

TPF / 1856 /18

1856 – 18 001

Inventory of Precogn
Sudden Death of
Donald McLean & ors
1856

1856 – 18 002

Inventory of Precognition
Henry Nisbet P.F. Tobermory
Sudden death
Archd McLean Donald McLean
and others

1. Precognition
2. Registrars Schedule – Donald McLean
3. Registrars Schedule Archd McLean
4. Registrars Schedule Malcom McArthur
- X^d 5. Registrars Schedule Colin McDonald

1856 – 18 003

1.
Precognition
Sudden death of
Archd McLean, Donald McLean & others
1856

1856 – 18 004

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1856 – 18 005

Tyree 1st August 1856

Compeared Malcolm McDougall Fisherman residing at Baleful on the Island of Tyree in the united parishes of Tyree & Coll & Shire of Argyll who says I am 45 years of age – On the morning of 7th July 1856

I went out in a Skiff along with

Archibald McLean
John Campbell
Robert McEachern &
Duncan McEachern

to fish for cod and ling between Hynish point on the Island of Tyree and Skerryvore - The morning was good when we started & we went accompanied by five other Boats of ~~~

1856 – 18 006

2

of a size similar to our own to the fishing ground - We had set our lines and were proceeding with our fishing when a violent gale of wind suddenly came on about 2 P.M. blowing from the North West – That the sea became so high that the Boat we were in was likely to be swamped, taking on as she was large quantities of water over the gunwale - seeing this we made for another of the fishing Boats much larger than ours belonging to John MacPhail and we all got into it leaving our Boat to the mercy of the waves. After getting into this Boat we struggled hard to make Tyree but the wind increasing in violence and the sea deepening we were forced to keep her before the wind with a small piece of the sail set - we were all much fatigued by our exertions ~~

1856 – 18 007

3

exertions to make the Island &

Archibald McLean

who also wrought hard appeared to be much more so than any of the others - The sea ran very high and when the Boat was in the hollow between two waves I frequently thought it was impossible for her to get out of it - I have been a fisherman all my life but I never was out such a day - When we were a short distance from the Island of Iona a sea struck and broke over the Boat throwing Maclean & three or four others with considerable violence to the bottom of the Boat, - & nearly filling her with water - Maclean lay unable to move and from the state of cold which we were all in we were unable to assist him by rubbing him - He was however lifted from the Bottom of the Boat and placed on the weather side by John ~~~

1856 – 18 008

4

John McPhail - He was unable to speak or even articulate and he died in about half an hour afterwards. – can't state the hour but it was about dusk. We did not attempt to take Iona as the sea was so high, but steered for the Island of Colonsay which we reached late that same evening all greatly exhausted & suffering much from cold - none of us were able to walk and we had to be assisted from the Boat by several of the people on that Island who came to our assistance - after remaining two days in Colonsay to recruit we returned home to Tyree which we reached on Thursday the 10th July in the evening - We brought McLean's body home with us and it was buried in Balemartin Church yard - He was a native of Tyree about 50 years of age and has left a widow ~~

1856 – 18 009

5

widow and family to mourn his loss – which is truth –

There was with us on the fishing ground on the day in question and along with us when the gale came on a skiff having on Board

Colin McDonald aged 40
Alexr McDonald aged 42
Niel Kennedy aged 18
Hugh McKinnon aged 14
Hugh Kennedy aged 14
Donald McLean

all residents of Baleful - I saw the Boat struggling towards Tyree but I cannot say what became of them - about 10 days afterwards the Boat was driven ashore at Portna-luing in the Island of Coll having on Board the dead body of Donald McLean - The boat contained nothing else and nothing has been heard or known of the fate of the others - tho' there can be little doubt they are all ~~~

1856 – 18 010

6

drowned - Macleans body was brought to Tyree & Buried in Balemartin church yard – on the 16th July
- He was aged about 29 years - this is truth -

1856 – 18 011

7

Compeared John McPhail aged 23 years who says

I am a fisherman and reside at Baleful on the Island of Tyree aforesaid - I was out fishing on
Monday 7th July 1856

between Hynish point and Skerryvore. About 2 P.M. a sudden gale sprang up from the north west
raising a tremendous sea & the wind blowing with unusual violence - There were 6 Boats on the
ground all open skiffs at the time and all of them attempted to make the land but were unable, & all
that they could do was to keep before the wind - The skiff containing

John Campbell
Robert McEachern
Duncan McEachern &
Archibald McLean

was threatened to be swamped and being smaller than my skiff we took them all on board ~~

1856 – 18 012

8

board and I concur with Malcolm McDougall in his statement of the occurrences after this. I never was
out on such a day. The cold was intense and the gusts of wind accompanied with rain or sleet were
very severe all which is truth -

John Campbell }
Robert McEachern }
Duncan McEachern } Fishermen Baleful aforesaid also concur

1856 – 18 013

9

Isabella Black or MacLean – residing at Baleful on the Island of Tyree aged 40 years – says – I am
the widow of the deceased Archibald Maclean - on

