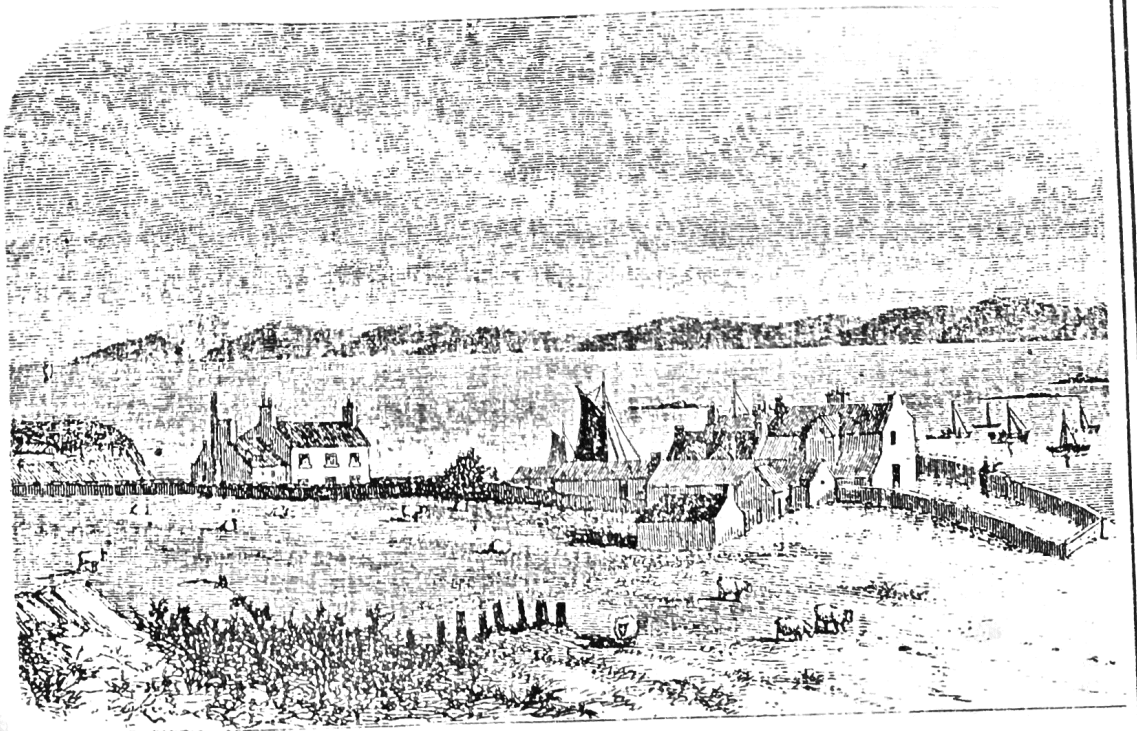


Comunn Eachdraidh

Sgìr' a Bhac

OLD HISTORY  
AND  
CROFTING OF  
GRESS



GRESS AND BROAD BAY

## **OLD TESTULLION WRITINGS IN AD 200.**

“Places in Britain inaccessible to the Romans have yielded to Christ”  
This could be true because the recurring waves of persecution would cause many Christians to take refuge beyond the wall in Scotland .(What places are more inaccessible than the Scottish Highlands and Islands?)  
This could be the foundation of the old Celtic religion. The old Celtic stone crosses seem to confirm this as some of them are dated pre-Columbian.

A Celtic or Pictish cross was found near St Alue’s chapel in Gress and it is possible that this chapel was built on the site of an old Celtic monastery

History tells us when the Norse pagans took control of the Hebrides in 800 AD they destroyed most of the old Celtic monasteries. As time wore on they were converted to Christianity (If this was through the influence of the Celtic religion we do not know). By 1100AD they built the Gress chapel dedicated to one of their own Saints.

In 1158AD the Norse lost control of the Isles. In the years that followed the Norse Macleods (sons of Leod) took control and the chapel fell into disrepair. This period was known as “Linn nan Creach” when Law and Order was ignored and cattle thieving between the clans was rampant.

In the early 1600’s the then Earl of Seaforth was granted a Government chapter for the Isle of Lewis and one of this clan “Iain Bane” got the tenancy of Gress farm. According to local folklore this Iain Bane renovated part of the chapel as it presently stands. His initials IBMK date 16?? is cut out of the door lintel.

It seems that it was used for religious meetings for a short time as a baptismal font was found there. When the Macivers took over the tenancy of Gress farm they used the inside as their burial lair.

## THE OLD VILLAGE OF GRESS BEFORE THE CLEARANCES

### BRECKIR

This place is located on the north side of the Gress river and can be identified by the numerous lazy-beds leading down to the river. This is a Norse name from "briek-a sloping hill". The outline of a group of houses can be seen in this place and according to local tradition a number of Macdonalds lived there. One of them got a croft at Back and some went to Dell, Ness. They were known as Muinntir an' Bhreckir and Clann an' a go Ruaidh. A fair number of them must have moved to Dell as there is a place there called "Gate Baile Ghriais". All the lazy-beds these people used are now parts of 5 crofts.

### GEARRAIDH DUTHAIG

It is not known for certain how this place came to be called this name. According to Scottish history there was a St Duthac who owned land near the town of Tain in the 13th century and owing to some religious differences with the then King he was forced to leave the district. There was no mention of him on the mainland of Scotland for the remaining years of his life until his death of old age in France. He could have come to Lewis and Gress during his exile.

We have good evidence of a family of Macfarlanes residing here. One of them was a deaf mute and two of their womenfolk were married in Back and Vatisker.

For the information of future generations this place is located in the vicinity of the Gress Mission House.

### CNOC BUIDHE

This place is located near the houses of 40 and 41 Gress. The people who lived there were Fergusons and Morrisons. the Fergusons came from Uig and they were blacksmiths to the Macivers and they were one of the last families to be moved from old Gress. One of them got a croft at 22 Back and another on the machair on the south side of Gress river.

It seems likely that the Morrisons came from Uig to Gress although they were definitely of Ness stock. A gate by the old name "Geata Buaille Uig" leading to this place bears witness that these people had Uig connections. One of the Morrisons by the name of Kenneth got a croft at Back.

There was a Norman Mackenzie living near this place and there is evidence that owing to a family tragedy he and his family moved to Portvoller.

## **EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS ABOUT GRESS**

### **REPORT IN 1776**

Katherine nin Uilleam Voir (report does not say where she comes from) a person of infamous character who goes round the country pretending to be a witch and taking away and restoring what is called "The Fruit of the Milk".

---

### **A letter from the tenants complaining about Lewis Maciver dispossessing them written to Mrs Mackenzie.(1822)**

.....It is only 10 years since the said man made us flit before the edge of the town and it is a very hard case for us being disturbed by him so often. That we must be happy that your Honour is in the country to complain to.

Your tenants of Gress.

---

### **PETITION BY LEWIS MACIVER 1832**

The petition is relative to Rev Cameron's having discontinued preaching in the district of Back in the Parish of Stornoway - a district that had always enjoyed since time immemorial the blessing of the Word of God every five weeks, has been discontinued at Back for more than 12 months. The petitioner and many others in the Parish had contributed in building an house for the purposes of accommodating the minister and people and has been since much improved by the proprietors.

---

### **From Lewis Maciver (1833)**

.....Sir J Johnstone said he wished me to go to the lodge next Sunday to come to some arrangement about the 16 acres, to which I replied that we were not in the habit of making any bargains on the Sunday in this country to which he replied that we were a parcel of Humbugs all in this country which of course raised my Highland Blood.....

We had no herrings on this coast this season, so stormy that ling and cod fishers can seldom venture out....

---



## UNDERGROUND HOUSE AT GRESS

As reported to the society of Antiquaries, Scotland in 1874 by Mr Liddle, farmer at Gress.

This underground house was found when some earth above it on the lawn near the lodge at Gress collapsed.

Digging took place and 15 feet under the earth's surface a house of overlapping stones was discovered built on the same principle as the Uig "boths". There was quite a long lintel-covered passageway from an entrance at the shore.

The following implements were found :-

- A wooden or bone spoon.

- A series of soapstone whorls "clach narach".

- A small narrow stone perforated at one end - may be a stone for a fishing line sinker.

- Large pointed, conical shell or eye-tooth of an animal, for boring.

- Pieces of pottery decorated with lines and markings.

- Two stone axes (polished).

- Two hammer heads, perforated.

- Two large animal claws, seal or bear.

- Piece of a large deer horn used as a pickaxe

There was also a quern and a stone trough, used for ponding barley for the pot, found in another "eirde" house connected by a passage to this one.

## An Abhainn Mhor (Bho) agus Muilleann Ghriais

Tha e na cheisde carson a tha an abhainn 's an am seo air ainmeachadh mar abhainn mhor agus cho beag 's a tha i a choinneas ri abhainn mhor Ghriais. Ma leanas sinn an astar aice tha e furasda a thuigse gur e a seann ainm a bha orra, Abhainn Bho.

Tha freumh na h-aibhne a toiseachadh aig **Loch Corsabhat** agus tha i gabhal deas air **Beinn Iomhair** agus steach mu **Sithean Rosan**. Beagan astar a stigh air a sin tha lubadh innte gus an ard an ear agus 's ann aig a lubadh seo a thug iad an uisge a bha ag obrachadh a mhuilinn. Tha i a nis a leantainn air an astar sin gu cul Mullach Bho agus a sin a dol gun na mara aig Port Ghriais.

Aig lubadh na h-aibhne chaidh pairt dh'an sruth atharrachadh agus bha'n uisge sin a lionadh dam a bha suidhichte mu da cheud slat air taobh shuas a mhuilinn.

Bha fosgladh air an dam a bha comasach air riaghladh agus air treorachadh an uisge sìos gu ruigidh a an eas (sluice) a bha ag obrachadh roth mhor a mhuilinn. Bha'n eas air a deanamh de fhiodh mu thri troighean a leud agus aon troigh a dhoimhne agus mu deich troighean fichead a fhad. Bha leathad cas as an eas airson tuilleadh neart a thoirt dha'n uisge gu car a chuir do'n roth mhor.

Chan eil cinnt againn cuin a bha a cheud muilinn ann an Griaais ach tha cunntas gu robh muilinn bhleith aig Murchadh Moireasdan ann an Griaais aig toiseach an seachdamh linn deug. Chaidh moran ath-nuadhachadh a dheanhamh orra troimh na linntean. Chaidh muilinn bhualaidh a cheangal rithe maille ri rudan ur eile.

Dheanadh i min chorce agus min eorna agus ma bha duine ag iarraidh min gharbh neo min mhin dheanadh a mhuilinn sin le atharrachadh an aotroman a bha cuir cudthrom air na clachan bhleith. Dh 'fheumadh a ghraine a bhith air a chruadhachadh as an ath roimhe laimh mus gabhadh a mhuilinn e airson a sgillidh agus a bhleith. 'Se na daoine iad fhein a bha ag obrachadh an ath agus bha iad ag iarraidh orra moran moine a thoirt bho na dachaidhean aca fhein airson an ath a theasachadh.

