

High Hopes of Scottish Emigrants from the Isle of Tiree to the Cape of Good Hope in the Second Half of the 19th Century

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October 2016**

This article, apart from the Postscript, was first published in Issue 52 (Sept 2016) of Genesis, the journal of the Online Branch (eGGSA) of the Genealogical Society of South Africa, and is reproduced here by kind permission of the eGGSA Management Committee and Genesis editors Judi Meyer and Daan Botes.

Abstract

The Cape Colony offered men opportunities. Some seized them and made their fortune; some died in the attempt; and some just grew old in Africa. Very few people emigrated from Tiree to South Africa, which has largely been neglected as a destination for Scottish emigrants. Among them were McLean, McArthur, McCallum, Carmichael and Flora Norquay, née Brown, who each have a different story that starts on Tiree and ends, mostly, in Africa.

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1. Background

Scotland

By the 1880s, the evictions, clearances¹ and forced emigration were something of the past, as was the stability that had characterised the Scottish Highlands during the 1860s and 1870s. A severe agricultural depression followed in the 1880s.² The potato blight returned, the demand for wool dropped causing prices to collapse and famine spread as a result of poor harvests in 1881-82.³ Although the resultant poverty and hopelessness were undoubtedly contributing factors, Marjory Harper in her book, *Adventurers & Exiles*, claims it was ultimately 'the anticipation of betterment' that induced men and women to leave Scotland.⁴

It is generally accepted that Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand absorbed the lion's share of Scottish emigrants, including those that left Tiree. Tiree is the most westerly island of the Inner Hebrides, situated some 35 kms west of Ardnamurchan, the nearest point on the Scottish mainland. In 1841, this tiny island (19.3 x 9.6km) boasted a population of about 5000 people. By 1881 it had dropped to 2,728 and today it is home to about 700 people.



Tiree in relation to the Scottish mainland⁵

- 1 See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Highland_Clearances_Second_Phase accessed 21 Jul 2016.
- 2 T.C. Smout, *A Century of the Scottish People, 1830-1950* (Yale, 1986), p. 71.
- 3 J. Hunter, *The Making of the Crofting Community* (Edinburgh: John Donald, 2000), pp.187-188.
- 4 M. Harper, *Adventurers & Exiles : The Great Scottish Exodus* (London: Profile), 2004.
- 5 <http://www.keithdash.net/>.

South Africa

Government sponsored schemes saw the arrival of thousands of British and Scottish immigrants at the Cape in 1820, and then again between 1857-1867. The discovery of the first diamonds in the Orange River in 1867 followed by the mines at Dutoitspan and Bultfontein in 1870, and the even richer mines at Kimberley and De Beers in 1871, created job opportunities. The demand for skilled labourers soared. The digger tent camp soon made way for a substantial town of wood-and-iron buildings. Graceful stone edifices followed quickly. In the rapidly expanding and over-crowded Kimberley, the availability of water was problematic. Often in short supply, it was frequently contaminated. Camp fever, infant mortality, and accidents contributed to Kimberley's high mortality rate.⁶

2. Cape Government Facilitates Immigration

In an attempt to meet the demand for skilled labourers, and to facilitate and encourage immigration to the Cape Colony, the Cape Government proposed to "give assistance to persons desirous of introducing immigrants".⁷ Government Notice No. 31 of 10 Jul 1873, advised that the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Public Works, C. Abercrombie Smith, would be receiving applications from existing residents who wished to obtain immigrants from Europe. The regulations under which assistance would be given, were presented to the House of Assembly in Jun 1874. The party wishing to introduce individuals had to apply to the Commissioner of Crown Lands to do so. Particulars required of the intended immigrant included name and address, nationality, approximate age, and the trade or occupation the person intended to follow. Details of the services or duties already agreed to by the intending immigrant had to be provided to enable the Government to determine whether assistance was warranted. A medical certificate confirming the good health of the immigrant had to be obtained in advance and produced on arrival in the Colony.⁸ A deposit of £7 per statute adult was required to cover half the cost of the passage to the Cape.⁹

Applications and deposits were made with the Treasurer-General in Cape Town and the Civil Commissioners of the various Districts. These were then forwarded to the Commissioner A. C. Smith in Cape Town, who in turn forwarded them on to the Cape Government's Immigration Agent in London. William C. Burnet had succeeded Thomas Burt Glanville, who passed away on 2 May 1878, as the Cape's agent in London.¹⁰

6 Maureen Rall, *Petticoat Pioneers: the history of the pioneer women who lived on the Diamond Fields in the early years* (Kimberley: Africana Library, 2002), p. 11.

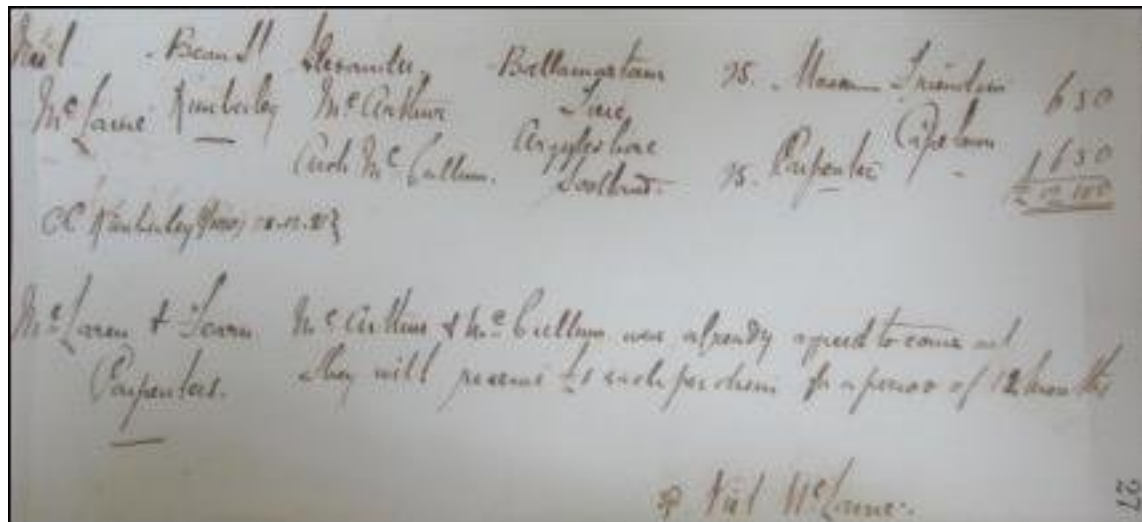
7 A9-1874 Cape of Good Hope. *Regulations under which it is proposed to encourage immigration, presented to the honourable the house of assembly by command of his Excellency the Governor, June 1874* (No printer details, 1874).

