

THE DIARY OF  
**MARY CAMERON  
MACGREGOR**  
1868

*A Year in the Life of  
the Lismore Manse, Argyll*



*Edited by*  
Robert Hay, Caroline Bath and  
Barbara McDougall

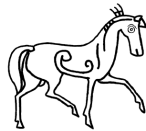
ISLE OF LISMORE HERITAGE CENTRE

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Robert Hay, Caroline Bath and Barbara McDougall,  
Isle of Lismore Heritage Centre



THE EUROPEAN  
ETHNOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH CENTRE

Sources in Local History

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## INTRODUCTION

Mary MacGregor was the wife of Reverend Gregor MacGregor, the parish minister on the Isle of Lismore for nearly 50 years.<sup>1</sup> Her diary,<sup>2</sup> for a single year, passed from her son to a grandson in the USA, and returned to Lismore by a combination of unlikely events. Amongst the regular notes about weather and health, it preserves details of manse life and duties from another era, when the minister's wife was left with all of the responsibilities of running the household, including securing the food supply from the glebe and garden. Mary's responsibilities were unusually onerous because, with an extensive and scattered parish, her husband was frequently away from home, subjected to the uncertainties of ferries in stormy winters. The diary also provides surprising insights into the degree of ecumenism in the years following the Great Disruption of the Church of Scotland in 1843; and the scattered notes on severe weather and natural history are important in understanding what was the warmest year in Europe on record until the last decade of climate change. In short, the diary offers a unique insight into an island community in the mid nineteenth century.

It is a small (132 mm x 93 mm) leather-bound 'Pocket Book and Diary for 1868', published by Caldwell brothers, Edinburgh: six days per double spread (Monday to Saturday) with Sundays grouped together at the start. Introductory

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pages include: a 'Kalendar' for the year; lists of important events for each day; details of the royal family; lists of county populations, lords-lieutenant and sheriffs; a list of judges and officers of government in Scotland; details of taxation; postal information; and lists of weekly markets for corn. Mary's entries, in pencil, are generally clear, in a characteristic handwriting style (not copperplate) with a few irregular spellings but generally no punctuation (which has been inserted for clarity in the extracts presented here and in the main transcription). No date is missed throughout the year, although there is little to report on some days. In places, the writing is very irregular and difficult to decipher, possibly as a result of ill health or emotional upset. It is significant that the diary is in English with just a few Gaelic words, although Mary must have been fluent in Gaelic.

### MARY CAMERON MACGREGOR

Mary Cameron MacNab (1814-71) was the daughter of John MacNab, farmer at Aberarder on the shores of Loch Laggan (Inverness-shire), and Jean Ross. Her mother belonged to a family that was very conscious of its position in society: she was the daughter of Reverend Thomas Ross D.D., minister of Kilmonivaig (Inverness-shire), who claimed descent from the earls of Ross, and Lucy, daughter of Cameron of Fassifearn and niece of Cameron of Lochiel. Four of Jean's brothers were soldiers, three reaching high rank in India. The fortune accumulated by Lieutenant-General Hugh Ross was sufficient to buy the estate of Glenmoidart. Mary's aunt was married to the prominent judge, Patrick Lord Robertson.

Mary married Gregor MacGregor (1797-1885), minister on Lismore, in January 1842, and he brought her home to a manse that had recently been renovated and doubled in size (to ten rooms).<sup>3</sup> They were soon joined by Charlotte (1843), Jane (1845) (Jeanie in the diary), John (1847) and Janetta Rachel (1851). By the 1851 Census, the household had expanded to include three gentlemen lodgers, a governess and five unmarried servants.

## GREGOR MACGREGOR

Gregor MacGregor was born on 16 August 1797, at Loinebhreac, Rannoch (Perthshire), to John MacGregor (tacksman or tenant farmer) and Jean MacNicol. Educated at the University of St Andrews, he was licensed to preach by his home presbytery of Dunkeld in 1829 but it was not until 1836 that he was ordained as minister of the parish of Lismore and Appin. Sponsored by George Campbell, 6<sup>th</sup> duke of Argyll, this was to be his only sole charge. Little is known about his youth and early manhood: he did not enter university until he was 23, took eight years to complete his arts and divinity studies, and was 39 by the time he arrived on Lismore.

The parish needed an energetic minister, fluent in Gaelic. The congregation was spread over an immense area, covering not only the Isle of Lismore but, until it was divided in 1868, also the mainland bounded by Loch Creran and Loch Leven, stretching into Glencoe, and the detached area of Kingairloch across Loch Linnhe. However, the parish also included many Episcopalians, and there was a sizeable mixed population of immigrant workers at the slate quarries at Ballachulish, including Catholics. Apart from preaching the Gospel each Sunday, on Lismore or in Appin, in Gaelic and/or English, he was responsible for visiting the sick, supporting the poor, presiding over and recording baptisms, marriages and deaths, and overseeing the parish schools – all of this at the mercy of the weather and the state of the ferries. Some of the pastoral duties in the outlying areas were covered by official missionaries.