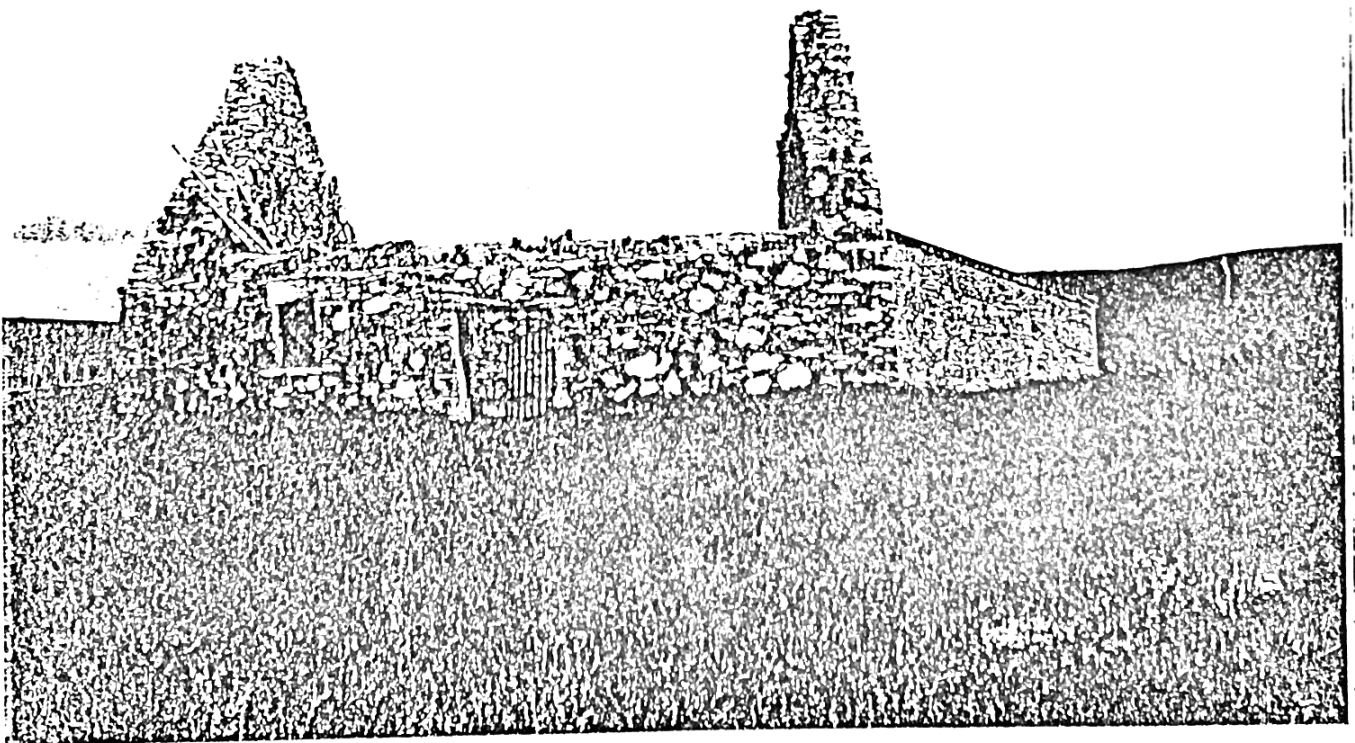
Air a bhitheadh a mhin deanta bha a' muillear a toirt tomhais mine as a h-uile bolla. Bha seo airson a thuarasdal fhein agus an uachdaran.

Aig deireadh a' naoidheamh linn deug thachair tubaist dhuilich ann a muilinn Ghriais. Chaidh fear, Murchadh an Bhard, a bha na mhuillear aig an t-am a mharbhadh leis a bhith air a ghlacadh a's na rothan. Thug mac le piuthair Mhurchadh, fear Murchadh Macleoid, uine mhor na mhuillear as deigh sin. Fear mu dheireadh a bha na mhuillear, air a bheil cunntas againn, 's e Niall Macleoid, Mac Thormoid Dhomhnuill.

## SOME HISTORY ABOUT GRESS PASTURE

If you walk along the cliff tops towards the headland (Kneap) you will notice a fairly large area that has been ploughed. This was one of Lord Lever's experimental schemes. What were his intentions? Was he thinking of planting it with something? Nobody seems to know.

Further along you can see a drain and this is one of a number in that area. There is another one starting from the main road near "*Beinn Iomhair*" and leading towards the cliffs at "*Shuilivig Mhor*". Another one can be seen out on the moor on the west side of the main road leading towards "*Loch Corsavat*". These drains were made by the local people during a kind of Job Creation scheme. In the 1880s money was allocated by the Government to the depressed areas and the work to be supervised by the Landlords. They used the money more or less for their own benefit to drain their own pastures. It was said that the wages were 6d a day.



## OLD WELLS IN GRESS

### TOBAIR THOMAIS

This well is located about 80 yards south west from the dog kennels and it was used to supply the lodge with fresh drinking water. It was fairly deep and its sides were neatly paved with stone. Who was this "TOMAS" that the well was named after? Was he a stonemason or a drystone dyker? There is a wall on the Upper Coll farm pasture called "Garradh Thomais" so it's a strong case for supposing that it was built by the same man. We may well imagine that this man lived in the vicinity as there is a pool in the Gress river called "Linne a Chlachair". On the Gress side of this pool there is the outline of a house.

One mystery that remains is - Who was this Tomas and what was his surname? This name was rare in Lewis at the time.

### TOBAIR NA CAILLICH

This well is located in the dip on the shore side of the old farm house. We were told by a man from Gress years ago that an old widow of the Macfarlanes lived beside "Allt a Chro Dig". The outline of her home can still be seen on the south side of this stream and less than 100 yards from "Tobair Thomais". As "Tobair Thomais" was dug solely for supplying the lodge with fresh water this woman was denied access to this well, so she had to go down to the shore and walk along the sea front to an open well in the dip on the shore at the farm house. She had to take her daily requirements of water from this well and it is known as "Tobair Na Caillich" to this day.

### TOBAIR SITHEAN ROSANN

This well can be seen by the "Abhuinn Mhor". Its name indicates its location. Sithean is the low moulded hill on the south side of the river. Rosann is the name of short shrubs which could have been growing there at one time.

### TOBAIR BHECKIR

This well is located at the tail end of the lazybeds of "Breckir". It is about 50 yards up from the Gress river. It has been said that high tides from the flats affected the source of the water in this well.

## **RATHAD DHOMHNUILL A' CHARN**

### **Staran nam boireannaich agus Carn a' Mharc**

The "staran" or stepping stones for crossing the Gress river is located about 50 yards upstream from the wooden bridge "an drochaid Dhubh". It was mainly used by the milk maids on their way to and from the sheilings. This "staran" was leading to a footpath called "Rathad Dhomhnuill a' Charn". This path can be seen on the north side of the river and it carries on for about one mile and stops at a big white stone called "Clach Bhan a Charn". This stone is located near the big cairn of stones by the name of "Carn a' Mharc".

There is no record of "Domhnall a Charn" but it seems likely that he was living in the cairn or in its vicinity. He could have been a shepherd employed by the Macivers of Gress.

The history of this cairn is very uncertain, but according to Martin Martin's notes, when he visited the Hebrides in the 1600s, he refers to it as "Carn a' Bharp". He seems to give the correct and original names to these cairns for we find similar cairns referred to elsewhere as Barps. The best known is probably "Barps Langass" in North Uist. These Barps date back about 3000 to 4000 years and were originally used as burial chambers. In its original state the cairns were a large heap of very big stones with an entrance leading to a central chamber. Some of these chambers have been excavated and human bones and other artefacts have been found.

The cairn has suffered a lot of destruction over the years, possibly with people using the ready supply of stones for use in the building of sheilings or for other uses. This cairn is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, structure of its kind in the district and should be afforded some respect when we consider the effort that was put into the building of it by our distant forefathers.

Occasionally we can find standing stones in the vicinity of those cairns. Distinctive ones are often referred to as "A Chlach Bhan" and we find a fine example of this at Upper Coll.

## **THE MACIVERS OF GRESS**

They came from Leckmelm in Loch Broom. Their father was a Protestant minister for the parish of Fodderty. This was at the time that the Earl of Seaforth acquired the Isle of Lewis - about the late 1600s.

The Earl of Seaforth had a great regard for the vicar of Fodderty who had a large family. Two sons had attended the University of Aberdeen, one intended for the Ministry and the other for Law. The vicar agreed, at Seaforth's request, that these two sons should go to Lewis, one to promote religion and the other to act as a judge. They had been promised by Seaforth their choice of any place in the Island of Lewis to reside in. The minister chose Gress and the judge chose Ness but latterly moved to Aignish.

Gress at the time was a large farm, with a meal mill, extending down to Tolsta. There was no road then from Stornoway to Gress as it was not built till 1813.

The Gress Macivers were descended from the minister and the Stornoway Macivers from the judge. In Gaelic -- Clann a Mhinistear agus Clann a Bhaillidh.

There is an old song which could be connected to the above :-

A mhinistear 's am baillidh  
Am baillidh 's a mhinistear  
'S truagh rinn ormsa baillidh  
Ach 'se sharaich mi a mhinistear.

The last of the Macivers, Lewis Maciver, died in 1845. Gress farm was kept going by his family (jointly) for a few years. One of his sons married a woman from Back, nighean Uisdean Morrison, a daughter of Hugh Morrison of 47 Back. They had one daughter who emigrated to Hong Kong and married there. She died there leaving one daughter.



## THE MACIVERS OF GRESS

EVANDER MACIVER  
(TOURNACH)

m - Annie  
d - Sir K Mackenzie(Coul)

m = married  
d = daughter of



JOHN MACIVER m - Annabella  
d - C Mackenzie (Letterewe)



WILLIAM MACIVER m - Christina  
d - Mackenzie(Lochend)



EVANDER MACIVER m - Lillian  
d - Mackenzie(Poolewe)



LEWIS MACIVER m - Catherine  
d - J Robertson (collector of customs Stornoway)



EVANDER MACIVER



JAMES MACIVER m - Isabel Morrison (Back)



Lillian Ann

## GRESS FARM

According to local tradition the Gress Farmhouse was built on the site of a Norse castle. This castle was called "Caisteal Mor Voe" and the rise in the ground near this site was called "Mullach Voe". Tradition has preserved little factual information about this castle, but going by the amount of Norse names in the vicinity, Gress seems to have been one of their main settlements.

Neither History nor oral tradition discloses any information about Gress in the ensuing years until we find it in the possession of the Morrisons in the late 1500s. The first recorded tenant was Murdo Morrison (mac Mhic Ailean Mhic a' Bhreitheimh). He was dispossessed by the Earl of Seaforth when he took over the Island of Lewis and the tack was then leased to the Macivers.

Lewis Maciver was the tacksman at Gress ( acreage was 3967) In the 1820s -- 30s. Maciver it appears was a very arrogant man and his sub-tenants at Back and Gress led an uncertain existence. There was one occasion in 1822 when he dispossessed the Gress tenants for no known reason , as they had already paid their rents. He once fought in a duel with a Customs Official at Goathill Park in 1835 - the last to be held in Lewis. The fight was stopped and declared a draw.

He went to Falkirk around 1840 to sell cattle which he had bought locally for about £1 a head. They were shipped from Stornoway to Ullapool on a packet boat and then driven on foot for about 2 - 3 weeks, stopping at farms which fed them for a fee. The buyers would be English and Border farmers buying them for beef. When returning he had the money (approximately £3000) in his saddle bag. On reaching Gress Lodge he discovered the saddle bag missing and retraced his steps to Coll where he last knew he still had it. The only person he had seen in the vicinity was an old woman from Back coming from the well with water. He had no proof that she had taken it and never recovered the money. This incident was reputed to have affected him mentally and he died shortly afterwards in 1845 aged 64 years.

In 1808, Lewis Maciver married Catherine Robertson, daughter of James Robertson, customs official at Stornoway. After the wedding, she had to be carried accross the Gress river to the lodge, as there was no road or bridge on the river at that time. James Robertson was the son of the Rev. James Robertson of Atholl best known as "Am Ministear Laidir". This is how he came to be known by this name.(pto)

The year was 1742 and while he was holding a service in the church at Fearn, Ross-shire suddenly the roof and part of the walls fell in, occasioned by a violent storm. The area of the church was covered with debris, vast numbers were injured and 40 were dug out whose bodies were smashed and disfigured. During this distressing situation Rev Robertson managed to get to the door, the only means of exit, and he put his shoulder to the lintel which was about to collapse and held it up until a great number of the congregation got out.

It was for this reason that he came to be known as "Am Ministear Laidir"

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### **THE MACIVERS OF GRESS**

In the late 1600's the Earl of Seaforth gave the lease of the tack of Gress to Evander Maciver of Tournach. He was married to Annie, the daughter of Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Coul. Evander was followed by his son John who was married to Annabella, the daughter of Charles Mackenzie of Letterewe. He was followed by his son William Maciver who married as his second wife Christina, daughter of Mackenzie of Lochend. He was followed by his son Evander who married Lillian, daughter of Mackenzie of Poolewe. He was followed by his son Lewis Maciver who was married to Catherine Robertson, daughter of James Robertson collector of customs at Stornoway. He was followed by his son Evander who at the time was factor at Scourie, Sutherlandshire and residing there. His brother James Maciver took over the tack and he was married to Isabel Morrison of Back. They had one daughter, Lillian Ann. James died as a young man - the last of the Macivers of Gress.

