

# 'A Tiree Woman'

[ex NRAS 1209/906]

Transcription of cover note from J Wyllie, 30 Jun 1890

His Grace

The Duke of Argyll

Inveraray 30 June 1890

My Lord Duke,

I beg to submit annexed Copy of a  
letter received from McDiarmid, reporting on  
the Petition from Isabella Lamont Ruaig to

Your Grace, which I return –

I have the honor to be

my Lord Duke

Your most obedient faithful servant

J Wyllie

Transcription of copy letter from McDiarmid [Tiree Factor] concerning  
Isabella Lamont, Ruaig.

Copy of letter referred to

Isabella Lamont, Ruaig

This woman's case has already  
given me a great deal of trouble  
and I hardly know what to  
say about it.

She has been at me often  
to do something for her, and  
she has been at the Par[ish] Bo[ard]  
ever so often but the Bo[ard]  
would have nothing of her.

It appears that her mother,

who is a widow, and the  
rest of the family will not  
allow her to return home  
as long as she keeps the last  
child, and I understand she  
won't part with the child.

Her mother and brother were  
here yesterday wanting permission  
to roof an old ruin somewhere  
about Ruaig for her – of course  
I could not do anything in the  
matter except to tell them  
that they daren't do anything of  
this kind as it was against  
the Crofters' Act – They told me  
that she was wandering about  
and that she was in a wretched  
state, and also that they  
understood she was making a  
hut in a sandbank.

They also told me that they  
intended to petition the Duke  
to allow this old ruin to be  
roofed for her.

The mother is an old servant  
of the Dukes, and she thinks  
the Duke will do something  
for her.

Should they petition the  
Duke, I think the Duke's

best plan is to send me a  
letter addressed to the mother  
and asking her to take her  
daughter home and use all means  
in her power to prosecute the  
father of the daughter's illegitimate  
children for alimant for the children.

I could scarcely recommend the  
Duke to allow the Lamonts to  
roof the old ruin for a young  
woman like this; though if  
she sticks in the sandbank  
and the public get a hold of  
it perhaps something must  
be done.

I think that in the  
meantime the Duke had better  
write a sharp letter to the  
mother.

I return the young woman's  
Petition.

The croft occupied by the mother  
and family is entered in the  
Rental as Charles Lamonts heirs £6 15/-

### [Transcription of Isabella Lamont's petition](#)

To His Grace the Duke of Argyll

The Petition of Miss Isabella Lamont, Ruaig,  
in the Island of Tiree

Humbly sheweth

That she is now in a rather destitute condition, having been turned out of doors by her people; the reason being that she had been twice seduced by one named Alexander Macdonald, who is the only son of Widow Macdonald, residing in the same township.

To this Alexander Macdonald she bore two children, and the age of the eldest is nine years, while the age of the youngest is nine months.

That her people are supporting this eldest child, and will not undertake to support the second child, but are quite willing to receive her back if she will send this youngest child to the poor-house, since his alleged father will have nothing to do with it.

Furthermore that this Alexander Macdonald contributed nothing to the support of these two children, and that at the Oban Sheriff Court last April, Sheriff MacLachlan decided against him, and ordered him to provide for these children, which he has never done, being not in a position to do so, as the croft is in the possession of his mother.

That the people of the township are quite willing to allow her to build a house, as well as to help her to build it, if

Your Grace will be pleased to grant a site.

That if Your Grace will refuse to grant a site, she will certainly have to become chargeable to the parish, or else to become a vagrant, and to starve; for she is already in a destitute condition, having to take lodgings in various places , and not in to pay for her lodgings and bread.

On the other hand if Your Grace will kindly grant a site, she will be enabled to carry on her trade, which is that of a weaver, and will thus earn an honest living.

Thus she trusts Your Grace will kindly take all these things into consideration, knowing that if Your Grace act thus kindly, you will be the means of saving her from misery and ruin.

And your petitioner will ever Pray,

Isabella Lamont

Ruaig, Tiree

May 27, 1890

P.S. Petitioner is a daughter of the late Charles Lamont, Crofter