saw no future in clearing a farm from the forest, so he left for Michigan. He was not with the others in Bruce County in 1871 or 1881.

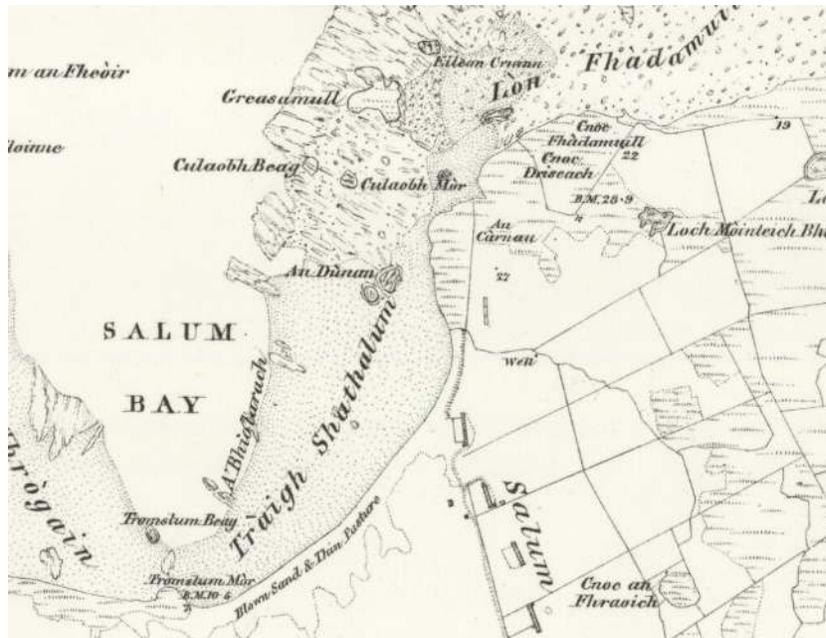
It is not clear whether Charles lived in the US continuously for 10 to 20 years. A possible match in the US 1880 census (single, b. Scotland, aged 45) is Chas. McKennon who was in wholesale liquor. He was enumerated at a hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. There is no match in US 1870 census.

In the US Charles was shot in the face. Someone from the family came down and identified him by the shape of his feet. He was brought back to Kincardine Township where he lived with his brother Allan for the rest of his life. Charles did not marry, and when he died in 1922 he was the last of the generation who had lived on Tیره.

Archibald

Mary MacKinnon Ferguson recorded that her grandfather Archibald was known as "Black Archie". He had a severe attack of smallpox which left him not too strong. Nevertheless, he was the best farmer among his brothers. The first house was a shanty which became the summer house. He then built a main barn and house.

Archibald's daughter Retta told her nephew Archie R. MacKinnon that her father spoke of playing as a child in a fort on Salum Bay.



Detail of Salum Bay showing ancient 'fort' An Dunan.

Source: Ordnance Survey Map, six inch to one mile, survey date 1878.
<https://maps.nls.uk/view/74427352>. Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

Archibald married Catherine MacDonald in 1876. She was born in Fergus, Ontario, but both of her parents were born on Tiree. Her father was Alexander McDonald of Kenovay⁶. Archibald's daughter Retta says of him:

My mother's father, Alexander MacDonald was said to be the strongest man on the island. A horse died and Grandfather summoned 2 of his cronies to help him bury it. They came, but hid behind a knoll, to see what Grandfather would do if he thought they weren't coming. He evidently got a bit peeved, waiting for them, so he grabbed the horse's leg, and hauled it where he wanted it buried. I expect they came to his rescue when they saw what he was doing, for he was well liked as he had an even temper.

Alexander McDonald emigrated to Canada on an 1849 voyage of the Conrad with his wife Jane (Jean) McLean and five children. Jane died shortly after and Alexander married Sarah MacKinnon at Fergus in 1854. Sarah was of Kirkapoll when she was

⁶ Could he be the Archibald McDonald from Kenovay who figured in the scandal between Fingon and John?

baptized in 1822, the daughter of Donald McKinnon and Margaret McPhadden. It is not known when Sarah and her brothers came out.

Catherine was the oldest of three girls from this second marriage. Her mother died when Catherine was nine years old, and she and two sisters were raised by her mother's brothers who had settled near Riversdale in Greenock Township in Bruce County. Alexander McDonald died at Archibald and Catherine's home in 1885 and is buried at Tiverton.

Catherine McDonald was living on the 6th Concession of Bruce Township at the time of her marriage to Archibald. This may well have been with her first cousin Ann McDonald who was married to Archibald's brother Hugh.