## FISHING AT GRESS

The anchorage at Gress called the "Poll" was used for generations as a safe haven by fishing boats. In the early 1800's a stone pier was built by a man by the name of Alasdair Macleod of Back.

This pier was called "Poirt Alasdair" or "Am port a muigh". It was used extensively by various nationalities, especially by the Scandinavian countries and there is evidence of two of their ships getting wrecked on the rocks in the vicinity.

During this period, and in the ensuing years the curing of herring and white fish was carried out by local and mainland fishcurers. The outline of their fishing stations can still be seen at the end of the croft at 42 Gress.

The relative success of this venture and the large number of people involved was such, that a Post Office was established. This was the first Post Office on this side of Broad Bay and it was kept going for a number of years.

There were some interesting happenings during this venture connected with the ships which came for their cargo of fish. These ships emptied their ballast on to the sands of Gress and Lewis Maciver, who was the tackman of the farm, carted all the earth on to his fields. People used to say that the fields on which this stuff was spread had the best yields.

Another instance which involved Lewis Maciver was when a ship was being loaded with fish had to pull away from the shore on account of a gale that had sprung up. Lewis Maciver thought that the crew were taking the ship away to steal the cargo, so he ordered some of his workers to fire on the ship to make her turn back. One of his workers a Norman Macleod, who was a bard, composed this song about the ship and Lewis Maciver's predicament.

In 1786 an English Greenland ship had been blocked up sometime by the ice, where, and in their voyage to the Lewis, the men suffered incredible hardships which reduced their numbers and obliged them to run into the only bay upon this coast, called "*Loch Tua*" or the broad bay, Here they were stranded, but happily for them, not on a plundering or barbarous coast. They were received and assisted by Seaforth and the inhabitants with the utmost liberality and humanity.

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## **Seo an oran a sgrìobh Tormod Beag nan Oran mu dheidhinn an tachartas ann an Griaies**

Thanaig soitheach gun a'phuill  
s'onnair braigh san aodan aic  
Bha bataichean is eich is cairtean  
gus a sac a thaomadh aisde  
'S ann a thog I ceann a ionnsaidh fairge  
s' cearban beag de dh'aodach oir

Chaidh an artillery an ordugh  
gunna mor a sior-losgadh  
Bha Loui siud is cuid de shloigh  
's cha b'ann gu moran sith dhaibh  
ach bha ise falbh 's I siubhal balbh  
's I as an fhairge faonacradh  
Chuir iad a reef a steach le drip  
's chaidh am pic a dhireachadh

'Nuair a thuair I h-aodach air a h-uchd  
ma'n Tiumpas fhluch I taobhan ann  
Bha an Caimbeulach a stiurach cas  
na leoidich a toirt aodach dhith  
Bha'n onnair aic a cuir na chleas dhi  
cheart cho brais sa dh'fhaodadh e  
ach tha thus air tir tha sinn air muir  
bitheadh sith nad fhuill ma dh'fhaodas tu.

## ORAN A BHATA SUAINEACH

Chaidh an oran seo a sgrìobhadh le Tormod Macleoid, “Tormod beag nan Oran”, agus bha e air ainmachadh le muinntir a Bhac mar “Tormod beag an Ach”. Thainig e a dh’obair a Ghriais na bhuachaille aig toiseach an naoidhamh linn deug. Bha e posda a cheud uair aig Mairi Nicaoidh a Gearraidh na Aibhne. ‘S e aon mhac a bha aige leis a phosadh seo agus rinn a mhac seo a chomhnaidh air a Bhac le theaghlach. Bha a mac seo air ainmachadh mar Iain Thormoid agus tha dubh ogha (Great-Great-Grandchild) dha a fuireach air a chroit a bhuinadh dha. A reir eachdraidh thug Tormod gruinn bhliadhnaichan air a Bhac na bhantrach agus e ag obair aig Louis Maciomhair ann an Griais.

Dh’fhalbh e a Griais agus chaidh e gu Siabost agus phos e an dara uair ann an sin, agus ‘se aon na mic bhon phosadh sin am bard ainmeil “Iain Thormod Bhig”

Aig an am a bha sin bha moran co-cheannachd eadar Lochlinn agus Griais. Bha obair mor a dol air aghaidh ann mar a bha iasgach sgadain agus saileadh iasg geal agus ‘s ann mu dheidhinn aon de na soithaichan a thainig le luchd a Griais a rinn Tormod an oran seo.

Bha an soitheach a bha seo aig acair aig poill Ghriais agus bha daoine le bataichean beag a giulain a luchd na sac gu tir. ‘Nuair a bha iad mu leth a stugh a thoirt aisde sheid a ghaoth air aghaidh a chladaich agus thog an shoitheach air falbh gu muir air eagail gun cuireadh a ghaoth air na creagan i.



## **MAOIS**

Seachdainn roimh an Ordugh  
Mus do thoisich an aiteach  
Bha reobhairt mor ann  
'S chord ri pairt dhuinn

Chaidh gach ni ann an ordugh  
Chaidh iarraidh ropan air Tearlach  
Ailean leis a' gheola  
Ag iarraidh coinneach an ard thonn;  
-An Fheamainn Dhubh

Chaidh gach corran a ghleusadh  
Air gach sgian chuir iad faobhar  
Airson spionnadh an Fheamainn  
A bha am fianuis o'n bhurn dhith  
'S chaidh a dreughadh as na riamhan  
As an t-sliasaid, as na taobhan  
As suil na leis.

## MILITIA LIST - 1826

### VILLAGE OF GRESS

NAME	OCCUPATION	AGE # under 30	CHILDREN	COMMENTS
ALEX MACKENZIE			4	
MURDO MACASKILL			5	
KENNETH MURRAY			3	
DONALD MACIVER			7	Served in Militia
HUGH MURRAY	FISHER	#	-	
ANGUS MACDONALD		#	3	
MURDO MACLEOD		#	2	
ALEX MACRAE			4	
DONALD MURRAY			3	
ANGUS CAMPBELL	FISHER	#	-	Real good Fisher
DONALD MACDONALD	FISHER	#	1	
DONALD MORRISON	FISHER	#	1	
ALEX MACRAE	FISHER	#	2	
DONALD MACDONALD		#	1	
MURDO MACKENZIE			3	
JOHN MACAULAY		#	-	
ANGUS MOR MACDONALD		#	-	
NORMAN MACLEOD		#	-	
NORMAN MACLEOD				
DONALD MURRAY			2	
DONALD MORRISON			3	
(Mac Hedrish)				
ALEX MACFARLANE			4	Dumb
DONALD MORRISON	FISHER	#		
JOHN MACLEOD	SERVANT		8	
NEIL MACRAE	MILLER		5	
NORMAN GRAHAM		#		
ALEX MURRAY	SERVANT		3	
LEWIS MACIVER			7	

## **The LIDDLES of GRESS**

The tack was then taken over by Mr Peter Liddle who came from Lanark. He employed his nephew Peter Liddle, also from Lanark, to run the farm. Young Peter then married his uncle's daughter and after old Liddle's death he took over the farm and kept it going until it was split up in the 1920s.

Peter Liddle was left the farm house and about 5 acres of land together with the mill. He kept the mill going for a number of years up to the beginning of the war. It was then sold to Mr Webb an engineer from London and was used for war work during the war.

After Peter Liddle's death the 5 acre croft was used by his daughter Kate and she lived in the farm house until her death. The farm house and the adjoining land was then sold to Mr Donald Martin and Mr John Mackenzie.

The mill house is now in a derelict state and who owns it nobody seems to know.

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## **LOCATION OF THE GRESS MACRAES**

According to local tradition a family of Macraes were living near the site of the house at 27 Gress. They came from the Carloway area and according to local folklore there were seven sons in the family. Most of the Lewis Macraes came with the Mackenzies of Kintail and it is on record that they were employed by the Mackenzies to discipline their tenants along with unpleasant acts that was required of them. One of the Macraes was a constable in Tolsta and another one had the same job in Vatisker. This is a verse of poetry supposed to have been written by one of their ill-treated victims.

A' dhuinne Mhicrath  
'S uime neach air na ghabh thu brath  
Chuir thu eagal air na bha nan duisg  
'S dhuisg thu na bha nan chadal

O fellow Macrae  
Many a man you did illtreat  
You frightened those who were awake  
You woke all those who were asleep

## AN COIBHNEAS

An cuala sibh m'an "Choibhneas"  
A thanaig a null a Bhatasgeir  
Le sgioba bhalaich Ghrias oirr'  
Son iasgach nan adagan  
Bha seol ur co-dhiu oirr'  
Raimh is stuir is bacannan  
Is tha 'd a dol ga caireadh  
Le larag a Lathurna

'N uair sheol i mach a Brebhic  
Bha eibheachd air na balaich ud  
Gach fear aca cho sgeunach  
Ri eun a ruith bho Shasunnach  
Ruairidh air a stiuir aice  
Domhnaidh a's an toiseah aic'  
Is mac mhic Uilleam 's spid air  
Ag innse dhaibh a 'latitude'

Mach mun a Sgeir Mhor  
Thainig ceo bho 'n fhearrann orr'  
Mas d'fhuair 'ad air a curs i  
'S i dluth air Rudha Bhatasgeir  
Thuirte Ailean 's e cho tursach  
C'ait a bheil do' logaichean  
Cuir a mach a luidhe  
Mas buail i gu cabhagach

Thuirte Piain ruibha 'n uair sinn  
Cumabh curs a mach oirre  
Deanabh air an Dun leatha  
Gun eagal cuil na carr' oirbh  
Ni mise 'navigation'  
Is oibrichidh mi 'sextant' dhuibh  
'S chan eil puing 's a chombaist  
Nach cunnt mi mar 'admiral'

## **A' Bhirlinn Bheag**

'S ann again a bha bhirlinn  
Bha siubhlach air a chuan  
Mar chunnaic mi le m'shuilean i  
Air maduinn mhoch Di-luain  
Bha fairge mor is cabhadh ann  
Is frasan oirr' bho Thuath  
'S bha Eachainn air a stiur aice  
'S a churs air a Ghob Ruadh

'N uair chuir e tac a mach oirre  
A deanadh air an Dun  
Bha muir mor ga fhrasadh oirr'  
Dol seachad air a stiur  
'N uair a laigh a sliasaid ann  
Bha siaban a cuir smuid  
'S bha Rodaidh aig a haillard aic'  
'S a chanabhas air duinnt'

Mhol iad fhein a 'signalman'  
Cho ealant 's a bha lamh  
Gun fhuaireadh na 'messages'  
Gun aon ac' a dhol cearr  
Ach dh'ionnsaichear bho oig' e  
Bho Chromair gu Dunbarr  
'S bho Sierra Leone  
Gu Trothas a's a Spainn

'N uair chualas aig a Bhataraidh  
Chaidh fios a chuir air falbh  
Chuir iad suas a bhratach riu  
'S chuir iadsan suas te dhearg  
Ag innse mar a thachair dhaibh  
'S mhaduinn 's i cho garbh  
'S naidheachd ud a libhrigeadh  
'S a h-innse an Baile Ghriais.

Freagair Iain Macleoid  
 Bu sheoladair 's a chogadh mi  
 Shuibhail mi gach aite  
 Eadair Cardiff agus Africa  
 Thug mi dreis a tiartadh  
 Air trathlair na mo mharaiche  
 'S bheit mi Caiptinn Ceir  
 A's a bheus ann an Cromartaidh

Thuir Murchadh Maciomhair  
 Nach cianail na mairich sibh  
 Chan fhada gus am buail i  
 Gu cruaidh air a Bhraga leinn  
 Suidhich air a churs seo  
 Am Beilear 's Cnap an Duine  
 Sgiath gheal an Totha  
 'S seolaidh sinn seachad air

Freagair Ise 'nuair sinn  
 Cruadhaichibh fhathast ruim  
 Cuiribh raimh 's an t-seol dhomh  
 'S gu seol mi gu h-aigeannach  
 'S ioma la fiadhaich  
 Le siaban ga fhrasadh ruim  
 A rinn mi cladach Bhrebhic dheth  
 'S geil air mo ghlainneachan.

