

58. Glen Bard Cemetery, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia, Canada
Allison McKinnon

- 58.1 The Glen Bard Cemetery was named after **Bard John MacLean** (1787-1848) and has been designated as a provincial historic site by the Province of Nova Scotia. He is acknowledged by a stone cairn with a plaque at the entrance to the cemetery. The plaque reads: ***In memory of the Bard John Maclean, one of the most famous Gaelic poets in this land. He was born on the Island of Tiree, Scotland and came to this country with his family in the year 1819. He settled near this location.***

The cemetery stone for John Maclean is inscribed in Gaelic. The English translation reads:

*THE BARD MACLEAN
(John Maclean)
1787-1848
He who in this cemetery goes around
Stop and listen to a voice from the grave
Keep up the Gaelic all your life
And hold its poetry in high regard
To all that is good give your love
And live to God each day.
THE BARD'S WIFE
(Isabella Black)
1786-1877
Trust in the Lord with all your Heart.*

Information on the cemetery and notables buried here, including Bard John Maclean, can be found [here](#).

For photos of the cemetery entrance and Bard MacLean's stone, [click here](#).

- 58.2 **Christy McLean**, daughter of John Maclean & Isabella Black (58.1), was born in Caolis, Tiree, on 25 December 1809. With her parents and siblings, Charles and Archibald, she emigrated from Tiree to Nova Scotia on the ship *Economy* in 1819. About 1839 Christy married John Sinclair, an emigrant from Sutherlandshire, Scotland. They separated before their son, Alexander Maclean Sinclair, born on 1 March 1840. He was raised by his mother at her parents' home in Glen Bard and became a Presbyterian minister, author, Gaelic scholar and educator. The 1871 Canadian census records Christy Sinclair, aged 60, living with her son Alexander McLean Sinclair, Clergyman, at the East Branch, East River, Pictou County, Nova Scotia. She would take care of his home until he married in 1882. Christy

died on 7 March 1887 and is buried in Glen Bard Cemetery. Her gravestone reads:

IN MEMORY OF
OF
CHRISTY
McLEAN
Wife of
John Sinclair
Born Dec. 25th 1809
Died Mar. 7th 1887

Slan le triaighean, slan le bron.
Failt'air suaimhneas, failt'air gloiri.
Beannachd h'bh, a luchd mo ghaoil.
Coimnichidh sinn an tir nan naomh.

Erected by her son,
the Rev. A. McLean Sinclair.

Images: [Gravestone](#) [Inscription](#)

58.3 **Charles MacLean**, son of John Maclean & Isabella Black (58.1) and brother of Christy McLean (58.2) and Archibald MacLean (58.4) was born in Caolis, Tiree, on 7 July 1813. In 1819 he emigrated with his parents and siblings to Nova Scotia, Canada, on the ship *Economy*. The 1871 Canadian census records him as a farmer, aged 56, unmarried, and living at Glen Bard with his widowed mother Isabella (aged 85), sister Elizabeth (30), brother John (45) and John's wife Margaret (44) and their children (John 13, Alexander 12, Duncan 10, Isabella 8). Charles died at Glen Bard on 27 June 1880 and is buried in the Glen Bard Cemetery. The inscription on his gravestone reads

CHARLES McLEAN
BORN IN TYREE
SCOTLAND
JULY 24, 1813
DIED AT
GLEN BARD
JUNE 27, 1880.

[a three-line Gaelic verse follows]

Images: [Gravestone](#) [Inscription](#)

58.4 **Archibald MacLean**, son of John Maclean & Isabella Black (58.1) and brother of Christy McLean (58.2) and Charles McLean (58.3), was born in Caolis, Tiree, on 11 May 1815. In 1819 aged 4 he emigrated to Nova Scotia, Canada, with his parents and siblings on the ship *Economy*. He married Catherine MacPhie. The date of their marriage inscribed on the gravestone is indistinct but appears to be 8 December 1851 [?]. Catherine's death is recorded on the gravestone indistinctly as 1861 [?]. The 1871 Canadian census records Archibald MacLean, widower, farmer, aged 55, living in a household with Isabella (18), Mary (15) and Christina Ann (12), presumably his daughters. The 1881 census records Archibald MacLean, widower, farmer, aged 65, living in the St Joseph's District, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia, with his daughter Mary (25) and son William (21). Archibald died on 26 January 1889 [?] and is buried in Glen Bard Cemetery. The inscription on the gravestone reads:

ARCHIBALD McLEAN
 BORN
 MAY 12, 1815
 MARRIED
 DEC. 8, 1851[?]
 DIED
 JAN. 26, 1889[?]
 HIS WIFE
 CATHERINE McPHIE
 DIED
 SEP.[?], 1861[?]

[Gaelic verse]

MACLEAN

[the inscribed birth date differs from that of 11 May 1815 recorded in the Tiree parish register]

Image: [Gravestone](#)

Further information on Archibald MacLean and the MacLean family can be found in the [Maclean-Sinclair family fonds](#) in the Archives of Nova Scotia.