

## WHO LIVED IN THAT HOUSE?

Have you ever passed a house and wondered who lived there and where are they now?



Take this house in Bohuntin Ville:-  
It was known to many people as Parry's house.  
It has evolved over the years into the one we see today

The MacGillivantaigs had lived in Bohuntin for about 500 years and Ann MacGillivantaig/MacDonald b1801 d1884 inherited the croft. Her parents were John (Iain Mhor) MacDonald and Catherine MacKillop, a grand aunt of Saint Mary MacKillop. She married a John MacDonald from Crathie, Laggan and they had 10 children.



They lived in the above house which was behind the house we see now. It was called Annie's house.

Duncan, the oldest, b1828 married Mary Cameron daughter of Donald Cameron, Achanaich and Margaret MacBarnet b 1799 d 11/3/1889 daughter of Alexander and Mary Campbell in Bohuntin in 1867.

*"Duncan was a herd boy and shepherd in Bohuntin for some time. Then he went to Carlisle and started the family droving business. He took the cattle from the crofters along the drove roads from Lochaber to Carlisle and Liverpool. Most of his children were born in Penrith or Carlisle. He died at the age of 58. When he was ill his sister Kate walked from Bohuntin to Carlisle to collect the money owed to the crofters because they were saying he had run off with it. She walked all the way back with the money to retain the family honour." Peter MacDonald-Pearce*

Duncan and Mary had 6 children:-

Ann, Duncan, Isabella.

John who died in France in WW1.

Mary married a John Park and lived in Fort William and they were the direct ancestors of Duncan Shearer, the footballer and Chrissie Shearer wife of Eddie Campbell, Kisimul, Alma Road.

Donald Dubh (Black Donald) MacDonald b Carlisle abt 1879 married Mary Peterina (Parry) Campbell. Parry's father was a Glasgow policeman and her mother was a Bohuntin Boyle. When their old house burned down in the early 1950's they moved into the one we see now which they also owned.



*"Our grandfather was the RSM in the Lovat Scouts. He fought in the Boer War campaigns in South Africa and also the Salonika campaign in WW1. I can remember him during the war walking behind a single furrow plough pulled by his Clydesdale, Billy. He also left his revolver with many cartridges lying about in the sheds and Johnny and I played about with them lighting gunpowder trails under stones. The Bodach (as we called him) also held very strong opinions on a whole range of subjects including Scottish Independence. He was very badly crippled with arthritis in his later days.*

*Our grandmother, Peterina or Parry was a marvellous lady who was always smiling and kind. She and the Bodach always conversed in gaelic. My endearing memory of her included her putting on her hat to go to church with a stiff broken left arm ( she refused to have it set), running a household of men extremely well, milking the cows, making black puddings, having a wee dram of rum and secretly smoking a clay pipe in her bedroom with the strongest of strong tobacco (Gallacher's War Horse)"*

*Peter MacDonald-Pearce*

At one point Donald was the local postman and would cycle from Roy Bridge to Glenroy with the mail.

I remember Donald Dubh as an old man who was always in bed. They had the first TV in the area which was on the chest of drawers in his bedroom and I used to walk up to their house on a Saturday to watch Six Five Special. He must have been very patient to allow me to watch a pop programme.



I remember Parry as a kind lady who always called me Ma Ghile ( my darling). I also remember she had a cow called Marlyn Monroe!

They brought up five children and a grandchild in the original house:-



Dodo b1928, their grandchild, was a well known character. After the fire he moved into the house we see now with his grandparents. He supported the old couple for many years then he moved into a chalet beside the house. He did his National Service in the Cameron Highlanders where he learned to play the pipes. He was very knacky and could repair things with a bit of string or wire and a hammer! He also played the melodeon and was in great demand at dances and ceilidhs. He was a good shot and carried home many a stag. Later on he moved to a house further up the glen and then married Angela Boyle and emigrated to Adelaide, Australia where he still lives. They have two children, Kathleen and Peter.



Dodo showing Colin and me a dead rabbit



A young Johnny Parry

Johnny b1904, was a policeman who spent most of his adult life in Hertfordshire. He retired to Bunlossit and died in Glencoe Hospital aged 90. He married Gwen Wells and had two boys, Neil and Ian who worked in NZ and LA.

When Ian retired he came back to Roy Bridge and married Zeta Cooper. He died last year.

Anne b1910 was a teacher who taught in Roy Bridge and Aberdeen. She married Willie Thomson, a director of Frigidaire. They lived in Torphins and I spent many a weekend there when I was a child. When widowed she came back to Roy Bridge and built Birchbank opposite the hotel.

Duncan b1910. He was known as Dochie. He had a red Panther motorbike, smoked a pipe and wore his cap back to front. He died of cancer in 1957.

Jean b1913 was a nurse. She contracted TB and died in Kingussie during WW2

Margaret(Peggy) b 1908 married Thomas Pearce and had five children.

She and the children spent the war years in this house.

*"The house was used as a barn in 1940 and my mother transformed it from a barn holding hay and potatoes into a very comfortable home.*

*She was a very intelligent and dynamic woman and had a strong MacDonald stubborn streak but a heart of gold. I remember her singing gaelic songs in Roy Bridge Hall. She brought up the family almost single handed because father was away in the RAF. She became a nurse eventually and worked as a district nurse and midwife in Bedford and East Anglia. She was tragically killed by a speeding motorcycle." Peter MacDonald-Pearce*

Margaret (Midge) and Patricia (Patsy) both married and went to live in America. At one point Patsy was a Bunny Girl in the Playboy Club, London.

Johnny was in the RAF and married Reba Callaghan a singer in an Irish Showband. After the RAF he worked in the air freight business in Luxembourg. He retired to Strabane in Northern Ireland. He tragically died in a helicopter crash. They had two sons.

Peter who now lives in England did his national service in the RAF then became a full time musician for a year which included playing with Tubby Hayes, Kenny Baker and other interesting musicians of the fifties. He then went to Kings College, London and after his degree helped set up a new British School in Germany and became its headmaster. Before he retired he was principal of Uppingham Community College. Peter has a son and a daughter.

Michael who was born in Bohuntin in 1944.

A Mr Milne lived in the house after them for a year.





Catherine Dolina aka Dolly Parry b 1917 d 1984 was the adventurer. She was a nurse and joined the Queen Alexandra Nursing Auxiliaries when WW2 broke out. She served on the Queen Elizabeth hospital ship in the Far East and later decided to stay in Malaysia where she became matron of a large hospital in Penang. After that she was matron in Kwame Mkruma Hospital in Ghana. She retired to the house in Bohuntin which she inherited. Later she married Coll MacDonald and moved to The Knoll. She died suddenly on a day out in Helensburgh.

Dolly and Alistair Cameron gathering hay.



When she left the Bohuntin house Dolly let it to Mick Tighe and Tim Walker, ex marines who came to work in Tulloch Mountain Centre.

When they moved further up the glen Dolly sold the house to Mary and Jim Lothian who added on an extension at the rear.

Since then it has been sold a couple of times and is now occupied by Ronnie MacKenzie.



The back of the house in the 1930/40's ?....not sure who is in the photo.....possibly Denny MacKintosh.

The next generations of this MacDonald family are to be found nearer home in Scotland and England but also in Australia, Canada, N Ireland and the USA .. a far cry from the simple croft house of their ancestors.

HC

Thanks to Peter MacDonald-Pearce for sharing his memories.