## FISHING VESSELS OF GRESS 1900+

NAME	REG.NO.	OWNER(s)	ADDRESS	SKIPPER	TYPE OF VESSEL	TYPE OF FISHING	TONNAGE	KEEL	CREW
<b>DAISY</b> Registered 1913		Roderick Mackay	28 Gress						
<b>MURIAL</b> Registered 1923	SY 508	Murdo Macleod John Murray Alex Graham John Macdonald Murdo Graham E Ferguson	1 Gress 26 Gress 9 Gress 37 Gress 5 Gress 19 Gress	J Murray 26 Gress (1924)  Murdo Murray 1932	Sailing Boat Lug-rigged & Foresail	Lines	2.25Tons	14ft	6 men
<b>VENTUROUS</b> Registered 1924	SY 916	Hector Macmillan	6 Gress	H Macmillan 6 Gress					
<b>GRESS DELIGHT</b> Registered 1926	SY 165	Hector Macmillan	6 Gress	H Macmillan 6 Gress	Lug-rigged & Lugsail	Lines	2 Tons	15ft	7men
<b>GLENESK</b> Registered 1928		Allan Murray (Part Owner)	22 Gress		Ketch Steam & Screw		67.5Tons		
<b>PRIDE OF GRESS</b> Registered 1933	SY 368	Hector Macmillan	6 Gress	H Macmillan 6 Gress	Lug-rigged & Lugsail	Lines	3.25Tons	25ft	6men
<b>EA LA BHAN</b> Registered 1933	SY 405	Alex J Macdonald	8 Gress	A J Macdonald 8 Gress	Lug-rigged & Lugsail	Lines	2Tons	15ft	5men
<b>SOMME</b> ex BOY ALEX ex CATHIE ANN Registered 1933	SY 456	Colin Murray 1938 Alexander Martin 1946	22 Gress 43 Gress	Allan Murray 1938 A Martin 1946	Lugsail & Foresail	Lines and Nets	1.75Tons	15.5ft	3men



## ORAN AN "KINGSTON SAPPHIRE"

We were on board a trawler  
Ochd miosan agus coir  
Up at the Faroe Islands  
Le geiltean a bha mor  
The frost was cold and bitter  
Bha am muir na fhairge mhor  
Going past the Monkey Island  
Mar ghleinn 's beanntan reoite.

About the First of August  
Thainig ordugh bho na cinn  
To proceed to Gibraltar  
Cho luath's a burrain dhuinn  
To patrol the Western Ocean  
A mach bho Coast na Spainn  
And keep all stuff from Germany  
A dheidheadh troimh puirt na Spainn.

We went to Gibraltar  
Bha samhradh breagha ciuin  
The sea was calm and beautiful  
Bha ghrian a' toirt soillse bho na neoil  
We never thought nor worried  
Cho goirid's a bha an uine  
Gus an deidheadh i sios oirn  
'S a' toirt leatha pairt dh'an crew.

It was early on Saturday  
Moch mus do dh'eirich grian  
A German submarine appeared  
'S loisg sinn oirre gu luath  
She answered with torpedo  
'S an trawler chaidh i sios  
But we all got out of her  
Ach triuir a thug i sios.

Some went on a Carley Float  
'S tha bu shugradh e  
And some were in a little boat  
Coir is da uair dheug  
A Spanish trawler came in sight  
'S dhearc i oirnn gu luath  
And we were happy  
An uair a fhuair sinn blaths a' ghuail.

They took us to Huelva  
Aig da uair dheug a dh'oidhche  
The British Consul took us in hand  
'S bha iad baidheal ruinn  
They gave us food and clothing  
Cho math's a burrainn dhaibh  
And we were four and twenty days  
Mus d'fhuair sinn as an laimh.

We went to Gibraltar  
Air bord Tramp a' ghuail  
And from there back to England  
'S dhachaidh cola deug  
Thus ended the adventure  
A thachair ri na seoid  
Who were on board the Kingston Sapphire  
Gus an la an deach i fodha.

Received from George Mackay. 28 Gress (Seoras a' Cheic) crewmember

## AINMEAN AGUS BEAGAN EACHDRAIDH MU ABHAINN GHRIAIS

Tha linne anns an abhainn aig taobh shìos na drochaid ris an canadh na seann dhaoine "**Linne an Trang**". Cha chuala mi riamh de a bha'n ainm seo a ciallachadh ach 'se mo bheachd, na'm bitheadh duine ag iasgach innte, dh'fheumadh e a bhith gle ealant' agus trang airson an t-iasg a toirt aisde mu's tigeadh a mhuir lan gus an linne.

Tha a nise an treas drochaid air Abhainn Ghriais. Chaidh a cheud te a chuir ann aig toiseach an ochdamh linn deug 'nuair a chaidh an rathad a dheamhamh eadair Steornabhagh agus Griais. Bhitheadh na seann dhaoine ag radh gur e drochaid fhiodh a bh'ann.

Tha sroin air taobh an iar na drochaid ris an canadh iad "**Rudha Ath Charnan**". Tha an Ath a's an ainm a ciallachadh gu robh an abhainn cho caol a's an aite seo 'is gu'm faodadh duine coiseachd thairis oirr'.

Tha lubadh air an abhainn aig taobh a muigh an rubha agus tha allt beag a sruthadh innte an sin. 'Se "**Allt a' Chleitear**" an ainm tha oirr'. Seo a nis ainm eile bu choir a chumail an cuimhne; tha cleit na chois astar beag a mach an allt agus 'se mo bheachd gur ann air seo tha an allt air ainmeachadh. Tha larach seann gharadh faisg air a chleit agus 'se "**Garadh a Chleit**" a theireadh iad ris.

Beagan astar a mach air a sin tha lubadh eile air an abhainn agus thig sinn gus a "**Linne dubh**" agus air taobh a muigh a linne seo tha "**Reimhear**" a tighinn bho dheas a dol gu'n abhainn agus tha sin a denamh eilean air taobh deas an abhainn ris an canadh iad "**An Tuabachan**".

A nis, beagan astar eile mach, thig sinn gu'n a "**Linne Chaol**" agus bideag eile a mach tha "**Linne Bun na Feidh**", air ainmeachadh a chionn 's gu'm bith feidh a tighinn gu'n abhainn ann a seo.

Tha lubadh a's an abhainn an seo agus tha allt a tighinn thuice bho dheas air ainmeachadh mar "**Allt a Cheargal**". Tha linne dhomhain a'n seo leis an ainm "**Linne Bun an Allt**". 'Se seo an linne a's am bitheadh na balaich ag ionnsachadh snamh 'nuair a bhitheadh iad a buachailleachd a chrodh air an fhìdeach.

Bha ceann shuas a linne tana, mu cheithir troighean a dhoimhne, agus 'se an ainm a bha aig na balaich air a phios seo, a "**Bhealach Beag**". Bha meadhon a linne na bu domhain, timcheall air sia troighean, agus 'se ainm a phios seo, a "**Bhealach Mor**". Bha ceann shios a linne mu ochd throighean a dhoimhne agus air ainmeachadh "**An t-Shurag**".

'Nuair a bha sinn og, bhitheadh sinn a toiseachadh shuas a's an ait' bu thana, am "**Bealach Beag**", agus mar a bhitheadh sinn a tighinn air adhairt bhitheadh sinn a dol do'n "**Bhealach Mor**" agus 'nuair a bha snamh agad air ionnsachadh, bha thu a dol gu'n "**t-Shurag**" agus tha mise a creidsinn gu robh an ionnsachadh seo mar mheadhon air moran bhalaich am beatha a shabhaladh troimh iomadh aite 'san t-saoghal. Ach ged a bha sin mar seo, bha linne mar mheadhon air seann dhuinne call a bheath' innte.

Anns a bhliadhna, naoi ceud deug agus tri fichead, chaidh fear Alasdair MacChoinnich (Alexan Oscar), agus e na sheann dhuinne a shnamh dha'n linne agus 'nuair a bha daoine a gabhail fadachd nach robh e tilleadh dhachaidh chaidh iad dha lorg agus fhuair iad a chorp an grund a linne.

Fagaidh sinn a nis a linne seo a bha na thoileachas dha cuid agus na aobhar bron dha cuid eile agus theid sinn astar beag a mach gu "**Linne na Cuilc**". Tha furasd' a thuigse carson a th'an ainm seo - tha cuilc a fas ri bruaich na linne. Tha feith leathainn a tighinn as a cheann shuas agus tha uisge a linne a dol suas pios an fheith. 'Se "**Leum Aonghais Ciobair**" an ainm a th'oirre.

Seo a nis beagan eachdraidh mu thimcheall an fheith seo.

Ann an toiseach an ochdamh linn deug thainig fear, Aonghas MacAoidh, bho'n Acha Mhor, a chiobaireachd ann an Griaies agus bha e a latha seo coiseachd ri taobh na aibhne agus bha crodh, le tarbh na measg, ag ionaltradh an sin agus a 'nuair a chunnaic an tarbh e, dhean e air. Bha Aonghas air a glacadh leis an abhainn air aon taobh agus an fheith leathainn seo air an taobh eile. Tha an eachdraidh ag radh gun do leum e an fheith agus gur ann mar sin a fhuair e air falbh bho'n tarbh agus tha e coltach gu robh e gle aotrom air a chasan oir tha leud mhor a's an fheith.

‘Nuair a bheir thu suil gu taobh tuath a linne seo tha seann gharadh ri fhaicinn aig iochdar **“Bhreacair”**. ‘Se Breacair a theireadh iad ris a leathad far am bheil thu ‘faicinn na feannagan taomaidh. A nis a thaobh an garadh seo, tha beagan eachdraidh mu thimcheall. ‘Se **“Garadh a Phortair”** an t-ainm a th’oirre. Tha an garadh ‘tha seo gabhail a steach bruaich na aibhne gus an ruig e clach agus a sin tha e a leantainn astar an t-abhainn gu deas agus dol tharais air an rathad gu’n chladaich.

De an aobhar neo de an fheum ‘bha’n gharadh sin a deanamh? A nis, mar a tha fios againn, ‘nuair ‘bhios lann mor ann, tha e a tighinn air uachdair an fhidich agus tha e gle coltach gur ann airson an talamh aithich a dhion bho na mara a chaidh e a thogail.

Carson a bha garadh air ainmeachadh air am portair? ‘Se sin a cheist, ach bha e ri radh gur e aon de na obraicheahean am portair, an garadh seo a chumail suas maille ri obraichean eile, mar sealltain as deigh na puirt iasgaich agus mion-rannsachadh na longan a bhitheadh ‘tighinn air tir.

Fagaidh sinn **“Linne na Cuile”** agus garadh an t-abhainn agus thig sinn gu lubadh eile ‘san abhainn far am bheil linne eile ris an canadh iad **“Linne an Damh”**. Bha e ri radh gur e damh a chaidh a bhathadh innte.

Tha an abhainn a cuir leth-chuairt a’n seo agus a deanamh **“Bu na h-Eich”**. Tha na buaichean seo ri fhaicinn ri na aibhne agus tha fear gorm a fas orra ‘is ‘se sin an aobhar gu’m bitheadh na h-eich cho deidheil air a bhith ag ionaltradh ann. Tha e cinnteach gu’m bitheadh acras mor air eachmus itheadh e fraoch a bha fas timcheall na buaichean.

Chaidh drochaid de fhiodh a thogail air an abhainn a’s an aite seo anns a bhliadhna naoi ceud deug agus deich air fhichead agus chaidh urachadh le saighdearan anns a bhliadhna naoi ceud deug, tri fichead ‘sa sia deug. ‘Se aobhar na drochaid a chuir ann gu robh i a giorrachadh an t-slighe dha clann Ghriais ‘nuair a bhitheadh iad a dol dha’n sgoil.

Air taobh a muigh na drochaid bha staran chloich air an abhainn ris an canadh iad **“Staran nam Boireannaich”** oir ‘se seo an doigh a bh’aig na banachagan air faighinn tarsuinn air an abhainn ‘nuair a bhitheadh iad a dol a mach agus dhachaidh leis a bhainne gu na h-airidhean.

