

Some highlights of early life in Canada of Three families of Tiree McFadyen's who were part of a larger group that homesteaded North of Regina in 1885, and stayed until 1896.

My grandmother, Christina McFadyen, was born at Salum on Tiree. When she was 19 her parents and two other families of relatives decided to emigrate to western Canada and bring their families out. They were a unique 3 family group. Two McFadyen brothers and a cousin married 3 McLean sisters. The mothers were all daughters of Neil "Nial Mor" "Big Neil" McLean from Cornaigbeg (born June 1, 1809, died 1886) a crofter, carpenter and boatbuilder (master). My Grandmother's father was Donald McFadyen, a shoemaker (master), (son of Donald and Effie MacKinnon) married Mary McLean May 26, 1863. The other 2 McFadyens were Donald, Salum blacksmith (master), (Son of Hector McFadyen and Margaret McFadyen), and Neil (a crofter). We are not sure to which McFadyen Neil was brother to. Donald married Flora and Neil married Effie.

When they left they all had grown families. Mary McLean and Donald (the shoemaker) had 6 children all born on Tiree between 1865 and 1876. Mary did not want to go to Canada, but went because they thought it would provide a better life for their children. (Years later it proved it did.) Effie McLean and Neil McFadyen (a crofter) had 10 children all born on Tiree. And finally, Flora McLean and Donald McFadyen (a Salum blacksmith) had 6 children all born between 1865 and 1873, before the 3 families left Tiree.

The group arrived in Canada in 1885. They landed in Halifax, then entrained and traveled to Montreal and Winnipeg, where they stayed for 2 days. Then they went on by train to Regina. When they got to Wapella, a number of Scottish people met them and advised them not to go to Regina, because the Reil Rebellion was in progress. They pressed on anyway.

This group was now part of a larger group of 40 families going to Regina. From Archival material I found out this settlement, 15 miles directly north of Regina, and just east of Highway 6 was also supported by Lady Gordon Cathcart, and assisted by a Lady Scott. (This was in addition to a Cathcart settlement 9 mile south of Wapella, started 2 years before, which proved to be a real success.) A Mr. Scarth from Regina, who worked for the Canada North-West Company was made general superintendent responsible for the Regina group's welfare. The people lived in two contiguous townships. (A township being a solid block of six square miles.)

When they arrived the group likely had to build homes (settlers shacks) and farm buildings. There was no money for curtains and the Indians used to come up to the windows and cup their hands and peer in. One or two children went missing, presumed to be taken by the Indians who loved children. The group was fairly successful at first, but a MAJOR problem was a lack of readily and easily available water. They had to travel a number of miles to get their water from a creek (Boggy Creek). (The name tells what it is like. It drains Regina's Wascana Lake now.) The next year, 1886 and after, things went from bad to worse. There was a time of drought. Hauling water using oxen was very time consuming, and thus they didn't have much water for their personal use, their livestock and to grow crops. Let it be known these people were all experienced farmers but were not familiar with the weather conditions or the soil or the way the

rain comes. They had much to learn about the new land. My grandmother suffered from kidney trouble all the rest of her life because, though they had wool for those first years, they didn't have cattle hides to protect them from the biting cold winds in the winter. Some of the young people in Effie and Neil's family went to work for the Royal Northwest Mounted Police which had just established their new headquarters and training centre on the west of Regina. Eventually in 1896, all these families, drifted back to the other Cathcart settlement south of Wapella, "with their tails between their legs". The Regina settlement attempt was a failure. The Wapella settlement took them in and helped them to get on their feet, as farmers and tradesmen (blacksmiths and carpenters). The people never got over their early experiences and turned out to be fighters to prove they were OK. Most of their descendants though, went on and became useful and very successful citizens.

The two McFadyen fathers died north of Regina. Neil died in 1891 and my Great Grandfather, Donald, the shoemaker, died in 1895. They were buried in an unmonuments, rather neglected Crofter graveyard in the settlement north of Regina. Donald died of a broken heart for encouraging and bringing the other out to Canada to see things fail. Others also died in this settlement as well. His wife, Mary McLean, died in 1922 and is buried in the St. Paul, "North Church", Cemetery, south of Wapella, in the bosom of the Cathcart Settlement.

My Grandmother, Christina, married in September 1897 and had a large family of 13 , but only 9 lived. Her husband, Donald or Dan McLeod, from the Isle of Lewis, proved to be a successful farmer and quite a learned man. All their children had training to survive in the world when they came of age. Christina died in early February 1951, and is buried in the Earlswood, the Cathcart "South Church", Cemetery, further south from Wapella, near their farm. Their children had many, many grandchildren and great grandchildren who have met twice in recent years for reunions at the original homestead, near Wapella.

Composed July 3, 2004 by Barry Beesley

The Children and Their Many Descendants of Four Children from a Single McLean Family from Tiree Who came out to Canada Over a Number of years in the Last Half of the 1800's.

Donald MacLean, (son of Charles MacLean of Cornaigbeg,) was born about 1773, and married Mary McPhaden, (daughter of Donald McPhaiden and Flory McNeil of Miodar, Caoles,) born about 1769. They were married February 7th, 1797.