8 A9-1874.

9 These regulations have proved invaluable to genealogists.

10 *Western Times* (Exeter, Devon, England), 7 May 1878; *Diamond Field Advertiser*, 5 Jun 1878.

3. Applications for Scottish Immigrants from Tirie



McLaine applies for McArthur¹¹ and McCallum¹²

Neil McLaine of Bean Street, Kimberley paid a deposit of £12.10.0. (i.e. 2 x £6.5.0.) to bring Alexander McArthur and Archibald McCallum out to the Colony. They were both 25 years of age and were both residing at Ballamartain, Tirie,¹³ Argyleshire (*sic*), in Scotland. It was noted that on arrival in Cape Town, they were to be met by 'Friends in Capetown'. McArthur, a mason, and McCallum, a carpenter, had already agreed to come out and work for McLaren & Fearn, Carpenters for a period of 12 months at the rate of £1 each per day. The application was made and the deposit paid at Kimberley on 28 Dec 1881.

McLean applies for McDonald¹⁴

A second application was made by L. McLean of Adderley Street in Cape Town. He paid £4.17.6 for Peter McDonald, aged 30 and a joiner of Moss, Island of Tirie (*sic*), Scotland. McLean was to personally meet Peter McDonald when he landed at Cape Town. His employment had been privately arranged with Anderson & Morison. There is no apparent date, but it would have been sometime between January and June 1882.

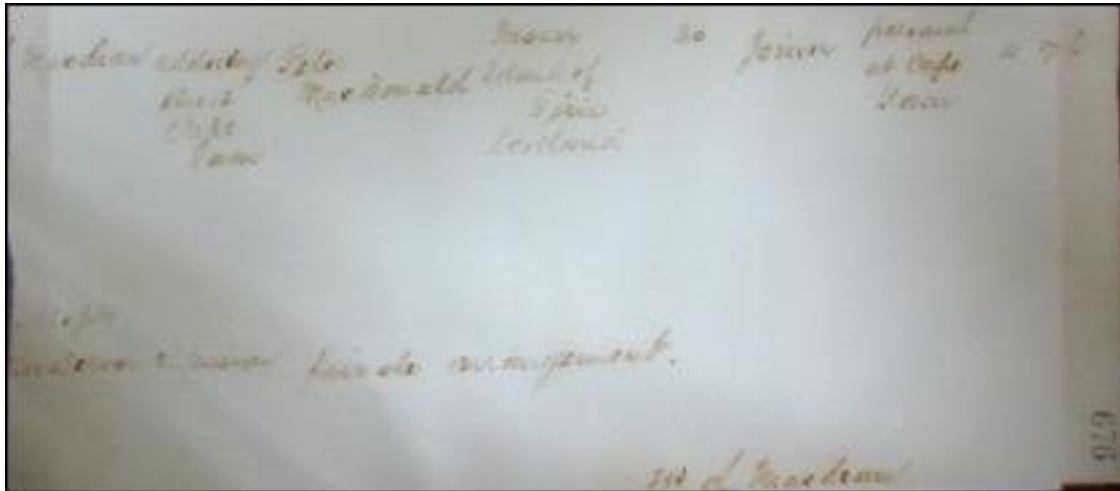
10 *Western Times* (Exeter, Devon, England), 7 May 1878; *Diamond Field Advertiser*, 5 Jun 1878.

11 For the sake of convenience, I have only used the surname prefix "Mc", for example, McArthur instead of MacArthur.

12 KAB PWD 2/500 Papers Despatched for Aided Immigration: Jan-Jun 1882, p. 27.

13 The correct spelling would be Balemartine, Tirie.

14 KAB PWD 2/500, p. 676



4. The Applicants McLaine and McLean

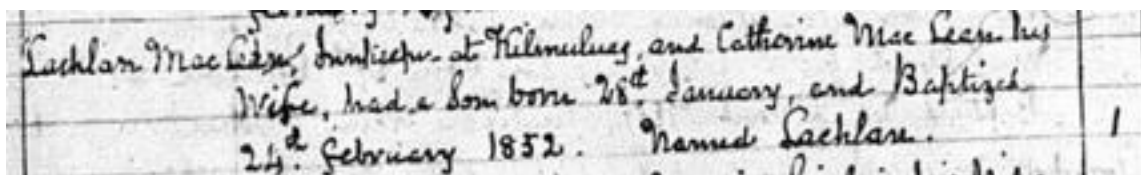
The Scottish island of Tiree is considered remote even by today's standards. We can therefore legitimately presume that back in the 1880s both Neil McLaine of Kimberley and L. McLean of Cape Town would probably have been personally acquainted with the men they had applied to introduce to the Colony. They might well have been islanders themselves.

Neil McLaine

Unfortunately I have been unable to establish this man's identity.