Gu math faisg air bruaich na h-aibhne a'n seo tha "**Chreag Ruadh**" agus seachad air sin tha lubadh air an abhainn agus feadan a tighinn innte bho iar-dheas ris an canadh iad "**Feadan Lisgro**". 'Se ainm Lochlannach 'tha seo. Tha fuaran aig bun an fheadan leis an ainm ceudna.

Beagan astar a mach tha "**Linne a Chlachair**" agus tha seann larach tigh agus feannagan faisg air. A nis, co bh' a's chlachair neo 'ni tigh aige a bh'ann? Tha e gle choltach gur ann air a shon a chaidh a linne ainmeachadh.

A nis, a toirt suil gu'n taobh tuath, tha aite leis an ainm "**Rusgaraidh**". 'Ne ainm Lochlannach neo Gaidhlig a tha seo? Chan eil fios agam, ach saoilidh ni gum bheil beagan de bhlas na Gaidhlig air, mar a tha "gearadh".

Bheir sinn a nis ceum a mach agus thig sinn gu "**Linne an Chair**" (cathair). Tha carradh ann a meadhon na linne gu math coltach ri cathair agus 'nuair bha sinn og bhitheadh e na spors againn a bhith 'nar suidhe ann. Anns a bhliadhna naoi ceud deug da fhichead 'sa dha dheug thachair tubaist dhuilich anns a linne 'tha seo 'nuair a bha truir chloinne le Domhnall Ferguson (balach agus dithis nighean) a cluich ann. Thuit a nighean a b'oige dha'n linne agus 'nuair a fheuch a piuthair a sabhaladh 'sann a thuit i fhein innte agus chaidh an dithis a bhathadh.

Astar beag a mach air a sin tha "**Linne Dholly**". Bha e ri radh gu'n do thachair tubaist eile a'n seo. Chaidh nighean og a bhuineadh dha'n a luchd-sealg, a bhitheadh a tighinn a Ghriais, a bhathadh innte.

Tha allt a tighinn gu'n abhainn bho thuath air taobh a muigh a linne leis an ainm "**Allt an Mhegisgro**" a tha gle choltach ri ainm Lochlannach.

Mach air a seo tha "**Linne Caradh**", "**Linne na Suraig**", agus "**Linne Cailleach**" agus pios eile mach tha "**Linne Mhor bun a Gharadh Bhreac**" agus "**Linne Ur**". Le mo chuimhne, bha na linntean seo air a chlachairachd agus air a dheanamh dionach airson glacadh tacaran mor uisge. Bha sin ga'n fhagail gle fhreagarach airson iasgach bhradain agus breic.

Tillidh sinn air ais gu **“Linne na Suraig”** far am bheil seann gharadh a tighinn bho dheas thice leis an ainm **“An Garadh Ghlas”**. Tha larach seann gharadh eile a tighinn bho thuath a dol gu **“Linne Mhor bun a Gharadh Bhreac”** agus ‘se seo **“An Garadh Bhreac”**.

Beagan astar eile a mach tha lubadh a’s an abhainn far am bheil aite farsuing, reidh ris an canadh iad **“Erisgair”** agus tha e faicsinneach gun robh an aite seo air aiteachadh. Tha seann larach tigh agus feannagan ri fhaicinn. ‘Se seo an aite a’s an robh ciobairean an uachdaran a fuireach. Ach eud ciobair air am bheil eachdraidh againn ‘se fear, Tormod MacLeoid, a thainig bho’n Achadh Mhor aig toiseach an ochdamh linn deug. ‘Se bard a bha a’s an duine seo agus tha na orain a rinn e a toirt foillseachadhair seo. ‘Nuair a dh’fhag e Griaies, chaidh e ‘null gu Siabost agus tha mac dha air ainmeachadh mar bhard cho math agus a chluinneadh tu - Iain Thormoid bhig.

An deidh seo thainig fear eile bho’n Achadh Mhor a fuireach ann an Erisgair. ‘Se ciobair a bh’ann ‘se seo am fear air am bheil **“Leum Aonghas Ciobair”** air ainmeachadh - Aonghas MacAoidh.

An deidh am fear seo thainig fear MacKinnon a Marig, Na Hearnadh, a dh’fhuirich ann. Thug esain aireamh math bhliadhnaichean ann, agus ‘se seo am fear mu dheireadh a bha ga aiteachadh agus ‘se **“Buailadh na Hearraich”** a chanas iad ris a phios a’s an robh e. Mar a dh’ainmich mi a cheanna ‘se **“Erisgair”** an ainm a bh’air an aite seo agus tha cuibhroinn de’n fhacal seo a ciallachadh a’s an sheann Lochlann **“tuathanas”** agus tha sin a nochdadh gu robh e air aiteachadh ri am na Lochlannaich.

Na sheallas thu gu taobh tuath an abhainn a’n seo tha carn mor chloich ri fhaicinn. Chan eil eachdraidh sam bith nu thimcheall an carn ‘tha seo ach guir e aite daingneach Lochlain a bh’ann.

A nis gabhaidh sinn a mach beagan astar eile agus thig sinn gu allt a tighinn gu’n abhainn bho’n tuath. ‘Se **“Allt an Tartair”** a their iad ris. Tha tartair a’s an ainm seo a ciallachadh fuaim agus, an deidh dortadh uisge, tha fuaim mor aig an allt seo.

Tha feadan a tighinn gu’n abhainn pios beag air taobh a muigh seo bho thuath agus ‘se **“Feadan Chruinavat”** a their iad ris. Tha an fheadan seo a tighinn a **“Loch Chruinavat”**. ‘Se ainm Lochlannach eile ‘tha seo.



A sealltuinn gu deas na h-aibhne ann an seo, chi sibh seann larach tigh earraich. Bha an tigh na bu mhotha na airidh - bha aite airson a chrodh ann. Bhitheadh na daoine leis an robh na taighean earraich a dol chun a mhointich leis a chrodh trath a's an t-earraich. 'Sann le Murchadh Alasdair Iain a Ghreumaich a bha an tigh earraich seo.

Air taobh dheas na h-aibhne chi sibh "**Cnoc na Cloich**". Tha an cnoc seo air ainmeachadh air clach mhor a th'anns an abhainn air taobh stigh an cnoc ris an canadh iad "**Clach Mor Erisgair**". Air taobh a muigh an cnoc seo tha larach seann gharadh a tighinn gu na h-aibhne. 'Se an garadh dubh a theireadh iad ris. Seo an garadh is fhada muigh air a mhointich ris an abhainn. Tha airidh air taobh tuath an abhainn fa-chomhair an garadh agus 'se seo airidh "Dhomhuill Duinn".

Gabhaidh sinn a mach astar beag eile agus thig sinn gu "**Linne an Arlais**". Chan eil Fhios agam de 'tha an ainm seo a ciallachadh ach tha sgorr a's a linne agus bhitheadh iad ag radh nam bitheadh duine eolach air a sgorr seo gun thugadh e bradan gu math tric aisde. Saoillidh mi gur e "**Linne an Eolais**" a bu fhreagarraich.

Greis air adhart thig sinn gu lubadh air an abhainn gu deas. 'Se "**Airidh Mhurchadh**" a their iad ris an aite seo. Tha larach "**Airidh Alasdair Mhic Dhomhnuill**" air taobh tuath an abhainn aig bun "**Feadan Leig an Ilidh**" agus tha airidh eile air an taobh seo, "**Airidh Dhomhnuill MacChoinnich**" (Oscar). Air an taobh deas bha "**Airidh Alasdair Mhurchaidh Dhughail**" agus "**Airidh Mhurchaidh Dhomhnuill 'c Urchaidh**".

Tha aon tigh earraich ann - tigh "Thormoid Choinnich Mhic Sheorais". Tha seann laraichean eile ann a thuilleadh air an seo.

A nis, a thaobh an fheadan a tha seo bho thuath, "**Feadan Leig an Ilidh**". Tha an fheadan ag eirigh a Leig an Ilidh, ach co a bh'as an Ilidh? Ni sinn beagan sgrudadh air an ainm seo.

'Nuair a bha an eilean seo aig MacLeoid bha aireamh mhor do luchd frithealadh aige. Bha bard agus clarsair ann airson denamh agus seinn oran molaidh dha, agus bha piobaire aige airson cluich dha aig am biadh na cuirm. Bha treas fear ann nach robh cho iomraiteach, mar gille teachdaireachd agus 'se Ilidh na Filidh a theireadh iad ris. Carson a tha leic seo air ainmeachadh air an fhilidh, cha chuala sinn.

Tha 'nis an abhainn a lubadh a mach agus thig sinn gu ***‘Feadan Iarsgro’***. 'Se ainm Lochlannach a tha seo. Tha an fheadan seo a tighinn bho dheas, a Loch Iarsgro, loch cruinn le bruaichean dubh. Tha linne faisg airbun an fheadan seo agus tha bruaich ard air an taobh deas. Tha mi 'nis dol a innse mu thimcheall tubaist a thachair dhomh a's a linne seo.

Anns a bhliadhna naoi ceud deug 'sa fichead bha mi air an airidh maille ri mo sheanair. Bha mi coig bliadhna a dh'aois. Bha tigh earraich againn aig "Airidh Mhurchaidh" faisg air a linne seo. An latha bha seo thainig buachaill a Bhac a steach gan tigh earraich agus thoisich e fhein agus mo sheanair a comhradh. Rug mise air bata mo sheanair agus cheangail mi pios sreang agus prine ris agus dh'fhalbh mi mach as an tigh earraich gun iad an aire a thoirt dhomh. Chaidh mi a mach gu'n a linne seo agus thoisich mi, na mo bheachd fhein, ag iasgach innnte. Bha sruth as a linne agus 'nuair a bha mise a coimhead an t-sruth thainig tuainealaich na mo chinn agus thuit mi dha'n linne. Tha e cho ur nam' chuimhne aig an t-am seo agus a bha e a latha sin a cluinntean na plumbaichean agus mi fon uisge, 's iongantach man do dh'fhalbh an t-sruth leum agus fhuair mi mi fhein air cnap luachair aig ceann shios na linne. 'Nuair a fhuair mi a mach as an abhainn ruith mi gu'n tigh earraich. 'Nuair a chunnaic mo sheanair mi, rug e orm agus leag e mo bhriogais agus thug e dhomh dearsagan mu'n a mhas. Chan eil fios agam de bu ciuirteach, dearsagan mo sheanair, na tuiteam dha'n a linne. Tha cuimhne agam gu'n chuir e dhiomh m'aodaich agus mi a chuir dha'n leabaidh mar a latha a rug mo mhathair mi.

Mach air a seo tha an abhainn a ruith dìreach agus tha laraichean seann airidhean air gach taobh. Tha larach seann tigh earraich ann mus ruig thu an daim. 'se seo tigh earraich "Lidy". Tha feadan a tighinn gun an daim bho thuath ris an canadh iad ***‘Feadan na Cluais’***. Tha an fheadan seo a tighinn a "Loch na Cluais" air am bheil cumadh cluais.

Pios air taobh muigh an daim tha ***‘Feadan Fail’*** a tighinn gu'n abhainn bho dheas. Tha fail a ciallachadh ait' anns am bitheadh iad a cumail beathaichean bho dhion. Gle fhaisg air an fheadan seo tha feadan eile a tighinn bho dheas agus 'se ***‘Feadan an Crodh’*** a their iad ris. Tha e gle coltach gum bitheadh iad a ceangal beathaichean bho'n an fheadan seo agus ga'n gleidheadh aig an fheadan a bha ri thaobh.

Gabhaidh sinn a mach agus tha lubadh eile ri fhaicinn agus 'se **'Niosa Breidh'** a their iad ris. 'Se aite reidh a tha seo agus tha e air a chomhachd le luachair. Tha seann laraichean airidhean ri fhaicinn ann agus linne dhomhain. 'Se **"Linne Dhubh Niosa Breidh"** a their iad rithe. Cha chuala mi 'riamh de bha an t-ainm seo a ciallachadh. Mach air a seo tha feadan a tighinn gu'n abhainn bho thuath agus 'se **'Feadan Sgiasgro'** an t-ainm a th'air. Saoilidh mi gur e ainm Lochlannach 'tha seo.