They had 9 children, of which, much is known about 4 of the children.

1. Hugh MacLean, (the eldest in the family,) was born in Cornaigbeg in 1797, and died 1862 on Tiree. He married a Catherine McPhail, who died before 1867. They had 4 children, of which 3 stayed in Scotland on Tiree, and (1.b.) Lauchlan MacLean, born February 4th, 1835 in Cornaigbeg, emigrated around 1878, and settled 1879 at Brandon Hills in Manitoba, in western Canada, where he farmed and later died April 3, 1906.

1.b. Lauchlan, (Hugh MacLean's son) married Euphemia MacFadyen from Miodar (Caolis Tiree) September 25, 1867 in Caoles, where settled and farmed. Euphemia was the daughter of John McFadyen and Christine MacLean of Caoles. She was born December 15, 1838 in Caoles and raised in Miodar. Lachlan and Effie moved to Canada in 1878 with 3 children. This family eventually had 8 children. This family grew and multiplied and spread mostly across western Canada. The best contact regarding this family is Mrs. Majory Skulmoski, Box 35, Moosomin, Saskatchewan, Canada S0G 3N0. E-mail alfymarj@sasktel.net

2. Ann McLean, (the oldest daughter,) was born October 19, 1800 in Cornaigbeg. She married Peter Lamont August 20, 1823. He was born 1800 on Tiree. They had 9 children all born on Tiree, between 1824 and 1843, before they left Scotland. This family first came to Brock Township, Ontario County in Canada in 1851, and settled in Kincardine Townshiop of Bruce County in 1852. Peter emigrated to Canada with his brother, Neil Lamont. He and his family took possession of Con 10 Lot 14, in 1852 and Con 10 Lot 15 in 1854. Lured by the booming lumber business in Alpena Michigan, Peter moved his family there in 1879. A few of family remained in Kincardine. Apparently all this family are buried or recorded in the Tiverton Cemetery in Bruce County in Ontario. The best contact for this family is Gene Lamont, 865 Mohegan, Birmingham, Michigan, USA 48009-5668. E-mail markiegene@aol.com

3. THE MCFADYEN FAMILIES

3. Neil "Nial Mor" "Big Neil" McLean -the boatbuilder,(my ancestor), was born June 1st, 1809 in Cornaigbeg, and married Christian (or Christina) MacDonald December 31ST, 1834 on Tiree. (It appears Neil may have married 2 Christina MacDonalds.) He was a crofter, and a carpenter and a boatbuilder (master) by trade. They had 7 children, of which, it appears only the 3 daughters who emigrated to Canada, had children. Three of their McLean daughters married 2 McFadyen brother's and another McFadyen cousin. My great grandparents were Mary McLean and Donald McFadyen, a Salem shoemaker (master), (son of Donald McFadyen and Effie MacKinnon), who married May 26, 1863. They had 6 children all born at Salem, on Tiree. before they left Scotland. Mary was born November 29th, 1835. The best contact for this family is mary_besley_1934@yahoo.com. I am also going to

send an account of "The early life in the Regina area of the three families of Tiree McFadyens." It will be more of a story of their life.

The other 2 McFadyen boys who married two other McLean sisters were Donald McFadyen (son of Hector McFadyen and Margaret McFadyen) (a Salum blacksmith) who married Flora McLean, born January 7th, 1839 in Connaigbeg. They married May 19th, 1864. They had 6 children, all born between 1865 and 1873, before they left Tiree. Only one of their children had children. The best contact again would be Barry Beesley. We are not sure who the other McFadyen is brother to. He is Neil McFadyen and Effie McLean. Neil was a crofter, born August 15th, 1826 in Salum. Effie McLean was born May 13th, 1837 in Cornaigbeg, and married Neil September 8th, 1863. They had 10 children again all born on Tiree, but only 4 of them had children. These 3 families all came out to homestead north of Regina, in the then Northwest Territories (later Saskatchewan) in Canada in 1885. The best contact for this family is John MacFarlane 44 White Pine Way Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 3X7 Email: jmacfar@centex.net

4. And the last family member in the group to come with their family to Canada was Margaret "Myrat" Mclean, born about 1807 on Tyree. She married Lauchlan McKinnon, who was born in 1800 on Tyree. They had 5 children born on Tyree before moved to Canada in 1850. They migrated to Canada in 1850 with Ann and Peter Lamont. They first settled in Brock Township, and in 1854 they moved to the Kincardine Township in Bruce County. They claimed C10L17 and C11L17. The family grew and multiplied. I have no good contact for you. There are many McKinnons around where they settled in Kincardine Township in Bruce county in Ontario. Both the Lamont and the McKinnon homesteads are near Tiverton at the top of Kincardine Township.

According to some people who worked on this family, the McLeans and the McFadyens mentioned in this report are very closely entwined. Some married cousins or second cousins. The families are all in the north part of Tiree, -Cornaigbeg is north central and Salem is in the northeast of the Island. I found the McLeans easy to connect, but the McFadyens were fragmented and spotty and very hard to connect.

Composed by Barry Beesley Oct 14, 2004