In 1876, Archibald purchased Lot 27, Concession 11, Kincardine Tp. Archie and Catherine named their farm "Elm Bower Farm". Its drainage flows in four different directions, suggesting that the township watershed is here. Up to 1871, Archibald was Presbyterian, but from 1881 he gave his religion as Congregationalist. Archibald died in 1914 of heart failure brought on by chronic pulmonary tuberculosis which he had suffered for 17 years.

Archibald and Catherine had 10 children. There are many descendants of four of them.

Donald

Donald (known as Dan) went to Michigan, presumably to work at lumbering. He was not with his brothers in Bruce County in 1861. Mary Ferguson says that he married in Michigan and had three boys and two girls. One of the girls died and the other was named Anna Rae. The estate of John's Charles J. McKinnon (1946) names Anna Rae, George, John and an x'd out name which appears to be Christena Feathers. The lawyers were unable to make contact with any descendants.

I have identified Donald, son of Fingon MacKinnon, with the Donald/Daniel McKinnon who settled in Homer Township, Midland County, Michigan. This is directly across Lake Huron from Kincardine.

Daniel married Isabella McKinnon in Jerome Township, Midland County on 6 Dec 1867. Daniel was a farmer in Jerome Township, Midland County, at the time of his marriage.

The Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland County (pg. 284) says Isabella was a native of Canada, but all of the records (births, censuses) say that she was born in Scotland. It says she had 9 children.

I believe that Isabella was Donald's first cousin, the daughter of John McKinnon and Rebecca McLean of Salum, Tiree. Note that the twins Rebecca and Christena were

named after their two grandmothers. What happened to her family after 1841 on Tiree, and how she got to Michigan is unknown.

Daniel was a farmer in Homer Township, Midland County, Michigan (1870, 1880, 1900). In 1870 the family consisted of Donald (29), Isabella (25) and Christina (1)⁷. His real estate was worth \$400. Living with the family was Laura Boubier, 11, b. New York, attending school. Land deeds show that they had 68.7 acres in the SE part of SE 1/4 of Sect 11 and the NE part of the NE 1/4 of Sect 14 of Homer Township (straddling the Tittabawassee River). The property today is part of River Bend Park.

The 1880 census finds D. McKinnon (37), Isabella (33), George (9), Rebeca Ann (4), Christina M. (4), Charles (2) and a labourer, John Crab (19), b. New York.

The Midland County Portrait and Biographical Album (1884) says that Dan assembled 240 acres of farmland in Section 12 of Homer Tp. but this is not supported by the land documents in Midland. Donald started on 10 Apr 1865 by purchasing 57.15 acres in the SE corner of Section 11, Homer Tp. One of the witnesses was Allen McKinnon who could have been his brother, visiting. On 4 Mar 1867 Donald added Lots 6 and 7, Block 83 in Midland Village which Donald and Isabella sold on 10 Oct 1870 for a profit. On 7 Apr 1883 Isabella purchased Lot 7, Block 72 in Midland Village for \$300 but Donald and Isabella sold it on 26 Sept 1885 at a loss.

On 10 Jun 1883 Donald gave the Tittabawassee Boom Company full access to the shoreline of his farm for their lumbering operations for 5 years starting in 1 Jan 1884 for \$50 a year. This included the NE part of Sect 14 that was north of the Tittabawassee river. This added 11.57 acres for a total of 68.72. He formalized his possession of this fragment with a quit claim from Annie Fitzhugh on 9 May 1894 for a dollar.

Meanwhile, Donald and Isabella mortgaged their farm on 20 Jul 1891 to the Reardon brothers Thomas and William. Rebecca Ann signed as a witness. The Reardon brothers were the principal merchants in Midland. Presumably the mortgage was to cover debts for supplies. The mortgage was assigned to Abraham S. Cody in 1893 and became in default in Jan 1895. The sheriff put the property for sale at auction and Abraham Cody purchased it himself.

At this time of financial stress, their son George died at home of consumption in May of 1899.

Donald continued to farm as a renter, probably the same property. He is a renter in the 1900 census. The family was Daniel (56), Isabella (55), Charlie (23), Becca Ann (25), Christina (25), Daniel (18) and John (17). He and Isabella reported that they had

⁷ This Christena died 7 Oct 1870. A later daughter was also named Christena.

been married for 33 years. Donald said that he had immigrated in 1853, Isabella in 1851.