A mach a rithist tha aite mor reidh air gach taobh dha'n abhainn. 'Sann a shaoileas tu gu robh e air aiteach uaireigin. 'Se am **'Bu Ban'** a their iad ris agus tha an ait' seo cuideachd air a chomhdachadh le luachair.

Gabhaidh sinn a mach astar beag eile agus thig sinn gu'n linne mu dheireadh a th'anns an abhainn - linne fada dhomhain. 'Se **'Linne Puill Beathag'** a chanas iad ruithe. 'Se seo ainm a fhaodadh sinn a cheangail ri boireannach leis an ainm, Beathag, a bha fuireachd a muigh faisde air an aite seo. Bhitheadh iad ag radh gun robh dithis mhic aice agus gur e Domhnuilich a bh'annta. Tha e gle chinnteach duine a bhitheadh a comhnuidh a muigh a'n siud gu'm feumadh e teine agus iongantach ma'n a robh puill monach aca faisde air a linne.

Beagan astar eile a mach tha feadan tighinn bho thuath gu'n abhainn leis an ainm **"Feadan Cro-Scarp"**. Tha am feadan seo ag eirigh a **"Leic Cro-Scarp"** aig bonn Muirneag a deas. Seo a nis ainm nach dean sinn ach leth-thuigse air. Tha fios agam gur e cro aite gleidheadh bheathaichean ach co ris a cheangaladh sinn Scarp, chan eil fios agam.

Tha **"Feadan na Fiadh"** a tighinn bho dheas agus a dol gu'n abhainn faisde air an seo, agus air taobh a muigh na feadannan seo tha allt a tighinn bho chul Muirneag. 'Se **"Allt Brathain"** an ainm a th'orra. Tha uisge glan a ruith as an allt agus dh'fhaodadh a bhith gu'n robh tigh stalaidh ann an seo. 'Se brastach an ainm a bh'air a rud a bh'aca a cruadhachadh an t-siol agus 'se braich a theireadh iad ri deoch laidir. Chan eil cinnt' sam bith air an seo.

Air taobh muigh an allt tha seo tha feadan a tighinn bho dheas. 'Se **"Feadan Loch an Fheoir"** an ainm a th'air oir tha e a tighinn a **"Loch an Fheoir"**. Tha allt a tighinn dha'n abhainn air taobh a muigh an fheadan seo agus 'se **"Allt nan Cnamh"** a theireadh iad ris.

Tha sinn a nis a tighinn am fianais Loch Ghriais agus chan eil a choir a fheadain na uillt a sruthadh innte.

GS

## BACK MEN WHO WERE ALLOCATED CROFTS AT GRESS

NUMBER	NAME	
1	Murdo Macleod (Murdo)	
2	Kenneth Ferguson (Goidy)	
3	Murdo Murray (Murchadh Uisdean)	
5	Murdo Graham (Murchadh Seonaid)	
7	Allan Martin (Ailean Thormoid) -- Later D Macaulay, Breasclete	
8	Alex John Macdonald (Spring)	
9	Alex Graham (Alex Alasdair Bhig)	
10	Roderick Macleod (Roddy Dhomhnuill Duinn)	
11	Alex Macleod (An Caolais)	
12	Angus Macleod (Aonghas Kenny)	
13	Murdo Macleod (Murchadh Barrant)	
14	William Munro (Tuliban)	
15	Murdo Maciver (Sgaoisidh)	
16	Neil Macleod (Ughlag)	Later N J Stewart
17	Evander Ferguson (Elib)	
19	Evander Ferguson (Iomhair Teel)	
20	Donald Macleod (Domhnall Beel)	
21	Angus Macleod (Aonghas a' Bheel)	Later Jake
24	Kenneth Morrison (Coinneach Saor)	Later Alex Shogaidh
25	Donald Maclean (Crubag)	
26	John Murray (Iain Uisdean)	
27	John Macdonald (Sgineach)	
28	Roderick Murray (Cake)	
29	Hugh Stewart (Heech)	
30	John Macleod (Iain Dhomhnuill)	
31	Alex Macleod (Bobshy)	
37	John Macleod (Iain an t-Siaraich)	
38	Murdo Graham (Beag)	
39	Roderick Macdonald (Ruairidh Portar)	Later Tobhad
40	Murdo Macdonald (Prize)	
41	Angus Graham (Sailor)	
42	Angus Macleod (Aonghas Cleod)	Later Domhnall Uilleam

TOLSTA MEN WHO WERE ALLOCATED CROFTS AT GRESS

Angus Graham (39), An Griasaiche, Aonghas Mac Aonghais Mhoir, whose father came from Galson in 1851

John MacDonald (Pian) (16b), a son of Domhnall Mor MacDonald (48)

John MacDonald (Hector) (69), a son of Murchadh Ruadh MacDonald (23)

John MacInnes (Iain a Bhrogga), a son of Murdo MacInnes (Hill). His people came from Harris.

Murdo MacIver (Murchadh Chaluim) (26). Another brother, Donald, who was married in Coll, got a croft on Coll Farm.

Kenneth MacKay (Coinneach Staoig) (30b)

Alexander and Donald MacLennan (Balaich Sheogaidh) (35); ancestors came from Harris.

Hector MacMillan (Eachainn Cuagach) (Glen Tolsta) and his brother Angus.

John Morrison (Iain Mhic Cluchaidh) (31)

Allan Murray (Allan Steam) (4)

Donald Murray (Donaidh) (69), a son of John Murray (45), the "Orator".

Two others were given crofts in that portion of Glen which belonged to Gress Farm, just across the river from their old homes. They were: -

Alexander MacMillan (Alickan); a brother of Angus and Hector MacMillan, above-mentioned; and his cousin, Donald MacMillan. These MacMillans came from Isginn, Park, Lochs in 1843.

### **Croft No 1 Gress**

The first tenant was Murdo Macleod (Mac Mhurchaidh Dhomhnuill Mhurchaidh) from 37 Back. He was married to Kirsty Graham (nighean Sheorais Thormoid Ghreum). Her father came from 1 Vatisker. They left from 11 Back to 1 Gress.

The croft then passed to their son Murdo who was married to Ann Morrison (nighean Dhomhnuill Choinnich Mhic Sheorais) from 14 New Street, Polygon, Back. After their death the croft passed to their son Donald Murdo who is married to Gormelia Maclean (nighean Thormoid) from Crossroads, North Tolsta.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 2 Gress**

Kenneth Ferguson (mac Neill Iomhair) from 53 Back. He was married to Mary Martin (nighean Dhomhnuill Buachail) from 59 Back. They left from Lighthill, Back to 2 Gress.

The croft then passed to their daughter Mary Ann who is married to Thomas NacNiven from Lochewe.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 3 Gress**

Murdo Murray (mac Uisdean Iain Oig) from 9 Back. He was married to Annie MacKenzie (nighean Thormoid a Shithean) from 51 Vatisker.

The croft then passed to their son Angus who was married to Mary Ann Macleod (nighean Mhurchaidh) from 1 Gress. After Angus' death the croft passed to his son Murdo who is married to Joan Tough from 1 New Street, Polygon, Back.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 4 Gress**

John Macinnes (mac Mhurchaidh Iain) from 52 Tolsta who was married to Lily Mackay (nighean Dhomhnuill Thormoid) from 2 Tolsta. On their death the croft passed to their son Donald.

He is the present tenant - 1994.

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### **Croft No 5 Gress**

Murdo Graham (mac Seonaid Alasdair Dhomhnuill) from 8 Back, who was married to (nighean Chalum Dhomhnuill Ghreum) from 55 Back.

The croft then passed to their daughter Margaret who married James MacKerracher and it has passed to their son James who is married to Ann Chambers from Tong.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 6 Gress**

Hector MacMillan (mac Dhomhnuill Iain Dhonnachaidh) from 4 Glen Tolsta who was married to Catherine MacMillan (nighean Iain Iain Dhonnachaidh) from 2 Glen Tolsta.

On their death the croft passed to their son Alex who is married to Isabella Maciver (nighean Mhurchaidh Mhurchaidh) from 48 Back.

They are the present tenants- 1994.

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### **Croft No 7 Gress**

Allan Martin (mac Thormoid Dhomhnuill Buachail) from 59 Back, who was married to Kirsty MacDonald, 15 Aird, Point.

After Allan's death his widow emigrated to the U.S.A.

The croft was then sold to Donald Macaulay (mac Aonghais Dhomhnuill Mhurchaidh) from 19 Breasclete. He was first married to Catherine MacMillan (nighean Dhomhnuill Iain Dhonnachaidh) from 4 Glen Tolsta and married a second time to Mary Macleod (nighean Dhomhnuill Iain Dhomhnuill) from 20 Gress.

The croft then passed to nephew Donald John Macmillan, 4 Glen Tolsta. After Donald John's death the croft passed on to his brother Murdo, who is married to Annie Morrison (nighean Aonghais Chalum Dholig) from 45 South Bragar.

The croft has now passed to their daughter Catriona, who is married to Kevin MacDonald from Stirling.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 8 Gress**

Alex John Macdonald (mac Mhurchaidh Raonaid) from Out End, Back who was married to Joan Maciver (nighean Dhomhnuill Aonghais) from 18 Gress and 33 Tolsta.

On her husband's death his widow Joan inherited the croft and has since sold it to Mark Macleod from Stornoway.

He is the present tenant - 1994.

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### **Croft No 9 Gress**

John Macdonald (mac Choinnich Chalum) from 61 Back, who was married to Janet Ferguson from Portvoller, Point.

The croft passed to their daughter, Cathie Ann, who was married to Alexander Graham (mac Alasdair mhic Alasdair mhic Dhomhnuill) from 8 Back.

The croft then passed to their daughter, Janet, who is married to James MacDonald (mac Alasdair Iain Mhurchaidh Raonaid) from 8 Gress.

They are the present tenants - 1994

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### **Croft No 10 Gress**

Roderick MacLeod (mac Dhomhnuill Dhuinn) from 44 Back, who was married to Catherine MacLean (nighean Iain Dhomhnuill) from 6 Back.

The croft passed to their son Murdo and after his death it passed to his brother Donald. After his death it passed to his sister Mary John who is married to Murdo MacIver (mac Mhurchaidh Mhurchaidh Bhain) from 15 Gress.

The croft has now passed to Evander Ferguson (mac Neil Iomhair) from 32 Back who is married to Valerie MacDonald from Harris.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 11 Gress**

Alexander MacLeod (mac Dhomhnuill Dhomhnuill Mhurchaidh) from 37 Back who was married to Ann MacIver (nighean Choinnich Iain Chalum) from 48 Back.

The croft then passed to his nephew Donald MacLeod from 32 Back It then passed to his nephew Evander Ferguson (mac Neil Iomhair) who is married to Valerie MacDonald (nighean Sheonaidh a' Ghobha) from Bunabhainneadar, Harris.

They are the present tenants - 1994.



### **Croft No 12 Gress**

Angus MacLeod (mac Choinnich Aonghais) from 44 Back who was married to Mary MacIver (nighean Iain Iain DhomhnuillMhor) from 47 Back.

The croft has now passed to their son John George and he is the present tenant - 1994.

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### **Croft No 13 Gress**

Murdo MacLeod (mac Mhurchaidh Dhomhnuill Bharant) from Catherine Hill, Vatisker who was married to Ann Ferguson (nighean Dhomhnuill Iomhair) from 10 Back.

The croft passed to Alex John MacMillan (mac Eachainn Dhomhnuill) from 6 Gress who is married to Isabella MacIver (nighean Mhurchaidh Mhurchaidh Iain 'ic Chalum) from 48 Back. He passed it to his niece Catherine Rose (nighean Sheonag Eachainn) who is married to Donald John Murray (mac Chalum Murray) from Laxdale.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 14 Gress**

William Munro (mac Dhomhnuill Alasdair Hearnach) from 40 Back who was married to Mary Macleod(nighean Choinnich Aonghais) from 44 Back. The croft then passed to their daughter Kenina who is married to Nat Cornfoot from England. The croft has now passed to Angus MacLennan from Govag, Harris who is married to Lena (nighean Alasdair Dholly) from 31 Gress.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 15 Gress**

Murdo MacIver (mac Mhurchaidh Mhurchaidh Bhan) from 40 Coll and 48 Back who was married to Margaret Morrison (nighean Mhurchaidh Sheorais) from Lighthill, Back.