Monday 7 July 1856

he left my house in the morning and went off in his skiff along with

John Campbell
Robert McEachern
Duncan McEachern

to fish on the bank between Hynish and Skerryvore. The morning was good when he left - about 2
P.M. a violent gale sprung up and I along with a number of others went to the Hill at Hynish which
commanded a view of the spot where the Boat was. I observed six Boats making for the shore, - the
crews being exerting themselves with the oars - They were about 4 miles out at sea – a Heavy
shower ~~

1856 – 18 014

10

shower came on after I had been about ½ an hour on the hill & the rain continuing I lost sight of the
Boats and did not see them again - on the following Thursday (till which time nothing was heard of
any of the Boats) the Boat in which John McPhail was returned to Tyree bringing with it the dead body
of my husband - The information I got was that they reached Colonsay with difficulty and that my
husband died in passing Iona from cold and Exposure and the fatigue in the attempt to make the land
- He was buried on

Friday 11 July 1856

in Balemartin Church yard - He was aged 50 years & a native of the Island of Tyree - this is truth -

1856 – 18 015

Compeared George MacLean Esq Tenant Hynish on the Island of Tyree aforesaid who says I am 44 years of age - I recollect

Monday 7th July last

About 2 P.M. it came on to blow suddenly from the north West with great violence, accompanied with thick showers of rain - I have seldom if ever seen the sea so high as it was on that day - I knew that there were several Boats out fishing near Skerryvore & I entertained great fears of their safety - I went out to the Hill above my house having a telescope through which I saw five Boats all of them attempting to make for the land with the oars, but as the sea was so heavy and the wind blowing with such force they made nothing of it -

1856 – 18 016

12

it. I observed the crew of a small skiff leave their own Boat and go on Board of another and larger one but I could not make out the parties I lost sight of them entirely in the thickness of the rain & no accounts were received on the Island regarding their fate till Thursday the

10th July

when all the Boats returned except the one which was abandoned as aforesaid & another owned by Colin McDonald and 5 others who were all lost as afterstated. - The Boat belonging to John McPhail which had made Colonsay brought home the dead body of

Archibald Maclean

which was buried the following day Another Boat which had made the Island of Islay returned with two of the crew amissing vizt

John Campbell &
Malcom McArthur

both of Balefuil - They having been ~~~

1856 – 18 017

13

been reported by their companions

Alexander McDonald
Duncan McDonald &
Hugh MacArthur

to have been washed out of the Boat and never more seen - This when they were off the Island of Iona - on the Evening of the 7th July -

Another Boat containing six men vizt

Colin McDonald
Alexander McDonald
Neil Kennedy
Hugh McKinnon
Hugh Kennedy &
Donald McLean

was not heard of till the 15th July when it was washed ashore at Portna – luing on Coll having on Board the dead body of Donald McLean - Nothing is Known or been heard of concerning the fate of the other five - all the crews

1856 – 18 018

14

crews of the other Boats were saved - Nine lives in all having been lost - All which is truth -

1856 – 18 019

15

Compeared John MacArthur Fisherman residing at Balefuil in the Island of Tyree aforesaid aged 38 years who says - I was out in an open skiff fishing for cod and ling between the point of Hynish and Skerryvore on

Monday 7 July 1856

There was in the skiff besides myself

Alexander McDonald
Duncan McDonald
Hugh MacArthur
John Campbell &
Malcolm McArthur

all residents at Balefuil and following the occupation of fishermen - we went off early after breakfast and had got to the ground, had our lines set & were proceeding with our work the day being fine - about 2 P.M. we were suddenly overtaken with a violent storm ~~~

1856 – 18 020

16

storm of wind & rain raising the sea in immense waves - we made an ineffectual attempt to reach the land but were forced to bear away before the wind which was blowing from the north west - In passing the Island of Iona - about ½ past 4 P.M. a wave broke over the stern of the Boat carrying along with it both

Malcom McArthur
and
John Campbell

In the confusion & in our Exhausted state I did not see them go over the side nor did I miss them until after the Boat had recovered - The sea was so heavy that we never got a sight of them afterwards & we heard no cries - we could make no attempt at returning to look for them as the Boat would have been swamped if we had attempted ~~~

1856 – 18 021

17

attempted to bring her upon the wind - We had the utmost difficulty in Keeping her clear by running dead before the wind - After suffering very much from wet and cold we made the Island of Islay about 12 P.M. - We returned to Tyree on the following Thursday about 6 P.M. Both McArthur & Campbell were natives of Tyree, followed the occupation of fishermen, and the former was 29 and the latter 55 years of age - This is truth -

1856 – 18 022

18

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1856 – 18 023

19

William Wilson Surgeon in Tyree says I reside at Scarnish and am 28 years of age - I saw the bodies of

Donald McLean
and
Archibald MacLean

immediately after they were brought to the Island - They were both quite dead & appeared when I saw them to have been so for several days - I did not go into a dissection of either of the bodies, - but I examined and noted carefully the external appearances and I am of opinion that both died from the effects of cold and Exposure - In the mouth of the former there was a piece of Tobacco which he had evidently been chewing - This is Truth -