According to the local paper, in March 1902 Donald was thinking of moving to Colorado where his son Danny had already gone. He put his farm implements up for sale. By early April the whole family, with the exception of Rebecca Ann who had already moved to Saginaw, left for Colorado Springs. Donald was starting over at almost 63 years of age.

Donald's death date and grave have not been located yet. It is possible that he died en route to Colorado. Isabella and several children (John, Christina Feathers, and Rebecca) are buried in Colorado Springs. Isabella died in 1903, John in 1904 and Christena in 1913.

Danny's whereabouts are unknown. Charlie pursued lumbering in northern Idaho. He did not marry and died at Priest River in 1953. His stone says he was known as "Skookum Charlie".

Rebecca Ann called herself Anna Rae. She became a nurse in Chicago and may have been instrumental in persuading her cousins Kit and Elizabeth to locate there. She died in 1939 and is also buried at Colorado Springs.

After Christena's death in 1913, her husband Charles Feathers took their two surviving children back to the Midland, Michigan area to be raised by his relatives. Both children have descendants who are still in the area.

Hugh

Tiree is famous for its bards, and Hugh composed many songs and stories. He married a widow, Ann Clark of Underwood, Bruce Township in 1866.

Ann was born on Tiree, the daughter of Donald McDonald and Eliza Lamont. Donald was born in Kenovay and later was a crofter at Cornaigbeg where Ann was born. Ann was a first cousin of Archibald's wife Catherine McDonald. In 1848 her family came to Canada and settled in Brock Township. There Ann met and married Malcolm Clark and four years later they moved to Bruce County. Malcolm was a younger brother of John MacKinnon's wife Christena Clark. Malcolm was a farmer and storekeeper on Lot 5, Concession 6, Bruce Township. They had five children, Hugh (1855), Sarah (1856), Christina (1860), a son who died in 1861 of whopping cough, and Elizabeth (1862).

Sarah and Christina must have died young because Ann brought to the marriage with Hugh two children, Hugh and Elizabeth Clark. Elizabeth did not marry and lived with her step family her whole life. Hugh Clark lived with the McKinnons until about 1901. He is said to have settled near Black Duck, Minnesota.

In 1871, Hugh owned 47 acres of Lot 5, Concession 6 in Bruce Township where he was a carpenter as well as a farmer. This was the lot previously owned by Malcolm Clark, Ann's first husband. Hugh was Church of Scotland while Ann was 'Regular Baptist'. In 1875, he sold land to the trustees of Underwood Methodist Church. The building, on the west side of Highway 21, survived until 1977 when it was destroyed by a tornado.

Hugh came back to the 10th of Kincardine, where he purchased the E1/2 of Lot 26, Concession 11 on 2 Sept 1878. This was adjoining Archibald's farm. Hugh sold this part lot in 1883.

Hugh moved to Manitoba in 1895. He located first in the Brandon Hills and moved to Minto two years later where he farmed on 11-5-19, W1. In 1901 the family owned 1,120 acres⁸ and had 2 houses and 3 barns. In 1906, living with Hugh and Ann were Mary, Charles, Lizzie Clark and a hired man. In 1911 there was Elizabeth Clark, Charles and Findlay, plus a nephew Hugh McKinnon, a 'cousin' Archie Bell, a lodger Velma Morrow (future daughter-in-law) and three servants. In 1916 Hugh was a widower, with Elizabeth Clark, Mary and Charles. He died August 17, 1920 and is buried in Minto, Manitoba.

Hugh and Ann had eight children and many descendants. Despite the distance, Hugh's children made visits to their uncles, aunts and cousins back in Ontario as attested by numerous group photographs.

Allan

Allan helped his older brothers start their own farms, and lived with John until taking over John's farm at Lot 29, Concession 11.

In 1881, Allan had his own farm and was living with his mother and John's Christena and Hugh. He was a carpenter as well as a farmer. Allan was Baptist.

In March of 1883 Allan married his first cousin, Lillian McPhaiden of Pointe Fortune in Prescott County, in eastern Ontario. How they courted living over 700 km apart is a mystery.

Lillian's mother Mary McLean was the sister of Allan's mother. Her father John McPhaiden was from Caoles, Tiree. John and Mary married at Pointe Fortune in 1848, the year she emigrated from Tiree. The 1901 census gives Lillian's birthdate as 13 May 1858. The 1861 census suggests she was born as early as 1852.

As the youngest uncle, Allan was a favorite with his nieces. He died in 1916. Retta recalled the following strange circumstance:

⁸ For comparison, the whole of Tiree is less than 20,000 acres.

