

18 March 1998

Mr Alasdair Sinclair
Brock
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Dear Mr Sinclair,

I am very grateful to you for your most interesting tape which Bob passed to me the other day and particularly the family anecdotes regarding John Campbell (1801-1872) - Am Baillidh Mor and the Macquarrie family.

I wonder which factor was involved with the incident involving the wall at Island House. Do you happen to know the dates of birth and death of John and Lachie McKinnon. This might help to identify the factor. On the tape you wondered which factors had been involved on the island. I might be able to help you in part

John Campbell became Chamberlain in 1846 for Mull and also for Tiree. Lachlan Macquarrie of Hynish was appointed Ground Officer on Tiree. Both served in that capacity until 1864 when they both retired from that position. However, John Campbell continued to serve as Chamberlain on Mull until his death on 31 August 1872.

John Campbell was succeeded on Tiree by John M Geikie who was the last Chamberlain for Tiree. He was appointed in 1864 and continued for about 12 years until 1876. The position was then relegated to the office of Sub-Factor and Hugh McDiarmid was appointed. He was originally from Perthshire. Before coming to Tiree he had been Ground Officer on Mull. James Wyllie succeeded John Campbell in 1872 as Chamberlain on Mull and appears to have had oversight of Hugh McDiarmid on Tiree. Originally Wyllie had been factor on the Breadalbane estates. In 1883 he was still Chamberlain when he gave evidence before the Highlands and Islands Commission.

I understand that both John Campbell and Hugh McDiarmid were known on Tiree as Am Baillidh Dubh.

I was very interested to hear that Bob's great great great grandfather, Archibald McKinnon and family were evicted from Ruaig in the early 1850s. Do you know where they moved to? If you have a rough family tree I should be very interested to see it. I will try and discover the date of eviction and the reasons given. I enclose a photocopy of a photograph of Lachlan Macquarrie who would have been the Ground Officer at the time of the eviction. He is pictured with his wife Marion McIntyre of Ardanish Mull and one of their sons Duncan. This is the same Macquarrie who paid the bail money for the men arrested on Tiree during the land agitation which is rather ironic.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Your sincerely,



R.K. CAMPBELL