Lachlan McLean

As surmised above, Lachlan McLean was indeed originally from Tiree. The fourth son of Lachlan McLean, innkeeper at Kilmaluag, and Catherine McLean, he was born on 28 Jan 1852 and baptised on 24 Feb 1852.¹⁵



In his book, *The Clan Gillean*, the Rev. Alexander MacLean Sinclair provided the following information,

'... [Lachlan] left Tiree in April, 1868, to join the Glasgow office of the Leith, Hull, and Hamburg Steam Packet Company. He was transferred to

¹⁵ OPR Tyree 551-1/2. This contradicts the date of birth given by Alexander MacLean Sinclair in his book, *The Clan Gillean*, pp. 486-87.

Leith in 1871, and to London in 1874. He was appointed, in 1878, chief agent in South Africa for the Castle Mail Packets Company.'

The Union Castle Mail Steamship Company Limited was located at No. 58 Adderley Street in Cape Town, which was the address Lachlan McLean gave when he applied to have Peter McDonald sent to the Cape in 1881/2.



Adderley Street, Cape Town, ca. 1880's
(Martin Plaut Collection)

In Aug 1889,¹⁶ Lachlan married Margaret Cumming Crawford, daughter of John Cumming Crawford and Ann McNaughton. She was born 28 Jan 1867 in Leith, Midlothian, Scotland.¹⁷ At the time of their marriage, both parties were residing in Edinburgh.¹⁸ They had only one daughter, Sheila born 29 May 1893.¹⁹ Lachlan died at his home 'Greenhill',²⁰ Kenilworth in the Cape on 18 Mar 1914. He was only 62 years and two months old and 'manager of a steamship company' at the time of his death.

Margaret MacLean died at the American Hospital in Paris, France on the 19 Aug 1931. Her daughter, Sheila Dakin born MacLean, was present at the time and registered her death at London on 23 Sep 1931. Margaret had been living with her widowed daughter at 'Duart' in Simonstown at the Cape.²¹ Lachlan appears to have left his wife and daughter very well off. In Margaret's will, in the event of her daughter predeceasing

16 KAB MOOC 6/9/745 ref 701 MacLean, Lachlan. Death Notice. 1914. They signed their 21-page antenuptial contract on 13 Aug 1889.

17 Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1560-1950 accessed at FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FQCK-T3T>) on 12 Jul 2016. MOOC 6/9/3958 ref 31285 Maclean, Margaret Cumming born Crawford. Estate Papers. 1931.

18 KAB MOOC 6/9/745 ref 701. Margaret was residing at 33 Newington Road in Edinburgh.

19 UK, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960. Athlete Castle of Union-Castle Steamship Co. Ltd. Arrived at Southampton, England on 13 May 1960.

20 Greenhill was the name of the place where Lachlan was born and where his parents were crofting in 1871. 1871 Census for Tiree, <http://www.keithdash.net/Census.html> accessed 28 Apr 2016.

21 KAB MOOC 6/9/3958 ref 31284 Maclean, Margaret Cumming born Crawford. Estate Papers. 1931.

her and her grand-daughter, Virginia Margaret Harrison Dakin,²² dying without issue, she bequeathed substantial sums of money to:

1. Mrs. Elizabeth Cole of Grag-i-nish, Newlands Road, Glasgow (£5000),
2. Miss Emily Doris Blackburn of "The Boulders", Simonstown (£5000)
3. Thomas George Cleghorn of Cape Town (£1000).

The remainder of her estate was then to be divided in equal shares among

4. Mrs. Ethel Lang Stevenson of 7 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh,
5. Miss Roberta Crawford Sinclair of 1 Salisbury Place, Edinburgh,
6. Mrs. Catherine Sutherland of The Square, Fairfield, Manchester, England, and
7. Dr. Georgina Brodie, care of Dr. Sutherland, The Square, Fairfield, Manchester, England.

Apart from the £1000 awarded to Thomas George Cleghorn, Sheila was her mother's sole heiress and was awarded over £46,000.²³ As it happens, Margaret's granddaughter, never married. She died a spinster on 2 Oct 1975 at "Ballycrystal", Monmouth Avenue, in Claremont, Cape Town. I've been unable to establish when her mother Sheila died, but a document at the Cape Archives leads me to believe that she was still alive in 1983-84.²⁴

5. The Intending Immigrants

Alexander McArthur of Balemartine, Tiree

Alexander was born the son of James McArthur and Margaret Cameron on 23 Mar 1855. In the 1861, Alexander is residing with his parents at Balemartine and in 1871 he is listed as a 16 year old farm servant in the household of Donald and Christina McDonald. By 1881, Alexander, now 26 years of age, is once again living with his parents. Both he and his father were working as masons.²⁵

Archibald McCallum of Balemartine, Tiree

The 1861 and 1871 census returns for Tiree do not show an Archibald McCallum at Balemartine who would have been 25 years old by 1881. In 1881, however, there is a 24 year old carpenter (wright) residing at Balemartine with his mother Mary McCallum. She is a widow and, assisted by her 22 year old son Niel, is farming 12 acres of land of which 6 is arable. It is noted that all three were born on Tiree.²⁵

22 UK, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960. Windsor Castle of Union-Castle Steamship Co. Ltd. Arrived at Southampton, England on 17 May 1926. She is listed as aged 4, so born ca. 1922.

23 KAB MOOC 6/9/3958 ref 31284. Her will and codicil were signed at Cape Town on 30 Apr 1926.

24 KAB PAA 1302 ref AF20/4/5890 Cape. Claremont, Erf 56420. S Daken. Municipal Minor Divisions. 1983-1984.

25 1881 Census for Tiree, Argyll, Scotland (transcribed), <http://www.keithdash.net/Census.html> accessed 28 Apr 2016.