1856 – 18 024

Notes Drowning
cases
Tyree July 1856

1856 – 18 025

Isabella Black or McLean wife of the Deceased Archd McLean Fisherman Baleful, 40 years of age – says that her husband was 30 years of age - that he left their house on the morning of the 7th of this month along with John Campbell Robt McEachern & Duncan McEachern - They left the shore after an early breakfast - They sailed out on the Direction Skerrimor the day got on stormy - I was along with a great many others on the [nous] looking on the boats were trying to come home when a heavy shower came on - I did not after this get another sight of the boats I could not extinguish the boat where my husband was from the rest - My husbands body was taken home on the following Thursday - and buried in Ballemartin Church yard

Malcolm McDonald age 54 years says that the Diseased A McLean was out along with him and the others above named - that some time after the storm came on that their boat was likely to be swamped and with great difficulty we succeeded in getting to another boat where John McPhail James [Drew] Arch McLean & Neil McKinnon was - as we could not save ourselves in the small boat we had - the diseased seemed much fatigued all along he was very quiet he was struck by a sea at one time that fell him to the bottom of the boat he died in passing Iona we then put to Colonsay the sea still heavy & stormy

1856 – 18 026

John McPhail 23 years says that Archd McLean was sitting beside him at the time of his Death passing Iona he was struck by a sea and fell to the bottom of the boat - I lifted him myself and placed him sitting to the wedder side of the boat he was very much exhausted by the struggle we made [..er] getting back he died when passing Iona.

John McArthur fisherman 38 years says that he was in the boat along with John Campbell & Malcolm McArthur (Diseased) there was along with us Alexr & Duncan McDonald & Hugh McArthur in passing Duurtiach the one sea took both Campbell & McArthur out we did not at the moment notice them - and did not see them till we missed them and never saw them again

Alexr McDonald age 28 corroborates McArthur

1856 – 18 027

Donald McLean Elder Balem..... age 60 says that his son Donald along with Hugh McKinnon Neil Kennedy Hugh Kennedy Alexr McDonald & Colin McDonald was out the stormy day - says that his son was found in the skiff in Coll by Mr Stewart & hird

M.. McLean Heynish says that he along with Neil Sinclair Balemartin & Donald McDonald also in Balem. were looking on - M. McLean says that he never saw but 5 boats 3 of them get first under way he saw them changing to the big boat a dark shower came on at the time - the day was most fearful
Sinclair 30 years
McDonald 40
Corroborates M McLean

1856 – 18 028

1856 No 3
Edin. 14/16 Augt
Crown Agent returning
sudden death
Archd McLean & others

—
No proceedings

—
4 Schedules sent Registrar
Tyree 16 Aug 1856

Death of Donald McLean &c

Crown Office
Edinburgh 14 Augt 1856

Sir,

I return this case, Crown Counsel being of opinion that there should be no further proceedings.
Schedules correct

I am Sir
Your most obt. Servt
Will. Wilson
For the Crown Agent

The Procurator Fiscal
Tobermory

1856 – 18 029

Folded paper, stamped with one penny red, and franked TYREE and TOBERMORY JY 17 1856
Addressed

Henry Nisbet Esqr
Pror Fiscal
Tobermory

1856 – 18 030

Tyree
11th July 1856

Sir

I have to intimate the death of Archibald MacLean Fisherman Balfuell which took place in a skiff about 12 h.p.m. on the 7th inst. somewhere off the island of Iona - he was fishing along with others off this island when a gale of N.E. wind blew them away about 12 h.a.m. his remains were brought here this morning & his companions state wet & cold as being the cause of his death - I examined him & consider such likely

Also on same day and about same time and place John Campbell and Malcolm McArthur Fishermen & both residing at Balfuell are stated to have been carried away by a wave from the stern of a skiff, - their bodies have not been found

I am Sir
Your mo obedt Servt
Wm Wilson Registrar

1856 – 18 031

Island of Tyree
21st July 1856

Henry Nisbet Esqr
Sir

I have to intimate in terms of the 39th Secretary. of the Registration Act that the body of Donald MacLean Balfuell Tyree was found on the 15th July in a fishing skiff at Portnaling Coll there were also the following left this island in the same boat but are supposed to be drowned. Colin McDonald – Alexr McDonald – Neil Kennedy - Hugh Kennedy & Hugh McKinnon

I am Sir
Your mo obedt Servt
Wm Wilson Registrar

1856 – 18 032

Folded paper, stamped with one penny red, and franked TYREE and TOBERMORY SE 1856
Addressed

Henry Nisbet Esqr
Pror Fiscal
Tobermory

Notes added at top
Tyree 15 Aug
26 Sep 1856
Wm Wilson Registrar
==

owning receipt of schedules in case of
Colin McDonald ...
p paid

1856 – 18 033

Island of Tyree
15th Augt 1856

Sir

I beg to acknowledge result of Precognition touching the death of the undernoted persons

Colin McDonald
Alexander McDonald
Neil Kennedy
Hugh McKinnon
Hugh Kennedy
Archibald McLean
Donald McLean
Malcolm McArthur
John Campbell

I am Sir
Your mo obdt Servt
Will. Wilson