The croft passed to their daughter Murdina who is married to John Ferguson (mac Choinnich Iain Sine) from BroadBay View, Back.

They are the presents tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft no 16 Gress**

Neil MacLeod (mac Thormoid Dhomhnuill) from Light Hill, Vatisker who was married to Dolina Murray (nighean Alasdair Mhurchaidh Bhain) from 40 Coll.

The croft passed to Neil John Stewart (mac Alasdair Dhomhnuill Ruaidh) from 26 Coll. He was married to Margaret Morrison (nighean Ruairidh Dhomhnuill) from 4 South Dell.

The croft then passed to their son Alexander who is married to Jessie Graham (nighean Iain Iain Aonghais Ruaidh) from 13 Upper Coll.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 17 Gress**

Evander Ferguson (mac Iain Iomhair) from New Street, Polygon, Back who was married to Ann Stewart (nighean Aonghais Dhomhnuill Ruaidh) from 75 Coll.

The croft passed to their daughter Christina who was married to Angus MacLeod from 16 Cross, Ness.

She is the present tenant - 1994.

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### **Croft No 18 Gress**

Donald MacIver (mac Aonghais Aonghais Mhurchaidh) from 26 Tolsta who was married to Margaret MacLeod (nighean Aonghais Iain Saighdair) from 20 Tolsta.

The croft passed to their daughter Mary and she is the present tenant.

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### **Croft No 19 Gress**

Evander Ferguson (mac Neil Iomhair) from 53 Back who was married to Mary MacMillan (nighean Iain Iain Bhard) from 22b Back.

The croft passed to Ted Hodgetts from DAFS. The croft has now passed to David MacLennan (mac Iain Alasdair Iain Iain Bhain) from 24 Gress and he is the present tenant - 1994.

The house was on a feu and sold to Robert Dawson from Wick and Inverness who is married to Isabella MacDonald Smith from Tarbert, Loch Fyne.

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### **Croft No 20 Gress**

Donald MacLeod (mac Iain Dhomhnuill Mhurchaidh) from 37 Back who was married to Mary MacLeod (nighean Iain Alasdair) from Bayble, Point.

The croft passed to their daughter Mary who gave the croft to her cousin Margaret MacLeod (nighean Choinnich Dhomhnuill Iain Alasdair) from Bayble, Point who is married to Charles Clark.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 21 Gress**

Angus MacLeod (mac Iain Dhomhnuill) from 37 Back who was married to Christina Morrison (nighean Choinnich Shaois) from 35 Back.

The croft then passed to Alex Murray (mac Ailean Dhomhnuill Alasdair) from 22 Gress who was married to Mary Murray (nighean Iain Mhurchaidh Neill) from 71 Tolsta.

The croft then passed to their son Alex who was married to Murdina MacLeod from 9 Carloway.

He is the present tenant - 1994.

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### **Croft No 22 Gress**

Allan Murray (mac Dhomhnuill Alasdair Neill) from 62 Tolsta who was married to Ann MacLeod (nighean Alasdair Dhomhnuill Thorcuill) from 4 Tolsta.

The croft passed to their daughter Mary who gave it to her relative Catherine (nighean Iain Alasdair Ailean) from 21 Gress who is married to David MacLennan from Stornoway.

They are the presents tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 23 Gress**

Donald MacLennan (mac Iain Iain Iain Bhain) from 35 Tolsta who was married to Mary Campbell (nighean Aonghais Dhomhnuill) from 51 Tolsta

The croft passed to their son Murdo who is married to Mary MacDonald (nighean Iain Iain Dhomhnuill) from 32 Gress.

They are the presents tenants -1994.

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### **Croft No 24 Gress**

Malcolm Morrison (mac Choinnich Choinnich Sheorais) from 35 Back who was married to Ann MacLeod (nighean Dhomhnuill Alasdair Bharant) from 31 Back.

The croft passed to Alex MacLennan (mac Iain Iain Iain Bhain) from 35 Tolsta who was married to Jessie MacKay (nighean Ruairidh Iain Ruairidh) from 28 Gress.

The croft passed to their son John who was married to Lilly Ann Ritchie from Stonehaven.

The croft has now passed on to his widow Lilly Ann.

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### **Croft no 25 Gress**

Donald MacLean (mac Iain Dhomhnuill Dhonnachaidh) from 6 Back who was married to Joan Stewart (nighean Aonghais Neill) from 35 Coll.

The croft passed to Kirsty MacDonald (nighean Iain Dhomhnuill Mhurchaidh Bhuidhe) from 32 Gress who later married Donald MacKenzie (mac Dhomhnuill Dhomhnuill) from 46 Back.

The croft passed to the son Murdo who is the present tenant.

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### **Croft No 26 Gress**

John Murray (mac Uisdean Iain Oig) from 9 Back who was married to Joan Martin (nighean Dhomhnuill Thormoid Buachaile) from 63 Back.

The croft passed to their daughter Dolina who was married to Murdo Campbell (mac Aonghais Mhurchaidh) from 31 Vatisker.

It has now passed to their daughter Murdina who is married to Angus MacDonald (mac Ciorstag Iain Dhomhnuill Mhurchaidh Bhuidhe) from 25 Gress.

They are the present tenants -1994.

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### **Croft No 27 Gress**

John MacDonald (mac Mhurchaidh Iain Phortar) from 11 Back.

The croft then passed to his brother Roderick who was married to Marion Graham (nighean Aonghais Ghriasaich) from 44 Gress.

It then went to John MacKinnon (mac Iain Iain Ruairidh) from Stornoway who is married to Ann MacIver (nighean Iain Iain Iain) from 47b Back.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 28 Gress**

Roderick MacKay (mac Iain Ruairidh) from Catherine Hill, Vatisker who was married to Ann MacLeod (nighean Neill Alasdair Bharant) from 40 Vatisker.

The croft then passed to their son George who is married to Kirsty Ann MacIver (nighean Iain Iain Iain) from 47b Back.

The croft has now passed to their daughter Murdina who is married to Murdo Murray (mac Dhomhnuill Bhain) from 36 Cross, Ness and they are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 29 Gress**

Hugh Stewart (mac Choinnich Alasdair) from the Polygon, Back who was married to Catherine Stewart (nighean Neill Mhurchaidh Ghriall) from 35 Coll.

The croft passed to their son John who has passed it to his nephew Angus MacKenzie (mac Chalum) from Stornoway who is married to Margaret MacDonald (nighean Thormoid Calum Taillear) from 6 Swordale, Point.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 30 Gress**

Donald John MacLeod (mac Iain Dhomhnuill) from 46 Back.

He emigrated to Australia and the croft passed to Alex Murray (mac Alasdair Ailean Dhomhnuill) from 21 Gress who was married to Murdina MacLeod from 19 Garenin, Carloway.

He is the present tenant - 1994.

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### **Croft No 31 Gress**

Alexander MacDonald (mac Uilleam Ruairidh) from 53 Vatisker who was married to Mary MacLeod (nighean Uilleam Dhomhnuill) from Light Hill, Vatisker.

The croft then passed to his brother-in-law Alex MacLeod who was married to Kirsty Bella MacDonald (nighean Dhomhnuill Iain) from 9 Coll.

The croft passed to their daughter Isabella who is married to Alex MacDonald (mac Dholly) from 36 South Shawbost.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 32 Gress**

John MacDonald (mac Dhomhnuill Mhurchaidh Bhuidhe) from 48 Tolsta who was married to Jessie MacKay (nighean Aonghais Iain Aonghais) from 16 Tolsta.

The croft went to their son John who is married to Catherine Morrison (nighean Sheumais Iain Dhomhnuill) from 1 South Dell, Ness.

It has now passed to their son James who is married to Mary MacLeod (nighean Dhomhnuill dhathidh) from Stornoway.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 33 Gress**

Donald Murray (mac Iain Sheorais Iain Oig) from 45 Tolsta who was married to Ann MacIver (nighean Mhurchaidh Dhomhnuill Mhor) from 69 Tolsta.

The croft passed to their daughter Margaret who then passed it to her brother John, and he is the present tenant - 1994.

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### **Croft No 34 Gress**

John Morrison (mac Iain Uilleam Mhor) from 31 Tolsta who was married to Kirsty Murray (nighean Iain Sheorais Iain Oig) from 45 Tolsta.

The croft passed to their daughter Catherine who is married to Norman MacLeod (mac Iain Iain Dhonnachaidh) from 60 Coll.

The croft has now passed to their son William who is married to Catherine MacDonald (nighean Alasdair Uilleam Dhomhnuill) from 7 Tolsta.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 35 Gress**

John MacDonald (mac Mhurchaidh Dhomhnuill Ruaidh) from 23 Tolsta who was married to Catherine Macdonald (nighean Ailean Uilleam) from 1 Tolsta.

The croft passed to their son Allan who was married to Mary MacGregor (nighean Sheumais Eachainn) from 6 Newlands, Shulishader, Point.

The croft has now passed to their son John who is married to Catherine MacMillan from Stornoway.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 36 Gress**

Murdo MacIver (mac Chalum Dhomhnuill Mhor) from 26 Tolsta who was married to Kirsty MacLeod (nighean Aonghais Mhurchaidh Uilleam) from 34 Tolsta.

The croft has now passed to their son William, and he is the present tenant - 1994.

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### **Croft No 37 Gress**

John MacLeod (mac Choinnich Shiaraich) from Out End, Coll who was married to Kirsty Stewart (nighean Dhomhnuill Alasdair) from 4 Vatisker.

The croft passed to their daughter Mary who was married to Donald Murray (mac Ailean Dhomhnuill Alasdair) from 22 Gress.

The croft has now passed to their daughter Margaret, who is married to Angus MacKenzie (mac Mhurchaidh Aonghais) from School Road, Tolsta.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 38 Gress**

Murdo Graham (mac Alasdair Alasdair) from 8 Back who was married to Mary Ann Stewart (nighean Aonghais Neill) from 35 Coll.

The croft passed to their son Alex, who is married to Effie Morrison (nighean Iain Alasdair Mhurchaidh) from 3 New Street, Back.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 39 Gress**

Rodeirck MacDonald (mac Mhurchaidh Phorstar) from 11 Back, who was married to Marion Graham (nighean Aonghais Ghriasaich) from 44 Gress.

They emigrated to Canada and sold the croft to Norman MacLeod (mac Thormoid Uilleam) from 14 Vatisker, who was married to Catherine MacLeod (nighean Iain Saighdear) from 20 Tolsta. The croft passed to their daughter Margaret.

It then passed to Peter MacLeod (mac Mhurchaidh Mhollan) from 29 North Shawbost, who is married to Mary MacDougall (nighean Ruairidh Bagar).

They sold the croft to Iain M MacDonald (mac Iain Mhurchaidh Raonaild) from 40 Gress and he is the present tenant - 1994.

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### **Croft No 40 Gress**

Murdo MacDonald (mac Mhurchaidh Raonaid) from Out End, Back who was married to Catherine MacLeod (nighean Thormoid Dhomhnuill Uilleam) from 37 Vatisker. They had no family and he then married Margaret MacLeod (nighean Iain Alasdair Phiobaire) from 11 Ballantrushal.

The croft then passed to their son John who is married to Marion Nicolson (nighean Mhurchaidh Choinnich) from 26b Leurbost.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 41 Gress**

Alex Graham (mac Alasdair Aonghais) from Light Hill, Back, who was married to Catherine Stewart (nighean Aonghais Neill) from 35 Coll.

The croft then passed to Angus Graham ( mac Alasdair na lochan) from 41 Back, who was married to Mary MacKay (nighean Dhomhnuill Alasdair) from 22 Knock, Point.