Balemartine Township, Tiree

(Source: Margaret Whitaker's postcard at <http://keithdash.net/OldTiree.html>)

Archibald McCallum was born at Glasgow on 15 Aug 1854 and baptised at Tiree on 31 Aug 1854.²⁷ His parents were Neil McCallum, a Master Blacksmith, and Mary McIntyre. In 1861, Archibald is residing with his widowed mother, Mary McCallum, a crofter of 14 acres at Balinoe, his brothers Donald and Neil, aged 8 and 4 respectively, and his sister, Catherine, aged 2.²⁸ Archibald's father had died of tetanus following a gunshot wound

<i>Name, Age, and Sex.</i>	<i>When & Where Died.</i>	<i>Cause of Death.</i>
<i>Neil MacCallum. 31 years. Male.</i>	<i>1861, January, Nineteenth, about 9h. A.M. Balinoe, Parish of Tyree, K. Coll., Argyllshire.</i>	<i>Tetanus supervening on a gun shot wound in right leg as certified by Alexander Buchanan Surgeon., Tyree.</i>

to his right leg on 16 Jan 1861. His brother-in-law, Malcolm McIntyre, who also lived at Balinoe registered his death on 28 Jan 1861.²⁹

26 1881 Census for Tiree, <http://www.keithdash.net/Census.html> accessed 28 Apr 2016.

27 Statutory Birth record no. 3226. Courtesy of Flo Straker.

28 1861 Census for Tiree, <http://www.keithdash.net/Census.html> accessed 28 Apr 2016.

29 Scotland, Statutory Deaths 1861 Tyree 551/01 0006 Entry no. 4.



Island House, Tiree, ca. 1900. Source: www.aniodhlann.org.uk

In 1871, 15 year old Archibald was working as a farm servant at the home of the Duke of Argyll's Factor, Island House, situated on the banks of Loch An Eilean in the middle of the Isle of Tiree.³⁰

Peter McDonald of Moss, Tiree

Peter was the son of Angus McDonald, a shepherd and cowherd, and Catherine Carmichael. He was born at Gortendonnell, Tiree on 1 Jun 1858.³¹

In 1861, 3 year old Peter is living with his mother, Catherine, 37, a wool spinner, and his sister, also Catherine, aged 1, at Moss. His mother is noted as married, suggesting that her husband, Peter's father, was elsewhere at the taking of the census on the night of 7 Apr 1861.

In 1871, Peter, now 12 years of age, is still residing at Moss with his parents, his three sisters, Catherine, Flora and Marion,³² as well as his 63 year old grandmother, Flora McDonald. His father Angus is an agricultural labourer.

At the taking of the 1881 Census, the McDonalds are still living at Moss, but Peter is no longer living there with them.³³ I've been unable to establish with any certainty where Peter was at the time. Had Peter already embarked on the long journey to the Colony, first to Southampton or Plymouth and then from there onto one of the ports in South Africa?

30 1871 Census for Tiree, <http://www.keithdash.net/Census.html> accessed 28 Apr 2016.

31 Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XY1R-48R> accessed 14 Jul 2016).

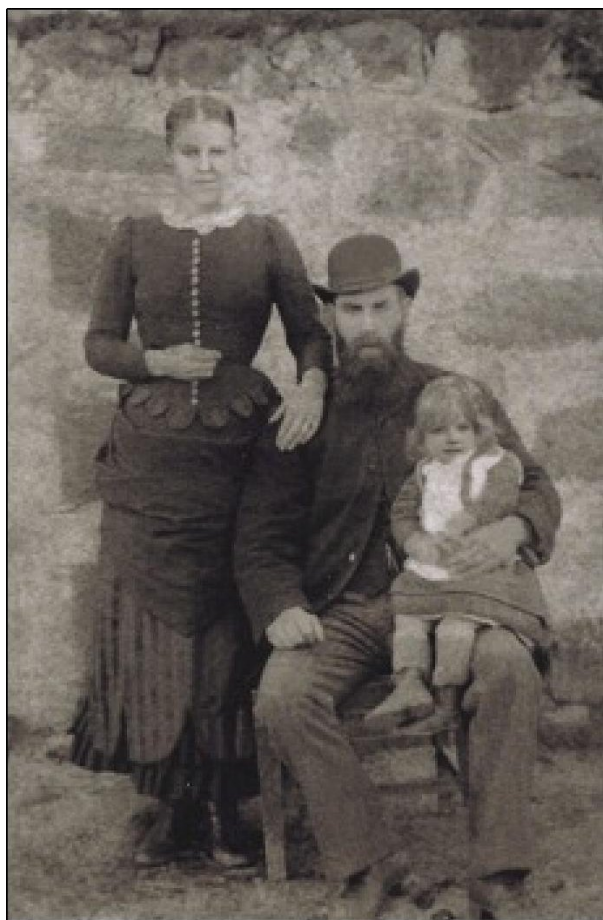
32 On the ferry from Tiree to Oban after the 2016 Tiree Homecoming, which took place from 23-27 May 2016, I was delight to find myself in conversation with Mary Laing, Peter McDonald's grand-niece. Peter's sister and Mary's grandmother, Marion McDonald, left Tiree when she was still quite young to marry Mary's grandfather and relocate to Skye. Although her grandmother passed away before Mary was born, she often heard about Peter McDonald from her father.

33 1881 Census for Tiree, <http://www.keithdash.net/Census.html> accessed 28 Apr 2016.

6. The Immigrants and South Africa

Neil McLaine's application for Alexander McArthur and Archibald McCallum was dated 31 Dec 1881. They presumably left Scotland for the Colony sometime in 1882.

Interestingly, however, Alexander McArthur died on Tiree on 15 Jun 1927. He is buried with his wife and several of their 15 children at Soroby, Tiree.³⁴ Alexander married Flora Campbell on 11 Dec 1884 in Glasgow.³⁵ In 1901 he and Flora are living with their extensive family at Balinoe, where Alexander is working as a mason.³⁶ Only a ship manifest will confirm when exactly Archibald sailed to South Africa and whether or not he was accompanied by Alexander McArthur. Unfortunately, passenger lists to South



Above: Alexander and Flora McArthur with their firstborn Murdoch born ca. 1886.

