

CAPTAIN DONALD MACKINNON

MASTER MARINER

by

Lloyd Pitcher

DONALD MACKINNON



DONALD MACKINNON

- ▣ Born 20 December 1826
- ▣ Heanish, Isle of Tiree, Scotland
- ▣ Child number 3 of 14
- ▣ Father: Neil MacKinnon
- ▣ Mother: Marion MacKinnon nee Munn

AGE 18

- ▣ 1844 – 1848
- ▣ Apprentice
- ▣ Barque *Glencairn*
- ▣ Out of Greenock

AGE 20

- ▣ 1848
- ▣ Apprentice
- ▣ *Isabella*
- ▣ Out of Greenock

AGE 22

- ▣ 1848 – 1849
- ▣ Seaman
- ▣ *City of Glasgow*
- ▣ Out of Glasgow

AGE 24

- ▣ 1850
- ▣ Able Bodied Seaman (AB)
- ▣ *Jane Brown*
- ▣ Out of Greenock
- ▣ 2nd Mate
- ▣ 1st Mate

AGE 25

- ▣ Master's Certificate number 5308
- ▣ 7 July 1851
- ▣ Captain
- ▣ *Jane Brown*
- ▣ Demerera sugar
- ▣ British Guyana
- ▣ Montreal, Canada

AGE 28

- ▣ 1854 – 1857
- ▣ Captain
- ▣ *Montgomery*

MARRIAGE

- ▣ To Margaret Anne Murray
- ▣ 13 June 1855
- ▣ Glasgow
- ▣ Margaret Anne b. 18 July 1833, Glasgow
- ▣ Daughter of William Murray & Margaret McCallum

CHILD 1

- ▣ William Montgomery MacKinnon
- ▣ Born 2 April 1856
- ▣ On board *Montgomery*
- ▣ South east of Madagascar

AGE 32

- ▣ 1858
- ▣ Captain *Tartar*
- ▣ One trip: London – Calcutta - Liverpool

CHILD 2

- ▣ Alfred Neil MacKinnon
- ▣ Born 1 May 1858
- ▣ Died 22 June 1858
- ▣ Diarrhoea
- ▣ 7 weeks
- ▣ Donald at sea for the birth and death of his son

AGE 35

- ▣ 1861 – 1864
- ▣ Captain *Ellen Rodger*

ELLEN RODGER



CHILD 3

- ▣ Marion Mary MacKinnon
- ▣ Born Gourock
- ▣ 21 December 1861
- ▣ Died 1880 aged 19

CHILD 4

- ▣ Francis Alfred MacKinnon
- ▣ Born 21 August 1863
- ▣ Died 1885 aged 32

AGE 38

- ▣ 1864 - 1867
- ▣ Captain *Taeping*
- ▣ Brother Colin MacKinnon Captain *Ellen Rodger*
lost at sea 5 September 1865

AGE 38

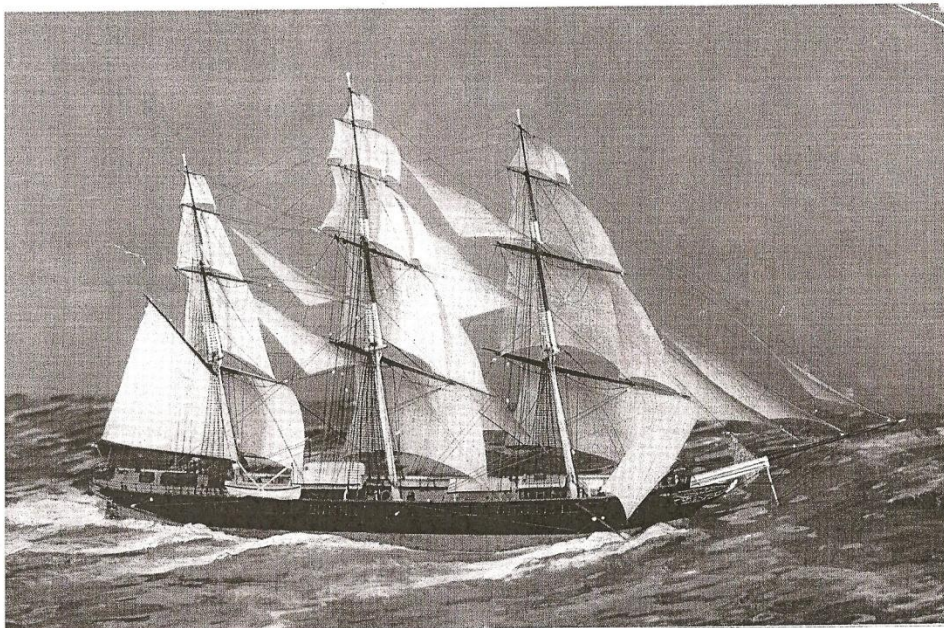
SHIPS — TAEPING, — TEA CLIPPER.

PLATE No.

REMARKS—

FROM N.K. PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUMS.

SAILING SHIPS



THE GREAT TEA RACE 1866

- ▣ Foo Chow, China, to London
- ▣ 3 ships, *Taeping*, *Ariel* & *Serica*, completed the voyage in 99 days
- ▣ *Taeping* defeated *Ariel* by 10 minutes

TAEPING AND ARIEL



CHIEFTAIN'S BRIDE

- ▣ Local name “The Crab”
- ▣ In strong seas, broached (turned sideways)
- ▣ 14 horsepower engine

CHIEFTAIN'S BRIDE



THE INCIDENT

- ▣ Voyage Tiree to Tobermory
- ▣ 1 ½ miles from Coll
- ▣ Storm and heavy seas
- ▣ Passengers
- ▣ Sheep and cattle on deck
- ▣ “The Crab” lives up to its name
- ▣ Broached or “tipped on its beam end”

THE RESCUE

- ▣ 54 unfortunate beasts thrown overboard
- ▣ Captain MacKinnon assists in righting the ship
- ▣ Gangways swept away – only damage
- ▣ Gangways replaced at Coll
- ▣ 3 hours later trip resumes, to Oban

GLASGOW HERALD

- ▣ 3 October 1866
- ▣ “But for the exertions of Captain MacKinnon of the “Taeping,” who was on board, most likely the vessel would have gone down.”

LIFE GOES ON

- ▣ Captain MacKinnon rejoins *Taeping* in London
- ▣ *Taeping* leaves London 11 October 1866
- ▣ Bound for Shanghai
- ▣ 1000 miles east of Algoa Bay
- ▣ Port Elizabeth – Cape Colony
- ▣ Donald unwell
- ▣ Taken ashore to hospital

CAPE TOWN

- ▣ When well enough, travelled to Cape Town
- ▣ Wish was to be with his family
- ▣ Passage home secured on *SS Roman*

ON BOARD SS *ROMAN*

- ▣ Donald did not recover
- ▣ Died on board
- ▣ 19 January 1867
- ▣ Buried in Cape Town

REMEMBERING DONALD MACKINNON

- ▣ Great man
- ▣ Little formal education
- ▣ Learned “the sea”
- ▣ Great leader of men
- ▣ Captain at 23
- ▣ Winner of the Great Tea Race 1866
- ▣ Saviour of *Chieftain's Bride*

CAPTAIN

MASTER MARINER

SON OF TIRÉE

VALE DONALD MACKINNON