The croft passed to their son Alasdair, who is married to Mary Ann MacIver (nighean Mhurchaidh Chalum) from 36 Gress.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 42 Gress**

William MacLeod (mac Dhomhnuill Thormoid) from LightHill, Vatisker who was married to Isabella Stewart (nighean Dhomhnuill Mhurchaidh) from 23 Vatisker. He was married a second time to Mary MacIver (nighean Iain Dhomhnuill Mhurchaidh) from 34 Back.

The croft passed to William's son Donald from the first marriage and he was married to Catherine MacInnes (nighean Thormoid Dhomhnuill) from 1 Glen Tolsta.

After their death the croft passed to a number of tenants and the present tenant is a Mr Starmore whose wife comes from Point.

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### **Croft No 43 Gress**

Kenneth MacKay (mac Dhomhnuill Ruairidh) from 64 Tolsta who was married to Mary MacIver (nighean Alasdair Iain Mhurchaidh) from 30 Tolsta. The croft passed to their son Kenneth.

The croft has now passed to John Gunn (mac Choinnich Mairi) from Tabost, Harris who is married to Catherine MacDonald ( nighean Ailean Iain Mhurchaidh) from 35 Gress.

They are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **Croft No 44 Gress**

Angus Graham (mac Iain Aonhais Mhor) from Tolsta who was married to Catherine MacKay (nighean Aonghais Iain) from 16 Tolsta. He was married a second time to Catherine Graham (nighean Sheorais Aonghais) from 1 Flesherin, Point.

The croft passed to his son Murdo, from the first marriage, and then to his widow, Kirsty MacLeod (nighean Thormoid Thornaidh) from 10 Portvoller, Point.

The croft is now in the possession of John Gunn, 43 Gress.

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### **Croft No 45 Gress**

Hector MacMillan (mac Iain Iain Dhonnachaidh) from 2 Glen Tolsta, who was married to Kirsty MacLeod (nighean Thormoid Thormoid Mhor) from 6 Tolsta.

The croft passed to his brother, Donald who was married to Isabella MacIver (nighean Aonghais Choinnich Ruaidh) from 43 Tolsta.

It then passed to Donald's daughter, Ann who passed it on to Donald MacInnes (mac Thormoid Dhomhnuill Aonghais) from 1 Glen Tolsta.

The croft has now passed to William A Morrison (mac Choinnich Dhomhnuill Choinnich) from 14 New Street, Back who is married to Catherine M MacDonald (nighean Alasdair Uilleam) from 7 Tolsta,

They are the present tenants - 1994

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### **Croft No 46 Gress**

Alexander MacMillan (mac Dhomhnuill Iain Dhonnachaidh) who was married to Annabella MacIver (nighean Choinnich Choinnich Ruaidh) from 38 Tolsta.

The croft passed to Donald MacIver (mac Mhurchaidh Choinnich Choinnich Ruaidh) from 38 Tolsta who was married to Katie Ann MacIver (nighean Sheorais Iain Sheorais) from 45 Tolsta.

The croft has now passed to his son, Murdo who is married to Catherine Murray (nighean Chalum Shonnaidh) from 40 Tolsta and they are the present tenants - 1994.

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### **No 47 Gress** (not croft)

Malcolm MacIver (mac Mhurchaidh Chalum) from 36 Gress who is married to Etta Morrison (nighean Iain Sheorais) from 1 New Tolsta.

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### **Beinn Iomhair** (not croft)

Angus MacLeod (mac Thormoid Aonghais) from 4 New Street, Back who is married to Christine MacIver (nighean Chalum Mhurchaidh Chalum) from 47 Gress.

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## **GRESS DEACONS**

<b>ORDAINED</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>KNOWN AS</b>
1931	Roderick Mackay	28	An Cheic
1944	William Munro	14	Uilleam Dhomhnaill a' Hearnadh
1950	Donald MacAulay	7	Domhnall Aonghais Duibh
1950	Murdo Graham	38	Murchadh Alasdair Bhig, Am Buck
1957	Murdo MacDonald	40	Murchadh Mhurchadh Raonailt, Pruis
1957	George MacKay	28	Seoras a' Cheic
1981	Alasdair Stewart	16	Alasdair Neil John a' Charagain
1981	Iain MacKinnon	27	Ian Iain 'an Chabharstaidh
1992	Murdo Murray	28	Mac Dhollidh Ban Fhionn

## **GRESS ELDERS**

1931	Evander Ferguson	17	Iomhair 'an Iomhair. Ilip
1944	Roderick MacKay	28	Ruairidh 'an Ruairidh, An Cheic
1957	Murdo Graham	38	Murchadh Alasdair Bhig, Am Buck
1968	George MacKay	28	Seoras a' Cheic
1992	Iain MacKinnon	27	Ian Iain 'an Chabharstaidh

### **GRESS PUPILS ON STRIKE(OR WAS IT PARENTS?)**

In November 1925, the first of two strikes organised by Gress parents took place when, in this newly formed village, parents withdrew their children from Back School and demanded a school of their own. The children were with-held from school from 2nd November till 25th November, as retold in the 1965 Eilean an Fhraoich annual.

The new village of Gress was in rebellion because the children had to go to Back School. The headmaster, the late Mr W G Morrison, supported them. On Christmas Day, he said a good many of the children had ventured out, but were caught in a wild shower before they reached school. They arrived in a pitiable condition, dripping wet, with the water squelching out of their boots. Two of them had since been of school with rheumatic fever.

The question which will spring to most minds today is, what were they doing in school on Christmas day anyway? But no one thought it odd in 1925 that the Christmas holidays should not begin until Christmas Day was safely past.

The School Management Committee's problem was whether to go for a side school at Gress or a charabanc. Does anyone nowadays call abus a charabanc? In the event they got neither and the problem of getting the Gress children to school remained unsolved until comparatively recent times.

Ten years later, in January 1935, the Gress parents kept their children from school from 11th January until 4th February. A deputation of Gress parents appeared before a meeting of the School Management Committee asking for the erection of a school at Gress. The deputation, although strongly urged to send their children to school in the meantime, declined to say that they would do so until they consulted other parents in the settlement. It was stated at the meeting that the total number of children, of under school age was fully 80, and for this number the committee considered the erection of a school would be an economical proposition.

The County Education Committee decided that, because the distance between Back School and Gress is less than 3 miles, they were unable to erect a school or provide a bus service.

Gress pupils did not start school until they were 6 years old because of the distance involved - Back pupils went at 5 years old.

It has been said that the "Drochaid Dhubh" - a timber structure, black in colour, was provided after this to shorten the distance for the pupils.

# GRESS CENSUS :- 1841

NAME	AGE		DETAILS	WHERE BORN
	M	F		
James Maciver	20			Ross-shire
Catherine Maciver		50		"
Lileas Maciver		25		"
Alexander Maciver	12			"
Isabella Macdonald		65		"
John Robertson	14			"
Angus Macdonald	15			"
Mary Mackenzie		50	F	"
Rachel Mackenzie		20	F	"
Isabella Mackenzie		20	F	"
Mary Macleod		20	F	"
Ann Macrae		20	F	"
John Mackenzie	20		U	"
Donald Murray	20		U	"
Angus Mackay	25		Agricultural Labourer	"
Malcolm Maciver	15		U	"
Donald Macaskil	15		U	"
Norman Macleod	15		U	"
George Murray	15		U	"
Daniel Macalister	15			n/k
Donald Munro	25		Miller	n/k
Mary Munro		20		Ross-shire
Janet Munro		2		"
George Munro	4m			"
Alexander Macaskil	35		U	"
Catherine Macaskil		35		"
Ann Macaskil		10		"
Angus Macaskil	9			"
Margaret Macaskil		6		"
Kenneth Macaskil	4			"
Roderick Macaskil	9m			"
Evander Ferguson	35			"
Ann Ferguson		35		"
Angus Ferguson	8			"
Murdo Ferguson	7			"
Donald Ferguson	4			"
Ann Ferguson		2		"
Neil Ferguson	6m			"

**GRESS CENSUS :- 1841** (cont'd)

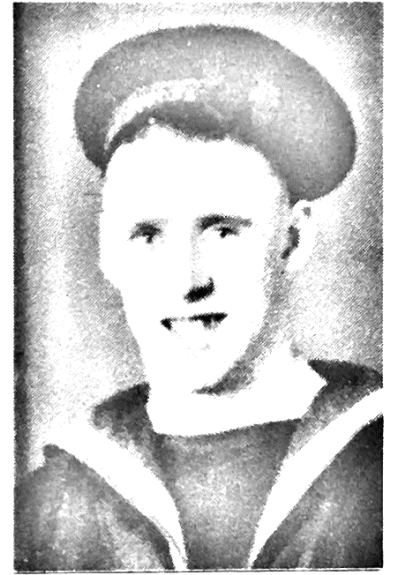
NAME	AGE		DETAILS	WHERE BORN
	M	F		
Alexander Macfarlane	60			Ross-shire
Mary Macfarlane		60		"
Alexander Maclean	7			"
John Macleod	55			"
Janet Macleod		50		"
Flora Macleod		14		"
Murdo Macleod	15			"
Hector Macleod	11			"
Donald Murray	40		Agricultural Labourer	"
Christina Murray		35		"
Ann Mackenzie ?		10		"
Norman Macleod	50		Agricultural Labourer	"
Isabella Macleod		45		"
Neil Macleod	15			"
Malcolm Macleod	13			"
Donald Macleod	10			"
Catherine Macleod		7		"



*Donald Mackay (Mac Choinnich Ruairidh Tailleur), R.N.R., 43 Gress. Lost on H.M.T. "Fifeshire", 1940.*



*Murdo Macdonald (Mac Dhomhnuill Mhurchaidh Bhuidhe), M.N., 32 Gress. Lost on "Empire Light", May, 1941.*



*Murdo Macdonald (Mac Dhomhnuill Mhurchaidh), R.N.R., 32 Gress. Died on active service, May, 1943.*



*Murdo Stewart (Mac Uisdean Choinnich Alasdair), Piper, 29 Gress. Invalided out. Died as result of war injuries, 1945.*



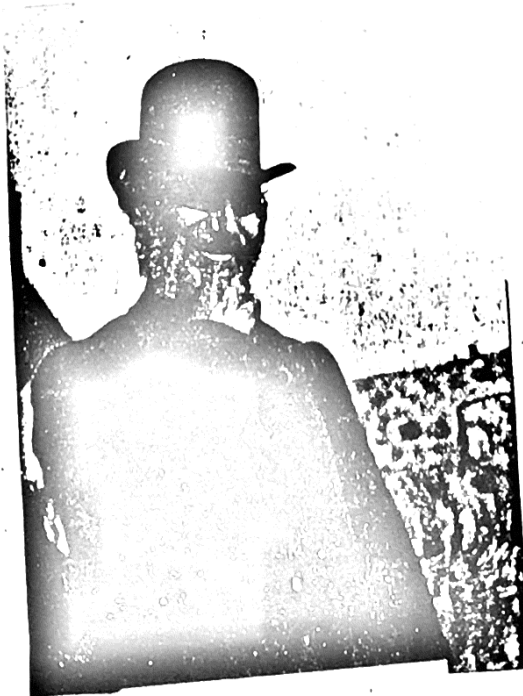
*Murdo Campbell (Mac Aonghais Mhurchaidh Ailein), R.N.R., 26 Gress. Lost on H.M.S. "Rosaura", 18 March, 1941.*



*Donald Macinnes (Mac Iain Mhurchaidh Iseabail), M.N., 4 Gress. Died on war service.*

**GRESS CENSUS :- 1841** (cont'd)

NAME	AGE		DETAILS	WHERE BORN
	M	F		
Alexander Macfarlane	60			Ross-shire
Mary Macfarlane		60		"
Alexander Maclean	7			"
				"
John Macleod	55			"
Janet Macleod		50		"
Flora Macleod		14		"
Murdo Macleod	15			"
Hector Macleod	11			"
				"
Donald Murray	40		Agricultural Labourer	"
Christina Murray		35		"
Ann Mackenzie ?		10		"
				"
Norman Macleod	50		Agricultural Labourer	"
Isabella Macleod		45		"
Neil Macleod	15			"
Malcolm Macleod	13			"
Donald Macleod	10			"
Catherine Macleod		7		"



Farmer at Gress