Right: Alexander McArthur aged about 60.

Source: Flo Straker

Africa prior to 1890 are extremely difficult to come by. On the other hand, according to McArthur family tradition (personal communication),³⁷ 'Alexander was a tall handsome



34 Tiree Cemetery Records, <http://www.keithdash.net/TireeCemetery.html> accessed 7 Jun 2016.

35 D. Meek, *The Rebellious Island: Unlocking the History of the Land Struggle in Tiree*, in *The Secret Island: Towards a History of Tiree* (Island Book Trust, 2014), p. 163. In Sep 1886, Alexander McArthur was arrested along with five others for his participation in the 'rebellion' of 1886.

36 1901 Census for Tiree, <http://www.keithdash.net/Census.html> accessed 28 Apr 2016.

37 Flo Straker email to me dated 2 May 2016. Flo's husband is a descendant of Alexander McArthur.

strapping big chiel, with an eye for the ladies', who only married when he was in his 30s. McLaine's application clearly states that McArthur & McCallum had agreed to work for McLaren & Fearn for a period of 12 months, at the considerable sum of £1 per day. This was the equivalent of £110 per day today.³⁸ Perhaps, after his contract was up, and having earned what he considered enough to keep a family, Alexander, he returned to Scotland, married his sweetheart and moved back to Balnoe in Tiree.

Archibald McCallum, on the other hand, certainly left Scotland. He died of chronic bronchitis at his home, 1 Orpen Street, Kimberley, South Africa on the 11 Jul 1927. He was 70 years of age and according to his death notice, he was a retired Government Servant.³⁹ Archibald is buried with his wife, Elizabeth Jane Harvey, and their son, William Alexander McCallum in Gladstone Cemetery in Kimberley, South Africa.⁴⁰



Archibald married Elizabeth Jane Harvey Smith at Kimberley on 6 Nov 1888.⁴¹ According to her death notice, they had six children; Neil Henry, Mary Elizabeth (married John Slier), John

Kimberley town, 1882
McGregor Museum. Kimberley
Photography no. 7623

38 <http://inflation.stephenmorley.org/> accessed 6 Jun 2016.

39 Cape Civil Deaths (hereafter CCD), 1927 Kimberley, Image 543 of 1180. FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1951-22084-62042-18?cc=1779109>) accessed 6 Jun 2016).

40 Billion Graves, <https://billiongraves.com/grave/Archibald-MCCALLUM/16116720> accessed 6 Jun 2016.

41 LDS Microfilm no. 1367631, Item 2, Entry no. 120, Cape Province Marriages 1888. Thanks to Ellen Stanton for image.

Malcolm, William Alexander (ca. 1899-12 May 1962), Catherine Flora (married Daniel Vaughan) and Donald Alexander. Elizabeth died at Kimberley Hospital on 5 Dec 1938, the result of an intestinal obstruction and carcinoma of the large bowel. At the time, she was living at 33a Green Street in Kimberley. Her son, John Malcolm, who was with her when she died, filed her death notice at Kimberley on 8 Dec 1938.⁴²

A search of the Cape Civil Deaths revealed that two more children were born to Archibald and Mary McCallum. Donald Archibald died of influenza and diarrhoea aged 15 months and 21 days at his parents' home in Orpen Street on 27 Oct 1895.⁴³ Almost two years later, on the 1 Aug 1897, Archibald and Mary lost another son, Archibald Cameron. He was 6 months and 26 days old when he died of bronchitis at 1 Orpen Street in Kimberley. Both infants were buried at the Kimberley's New Cemetery and in both 1895 and 1897 Archibald was employed as a guard at Kimberley's gaol.⁴⁴

Let us now turn our attention to Peter McDonald. There is no passenger list for Peter McDonald either. He, however, certainly traveled to South Africa and then on to Kimberley for he died at the Carnarvon Hospital in Kimberley on 25 Sep 1888.⁴⁵ He was estimated to be about 30 years of age and was an employee of the Central D[iamond] M[ine] Company.⁴⁶ His death notice was filed on 28 Sep 1888 by Neil Cameron, who recorded that the deceased had left 'no property whatsoever beyond clothing'.⁴⁷

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- 42 KAB MOK 1/1/1032 ref 1360 McCallum, Elizabeth Jane Harvey born Smith. Estate Papers. 1938 and CCD, 1938 Kimberley-King Williams Town, Image 1032 of 1117. FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1-159394-297483-65?cc=1779109> : 24 June 2016).
- 43 CCD, 1895 Kimberley, Image 1047 of 1388. FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1-9729-22129-97?cc=1779109> : accessed 7 Jun 2016).
- 44 CCD, 1897 Kimberley, Image 988 of 2012. FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1-159394-67166-0?cc=1779109>: accessed 7 Jun 2016). Was the infant named after Archibald Cameron who was a witness at his parents' marriage in 1888?
- 45 KAB, MOOC 6/9/261 ref 1804 McDonald, Peter. Death Notice. 1888. FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-H969-3?mode=g&cat=331262> : accessed 29 Apr 2016).
- 46 "Barney" Barnato began the bold speculation in mining claims that led to the formation of the Barnato Diamond Mining Company in 1880. It later merged with other companies to form the Kimberley Central Diamond Mining Company, which, along with the Compagnie Française des Mines de Diamant du Cap, seriously challenged Cecil Rhodes's De Beers Mining Company. Rhodes knew the diamond market intimately, was his most-valued friend. With Beit's help, Rhodes expanded his claims until all the De Beers mines were under his control. In 1887 he set about acquiring the Kimberley Central Diamond Mining Company, which was mainly controlled by Barney Barnato." <http://www.britannica.com/topic/Kimberley-Central-Diamond-Mining-Company> accessed 29 Apr 2016. See also <http://www.sahistory.org.za/dated-event/de-beers-consolidated-mines-ltd-founded-exercise-control-over-diamond-production-south-a>
- 47 KAB, MOK 1/2/27 ref 3992 McDonald, Peter. Deceased Estate Papers. 1888. FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9BG-8SYK-S?i=1077&cat=25414> accessed 1 May 2016).

