

Circeabol
Kirkapol

Kirkapol

As indicated by its name, Kirkapol has a long association with Christianity. In it are two of the three graveyards still in use on the island, one, An Cladh Beag which contains the ruins of the Old Parish Church dedicated to St. Columba. According to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (Vol.3), the oldest written reference to this church is 1375 in the records of the Diocese of Lismore, and it is believed that it may have been in use into the eighteenth century.

The ancient chapel which stands on a rocky knoll about 8- yards north of this church has no recorded history. Both church and chapel are of similar architectural character and are believed to be closely contemporary.

The larger graveyard to the east known as Cladh Odhrain (Oran's Graveyard) is in some legends believed to be the burial place of St. Oran. In the 1890's the foundations of an even older church were discovered within its walls.

1. Lodge Farm

Lodge Farm house, the home of Miss Elsie MacKinnon, was originally built in the late eighteenth century as a school, was recorded as such on the Rates Roll in 1870 and probably continued until Ruaig School opened in 1877. One of the fields on the farm is known as 'Croit Livingstone', called after Calum Livingstone, the last teacher who worked in this school.

The MacKinnon family who were the tenants of Lodge Farm then came to use the school as their dwelling house, and to this day some of the original walls form part of the structure. The ruins of their old home can be seen immediately east of the large graveyard.

On this croft, on 4th August 1866 was born the Rev. Hector MacKinnon (*Eachainn Dhòmnaill 'ic Iain 'ic Eachainn*). He served as minister in Kirkapol, Campbeltown, Stornoway and Shettleston where he died in 1911. He was regarded as one of the most powerful preachers of his day, preaching both in Gaelic and English, and was often referred to as the 'Spurgeon of the North'. He married Martha Adamson in 1898 and had two sons - **Donald**, born in 1899 and **Robert** born in 1902.

This croft also contains two interesting features, one being an ancient well, known as **Tobar Eachainn** (Hector's Well) which probably served the pre-crofting township of Kirkapol. This is a natural spring enclosed with dry-stone walls and roofed with turf-covered stone slabs. It is situated about 200 yards east of the Old Parish Church, close to the west bank of the stream, Struthan Chirceabol.

Less than 150 yards from Lodge Farm house in **Cnoc an Fhoimheir (Giant's Hillock)**. The MacKinnon family down the generations were aware of this site of antiquity and treated it with respect, not ploughing over it or disturbing it in any way. However, a Department of Agriculture Tractor whose driver was unaware of the significance of the area dislodged a large stone slab underneath which was the skeleton of a very large man in a sitting position in a stone-lined kist. The 'Giant' must have been one of the Beaker

People who lived on these islands some three to four thousand years ago and were known as such because among other artefacts buried with them in their stone-lined kists were drinking vessels - 'beakers.'

Kirkapol

2. The MacFadyen Family

Neil MacFadyen (*Niall mac Eoghain*) married **Hughina MacKay** from Tongue in Sutherland in 1851. At this time he was owner of the smack, the 'Commodore.' Their son **Hector** was a minister. Of their three daughters, **Anne** married **Hector MacKinnon** (*Eachann Buidhe*), Vaul, **Catherine** married **Donald MacLean** (*Dòmhnall Og*), Scarinish and **Ishbel** married **Lachlan MacFadyen** (Lachainn 'Ic Phàidean), Barrapol.

The same Neil MacFadyen had three brothers, Lachlan, Alasdair and Donald, all of whom were sea captains.

3. The house called '**Ormer**' was built for **Hector Lamont** (*Eachann Beag*) Master Mariner. Eachann Beag was a pilot on the Suez Canal where he died and was interred. At a later date, his ashes were brought home to Tìree.

4. The **Rev. Duncan MacFarlane**, Balemartine, minister in Kirkapol from 1930-1939 was the last Tìree man to be Church of Scotland Minister on his native island.

5. The **Rev. Donald Henry MacDonald** son of **Pipe Major John MacDonald** (*Am Ministèir Mòr*) of Balemartine was the last Tìree man to be Church of Scotland minister of Heylipol Church. He came from Portnahaven, Islay, in 1934 to fill the vacancy on the retirement of the **Rev. Malcolm MacDonald** (Calum Iain 'Illeasbuig Bhàin) of Cornaigbeg and died in harness in November 1936.

Master Mariners

Hector Lamont	Eachann Beag
Lachlan MacFadyen	Lachainn Eoghain 'ic Phàidean
Alasdair MacFadyen	Alasdair Eoghain 'ic Phàidean
Donald MacFadyen	Dòmhnall Eoghain 'ic Phàidean

Ministers

Hector MacFadyen
Hector MacKinnon

Eachann mac Neill 'ic Eoghain 'ic Phàidean
Eachann Dhòmhnail 'ic Iain 'ic Eachainn