Uncle Allan had to have an abdominal operation and had to have it at home. Dr. Groves came up from Fergus. In order to make an operating table, Lauchie ["White" Lauchie McLean, a neighbour] (who loved Uncle Allan; and well he might for Uncle Allan was a source of strength, courage, & information both Scriptural & daily news to him) said he had some brand new boards in the granary and they could use them for the table. He went to get them and he said "I knew Allen was going to die, for the new boards were quivering, and shaking in the granary". Uncle Allen did die after the operation.

Allan and Lily had three children but have no living descendants.

George

George died of typhoid at the age of nine, when the family was still in Brock Township. He is buried in the Scotch Cemetery near Manilla.

References

Norman Robertson, *History of the County of Bruce*, Toronto, William Briggs, 1906

Wanita Hollands Fletcher, Editor and Isabelle Munro, Assistant Editor, *Toils, Tears & Triumph, A History of Kincardine Township*, Kincardine Township Historical Society, 1990

The Township of Bruce Historical Society, *Bruce Township Tales and Trails with supplement*, 1997. Edited by Anne Judd

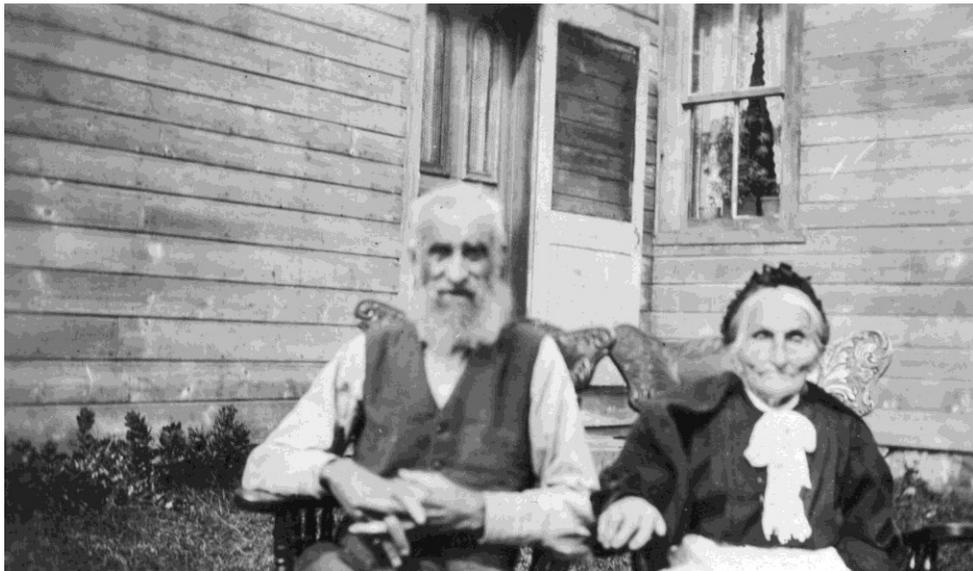
Gene Donald Lamont, *They Came from Tiree: Tiree and the Famine Emigrants A History, 7000 BC – 1851*, 2004

Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland County, Michigan, Chicago, Chapman Brothers, 1884

Photographs



Uncle John McKinnon's
Hugh, John, Christie, George, Margaret, Finnie, C.J., Sarah



John MacKinnon and Christie Clark MacKinnon



Archibald MacKinnon and Catherine McDonald MacKinnon



Retta, Elizabeth, Eva, Mack (all Archie's)



John and Christie Ann "Cree" (Archie's)



Three Generations (Archie's)
Back: Bert Reynolds, Kit, Eva, Retta
Front: Catherine (McDonald) MacKinnon, Donald and Hulda Reynolds



Archie (Hugh's), Ann Rae (Donald's), Christie Ann
(Archie's), Dan (Hugh's)



Hugh's Johnny Hector and
Dan on a trip East



Back Row: Finnie George (Archie), Finnie (John), Mac (Hugh), Elizabeth (Archie), Charles F. (Allan)

Front Row: May (Allan), Kit (Archie), Hughie (John), Dan (Hugh), Maggie (John), Sarah (Archie)



Back: Kit (Archie's), Mac (Hugh's) and Sarah (Archie's)
Front: Margaret (John's), May (Allan's) and Elizabeth (Archie's)



Allan's: Lillian, May, Chas F, Hughie (John's), Lillian



George McKinnon's gravestone, Scotch Cemetery, Brock Township