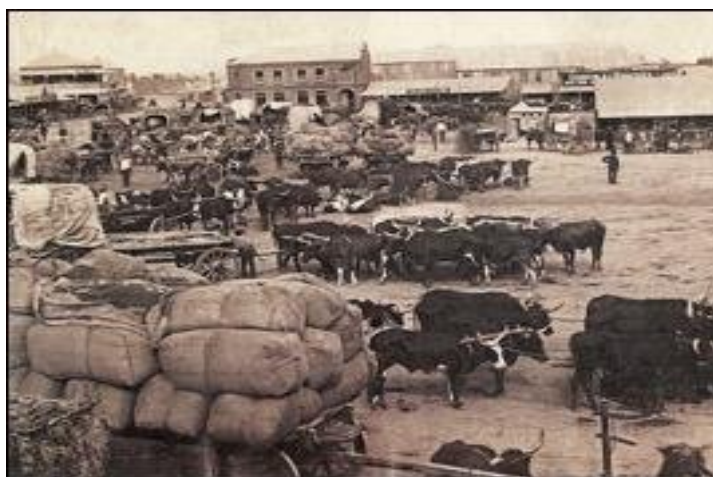
7. Two Additional Immigrants

From among the papers in Peter McDonald's Estate file, there is mention of two additional Tirisdeachs; ⁴⁸ Duncan Cameron, son of Walter Carmichael of Greenhill, ⁴⁹ and Archibald McLean, son of Ann Campbell of Cornaigmore. Both men died at Kimberley.



Duncan Cameron Carmichael of Greenhill, Tiree

Duncan Cameron Carmichael died at Carnarvon Hospital, Kimberley on 13 Dec 1887 aged 37. ⁵⁰ He was unmarried and had been employed as an electrician. His death notice was signed by none other than Peter McDonald, who stated that the deceased left 'clothes, a silver watch and chain, and £1.3.6'. His possessions, which included a bible, were later sold at Kimberley's Market Square on 2 Dec 1877 for the sum of £34. ⁵¹



Kimberley Market Square, 1880

⁴⁸ Natives of the Isle of Tiree, Scotland.

⁴⁹ Duncan Cameron Carmichael and Lachlan McLean were both from the same village. They will surely have known each other.

⁵⁰ Death notice in Diamond Fields Advertiser. Curtesy of the Africana Library, Kimberley.

⁵¹ KAB MOK 1/1/24 ref 3730 Carmichael, Duncan. Deceased Estate Papers. 1887. FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9BG-H9JK-D?i=1308&cat=25414> accessed 2 May 2016).

On 31 Oct 1888, Donald McCallum, Minister of Heylipol,⁵² wrote to the Master of the High Court at Kimberley on behalf of Walter Carmichael of Moss, Tirie. He authorised Mr. Neil Cameron, engineer at Kimberley Diamond Fields to 'raise from the hands of the Government' any money left by his son and to send it to him along with his chest that was left at Mr. Carsel's Hotel in Kimberley. John Walker, Elder, witnessed Walter's mark.⁵³

Duncan Cameron Carmichael was born on 27 Jan 1851 and baptised on 6 April 1851. His father Walter Carmichael was a cottar.⁵⁴ He was also Peter McDonald's uncle, i.e. Catherine Carmichael's brother, which means Duncan Cameron Carmichael and Peter McDonald were first cousins.

At Moss Tirie, Scotland.
31 October 1888

To The Master of High Court
Kimberley, S. Africa 3730

I, Walter Carmichael, residing at Greenhill, Tirie, Scotland, am the father of the late Duncan Carmichael who died at South Kimberley, S. Africa about nine months ago, and I hereby authorise Mr. Neil Cameron Engineer Kimberley, Diamond Fields S. Africa, to raise from the hands of the Government any money left by my son the said late Duncan Carmichael and to send the same on to me. I further authorise the said Mr. Neil Cameron to send me any thing else that may have been left by my son but not in the hands of the Government, if there be any such. I believe his chest was left at Mr. Carsel's Hotel.

His
Walter X Carmichael
Mark
Dora's Mrs. Blaine Witness
John Walker Witness

We the undersigned testify that the above was signed by Mrs. (X) in our presence at Moss Tirie Scotland on 31st Oct. 1888 by Walter Carmichael the father of Duncan Carmichael who died at Kimberley about nine months ago.

Dora's Mrs. Blaine
Minister of Heylipol, Tirie
John Walker, Elder

REGISTERED BY THE HIGH COURT
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
5 DEC 88

Archibald McLean

Archibald McLean's death notice, signed by Arthur Fuller,⁵⁵ gives no indication where exactly he was born in Scotland or who his parents were. It states simply that he was unmarried, that he was working as a foreman (Electric Light) and that he died at Carnarvon Hospital, Kimberley on 16 Jan 1888 aged 32. He would thus have been born

52 Hew Scott, *Fasti ecclesiae Scoticae*. The succession of ministers in the Church of Scotland from the Reformation. Vol IV, 1923, p. 110. Donald McCallum transferred from Halin-in-Waternish and administered at Heylipol from 22 Dec 1887 to 14 Aug 1889 when he transferred to Lochs.

53 KAB MOK 1/1/24 ref 3730.

54 D. Meek, p. 155. A tenant who occupies a cottage on a farm in return for his labour. He is not a land owner.

55 S.S.B. Gilder, South African medicine in the 1890s, in *SA Mediese Tydskrif* of 29 Jun 1983, p. 4. Arthur Fuller was the doctor at Kimberley hospital. <http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Content/Docs/53SOUTH%20AFRICAN%20MEDICINE%20IN%201890S%20S%20S%20B%20Gilder.pdf> and <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1081541/pdf/medhist00119-0055.pdf> acc'd 8 Jul 2016.

Walter the [unclear] and Ann Campbell
 Cornaigmore all in the
 balance of [unclear] Scotland
 for coming to [unclear]
 the money and other
 things left by this
 [unclear] who died at
 Kimberley some time ago
 and that nothing
 has yet been sent.
 The authority was
 given to Mr Neil
 Cameron residing there.
 In a letter of
 date 17 Dec 1888

Mr Neil Cameron
 Cameron writes to [unclear]
 [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
 Master of High Court
 will send him what
 he has on hand
 next week.
 You will please
 oblige us by sending
 what you have on
 hand at your
 earliest convenience.
 I am
 Dear Sir
 Donald [unclear]

ca. 1856. His personal effects included £1.14.0 and one parcel of papers.⁵⁶

Among his Estate Papers there is a letter similar to one found among Duncan C. Carmichael's papers. Also written by Donald McCallum, Minister of Heylpol, on behalf of Ann Campbell of Cornaigmore, it clearly stipulates that she was

the mother of Archibald McLean. In it Ann Campbell authorised Mr. Neil Cameron, engineer at Kimberley Diamond Fields to 'raise from the hands of the Government' any money left by her son and to send

DFA – 20 January 1888

it to her. It was written at Moss, Tiree, Scotland on 31 Oct 1888 and addressed to the Master of the High Court at Kimberley. John Walker, Elder, witnessed Ann's mark.⁵⁷

AT the Carnarvon Hospital, Kimberley,
 on the 16th inst., of Camp Fever,
ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL MAULEAN, native of
 Tiree, Argyleshire, Scotland, and for the
 past four years of the Electric Light Depar-
 tment, Kimberley, at the age of 20 years.

Archibald was born 1 Jan 1857, the illegitimate son of Ann Campbell of Cornaigmore & Niel McLean of Grianal (Greenhill), Tiree. She bore a further 2 illegitimate children by Niel; Flora Ann McLean, born 16 Jan 1854 & Ann McLean, born 4 Oct 1860.

DFA – 29 September 1888

DIED.
AT Carnarvon Hospital, on the 25th inst.,
PETER McDONALD, of Tiree, Argyles-
 shire, Scotland, aged 30 years, deeply re-
 gretted by a wide circle of friends.

56 KAB MOK 1/1/24 ref 3759 McLean, Archibald. Deceased Estate Papers. 1888. FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9BG-83M7-2?mode=g&i=88&cat=25414> accessed 2 May 2016).

57 KAB MOK 1/1/24 ref 3759.

The cousins Peter McDonald and Duncan Cameron Carmichael, as well as Archibald McLean, who all died within a year of each other, were all buried in the Gladstone Cemetery in Kimberley, and although my enquiry to the Africana Library in Kimberley elicited a same-day response, the librarian was unable to enlighten me as to their cause of death. The



Kimberley's primitive iron and wood Carnarvon Hospital in 1874

Diamond Fields Advertiser (DFA) of 20 January 1888, however, states that Archibald Campbell McLean died of 'Camp Fever'.

The Gladstone cemetery records show that all three were buried on the day they died. Was this because they were infectious? Apparently, nearly everyone at some time succumbed to 'camp fever', which was '... malarial, aggravated by exposure to the sun, tent life, bad weather ... imperfectly tinned meat and fish, a scarcity of meat and vegetables and ... by strong drink'.⁵⁸ Contaminated water contributed to camp fever, which was more prevalent during the warmer months of the year.⁵⁹

Were Duncan Cameron Carmichael and Archibald McLean the 'Friends' that would meet Alexander McArthur and Archibald McCallum on their arrival in Cape Town? And did they then perhaps travel up to the Kimberley diamond fields together?

8. Flora Norquay (née Brown), the Odd Lady Out

Flora Norquay differs from the gentlemen above in two respects. Firstly, she and her husband John came out as agricultural settlers. They were part of an immigration scheme organised by the Colonial Government to introduce agricultural settlers to the Eastern Cape. And secondly, I have been unable to establish when and where she passed away.

Flora was born on 26 Aug 1837, the daughter of Hugh Brown and Euphemia McMillan at Mannal, Tiree. She was baptised on the 29 Oct 1837. On 9 May 1865, she married John Cromarty Norquay at 15 Sir Michael Street, Greenock, Renfrew in Scotland. John

⁵⁸ Robert Vicat Turrell, *Capital and Labour on the Kimberley Diamond Fields, 1871-1890*. African Studies (Book 54), (Cambridge University Press, 2008), p. 31 footnote no. 50.

⁵⁹ Rall, p. 86.

was from South Ronaldsay, Orkney. He was born 24 May 1842 to William Norquay and his wife Elizabeth Mowat. Flora and John had probably met on Tiree because in 1861 John is listed as a visitor in the household of Colin and Catherine Brown, Mannal. Colin Brown was Flora's brother and Colin's wife, Catherine Cromarty, was also from Orkney. In the 1861 census, John is listed a servant and 'commercial cl[erk]', while Flora is recorded as a visitor in the household of John McLean, carpenter from Tiree, at 3 Dock Street, Anderston, Glasgow.

Five children were born in Glasgow, Scotland before the family emigrated to South Africa in about 1881, where John worked as a painter. He died at his residence in Smith Street, King William's Town on 24 Dec 1885, leaving his wife with 5 minor children, all of whom remained single and eventually died in South Africa.

1. Elizabeth McLean Norquay, born 4 Jun 1865. She died on 11 May 1959 in East London, Cape Province.
2. Archibald Brown Norquay, born 24 Nov 1868, died 29 Jan 1915 in Johannesburg, Transvaal.
3. William Norquay, born 3 Jan 1871, died 13 Oct 1953 in East London, Cape Province.
4. Euphemia 'Effie' Brown Norquay, born 19 Oct 1872, died 28 Aug 1967 in East London, Cape Province, and
5. Isabella Dickson Norquay, born 19 Dec 1874, died 5 Oct 1900 in King William's Town in the Cape.

Flora was present when her son Archibald Brown Norquay passed away in Jan 1915. At the time she, Archibald and his two sisters, Elizabeth and Effie were residing together at 15 Jacoba Street, Troyeville in Johannesburg. Flora registered her son's death at Johannesburg in Feb 1915. This is also the last time I am able to pinpoint Flora's whereabouts.

9. Conclusion

Over the centuries, thousands of Scots, for whatever reason, left their homeland to make their homes abroad. South Africa was not one of the countries to which Scots were cleared, which might explain why South Africa tends to be neglected as a country that absorbed Scottish immigrants. In the adopted homeland, it is also invariably the successful immigrants that we learn about, rather than those that simply disappear below the radar. In this essay, I have attempted to illustrate that their story can and should to be told.

10. Acknowledgments

Keith Dash's website, *Isle of Tiree Genealogy*, proved particularly valuable for census transcriptions. Flo Straker and Ellen Stanton, as always, were extremely forthcoming and readily shared information from their extensive databases. I would also like to thank Vida Allen at the McGregor Museum in Kimberley, as well as Bernice Nagel, Librarian at the Africana Library, also in Kimberley, South Africa, for their super-prompt responses to my emails. My thanks to Francois Andre Greeff for all his suggestions.

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12. Postscript

Additional information was received from Pat Bauer, Blomfontein, in response to this article when it was published in *Genesis* and it is included here with her permission.

As I mentioned earlier, Mrs Maclean was a friend of my late mother's family in Cape Town, the van der Byls, and she was my mother's godmother. Her daughter, Sheila, married a Mr Dakin, who unfortunately turned out to be a most unsatisfactory husband; I think he had an alcohol problem, but in any case he disappeared from the scene when their only child Virginia was quite small. In those days one did not get divorced and I have no idea what happened to him. This is purely oral history, long before my time. What I do know is that Sheila as a fairly young single mother reached out in kindness to an elderly man (I think a friend of her father's and I think also connected with a shipping line) and when he died inherited his not inconsiderable estate. Presumably in due course she also inherited from her quite well-to-do parents, being their only child. One was always aware that Aunt Sheila had money, but she lived in a most unpretentious way and any discussion of money would have been considered very vulgar. Her house, Ballycrystal in Monmouth Avenue, Claremont, Cape Town, was beautiful in a modern version of a Cape Dutch style, but like Sheila herself, it spoke of understated elegance. Sheila had bought the house directly from Dorothea Fairbridge, a well-known author in the 1920s and 1930s who published several books about the Cape and who was a keen Empire loyalist as well as being knowledgeable about old Cape houses. When I was a child in the 1950s and 1960s we would always visit Sheila at Ballycrystal for lunch or drinks during our annual Christmas holiday at the Cape. I still have a vague recollection of lunching there in the early 1950s and of our being served at table by two White maids, each dressed in a red uniform with white aprons and frilly white caps. (I mention this because most of the other people we knew had black or coloured domestic help; white help suggested a very superior household.) Sheila herself was tall and slim, quietly but tastefully dressed and had beautiful white hair and wore glasses. She was a keen traveller and was usually accompanied by her great friend, Doris Blackburn, as well as her daughter Virginia. I can remember lunching with the three of them on board ship in Durban harbour as they returned home from a voyage to South America (according to them, interesting but they were struck by the great disparities between rich and poor there - even as a child, I remember thinking that South Africa couldn't be all that different!) They also laughed as they told of a motoring holiday in Italy in the early 1950s when women weren't all that emancipated there and how some Italian men they had met were greatly impressed by their daring in travelling without a male escort and described them as having 'the courage of Napoleon'!

Sheila was a very generous person, and was extremely good to my mother's brother, Canon Foster van der Byl and his wife Peggy, who also lived in the Cape. On one occasion when she was travelling to England on a Union-Castle liner and it so happened that the van der Byls were also booked to travel on the same ship, Sheila insisted on upgrading their accommodation so that they, like her, could travel first class for the voyage. She did this in such a gracious way, implying that she would benefit from this arrangement by having them close at hand, that it did not seem like charity.

Her daughter Virginia was a very much more down-to-earth person, perhaps because she was of a different generation. Rather brusque and not very interested in her appearance.,she was involved in a number of worthwhile welfare organisations; I remember particularly that she was secretary of the committee of the St Francis Home for coloured boys, an Anglican orphanage in Athlone, Cape Town. She was a hard worker and I gather well respected by the organisations to which she contributed a great deal of time and effort. Unfortunately she developed cancer and died from the disease. Although she still lived at home with her mother, she managed to downplay her illness, so that Sheila did not realise how very ill Virginia was. A mutual friend told me that there was a cooling down of the relationship between Sheila and my uncle and aunt because she felt that they should have told her the terminal nature of Virginia's illness, but whether that continued, I could not say.

When I was working in Cape Town in the 1970s, and after Virginia had died, my uncle and aunt insisted that I should call on Sheila, which I duly did. She was frail by that time and I think a little confused, but nonetheless she greeted me most warmly and graciously and insisted on my staying to have a glass of sherry with her and to exchange polite conversation, though I'm sure she didn't by that stage know who I was. I left Cape Town in January 1979, so I don't know when she died.

I hope this has conveyed some idea of what Sheila and Virginia were like. My mother moved to Cape Town from Pietermaritzburg in 1982 after my father's death and remained in Cape Town until her death in December 1997, but I don't recall her mentioning having seen Sheila during that time. However, she didn't have transport and Sheila would certainly not have been in a position to leave home by then at her advanced age, so I can't close the story for you, unfortunately.