## THE HOUSEHOLD OF MARY AND GREGOR MACGREGOR

*The Family*

By 1868, Mary's eldest daughter, Charlotte (25), was already married to John MacArthur of Barbreck, banker and landowner, and they lived in Inveraray, where he was provost. The diary is full of letters, parcels and visits to and from

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Inveraray, and there was a long visit from Charlotte and her three daughters to the manse from August to October. Jane/Jeanie (23) and Janetta (17) remained at home and neither married. The diary gives the impression of rather dull lives for young girls:

Wet & rather stormy. Mr McGregor in Appin. Janetta & I at home. We read a good deal & said the half of the Shorter Catechism. (15 March)

Mr Macgregor up at the Glenco [*i.e.* Glencoe] Sacrament. The day very fine & no sermon here. Janetta ill with a cold but went to her Sabbath school. (13 September)

A fine morning. Up very early & made a cheese. Dear Janetta's birthday. Jeanie & I had a nice walk & called on the old woman at Kilandrist. (10 October)

There were rows, however:

Janetta rebalious at breakfast. (1 June)

Life for the girls at the Lismore manse was varied by visits to the wider family on the mainland, including Inveraray and Ralia (near Newtonmore), where Mary's mother lived. Janetta returned home in mid February after 9 weeks at Inveraray, and Jeanie set off almost immediately to stay with Charlotte. In the hot weather in July and August, Mary recorded more adventurous activities:

Another fine day & very warm. Up early & made a cheese. Went down with Louisa, Jeanie & Janetta & had a nice bathe. Eliza Smith here to tea. (3 July)

It is not clear whether this was in the sea or the freshwater Balnagown Loch.

1868 was an important year for her son John (21), who was absent for most of the year but in regular contact by letter. Having attended Lismore School and Glasgow University, he left the manse on 12 November to start his theological studies, in preparation for a life following his father as a Church of Scotland minister. His mother was anxious, writing the next morning:

A lovely morning for which we are most thankful as Dear John will be going round the Mull [*i.e.* of Kintyre] today. (13 November)

Three days earlier, she included one of the few revealing personal remarks about her husband:

Mr Macgregor & John looking at the stars as the night was frosty. (10 November)

### *The Household Staff*

Although she started with a resident cook and laundry maid (1851), by the 1860s, Mary had two living-in domestic servants: a housemaid and a dairymaid. There would also have been paid help from women living nearby, and a regular turnover of staff as the younger women married (having been well trained in the manse). Rachel Black (24) from Laggan on Lismore was the housemaid until May, when she married a farmer from Ardchattan; the diary entries suggest that she was a satisfactory employee except on 11 January when she was ‘scolded’ for ‘idleness’. Annie had been working for Mary from the beginning of the year, but seems to have replaced Rachel:

Very wet to day. This is the Fast day and we were all in church. This was the first day of Annie’s attendance at the table she did very well. (15 May)

Flora, ‘a tidy girl’, also appears in May, and Lizzie in September. Mary’s daily work for much of the year in making butter and cheese, apparently alone, suggests that Mary Black, the resident dairymaid in 1861, was no longer present.

Mary seems to have had a turbulent relationship with another helper, referred to as Jenny Vore (Big Jenny), scolding her on 3 April, and keeping her ‘out of the kitchen’ on 29 December. The fact that Mary records several cash transactions with her, for eggs and a skin, indicates that she was not a live-in servant. It is more than likely that Jenny Vore was, in fact, Seònaid Mhòr MacGregor (Big Janet), one of the two tradition-bearing sisters at neighbouring Baligarve, from whom the Lismore-born folklorist Alexander Carmichael collected songs on

1 December.<sup>4</sup> It is almost certain that the Carmichaels, who visited on 29 November and 1 December, were the folklorist and his wife, and that it was their first child (Alexander) who was baptised at Kilandrist on 2 December.<sup>5</sup>

*The Outside Staff*

The minister farmed the parish glebe (10 acres) round the church and manse, and he paid £18 per annum for grazing sheep on part of the cleared township of Portcharron, as well as on a small island on the north coast of Lismore. He was a leading member of the new Lismore Agricultural Society, founded in 1853, serving on the managing committee and winning prizes for his arable crops and cattle.<sup>6</sup> However, it is unlikely that, with the amount of time he spent off the island, he was a 'hands-on' farmer.

Archibald McGregor (Archy, no relation to Gregor), unmarried ploughman, originally from nearby Achuaran, is listed as resident at the manse in 1861 and 1871, although he and the herd were probably housed in the grand barn built by the minister in the 1840s. Archy's role as 'ploughman' would suggest that there was a pair of working horses at the manse, but Mary does not mention horses at any point in the diary (even for transport). It is possible that horses and implements were lent to the minister by members of the congregation. Archy appears seven times in the diary: going with the minister to a sale in Laroch (Ballachulish) (20 May); being thrown out of the gig (29 May); taking Janetta's trunk to Appin (19 October); travelling to Oban (23 October); bringing back from Inveraray the heifer that Mary's son-in-law had presented her with (18 November); missing his breakfast (22 December); and being 'very ill with a bad cold' (28 December). He may well have been ailing by this final mention, as he was dead of liver disease by 1872. He was assisted by a resident herdboyc to keep the cattle out of the corn.

The elusive 'Dunche' (Donnchadh or Duncan), evidently a day worker, was busy in spring and summer in the walled garden next to the manse, starting with planting cabbages in April. He also played an important role after the harvest of oats on the glebe:

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The day very fine and reaping going on; the first corn put in the barn & Jack busy forking it in. (10 September)

The day very fine. The Dunche in the kiln with oats. (24 September)

Up early. Another fine day. The Dunche making meal today; 3 bolls of new meal came home from the [Balnagown] mill. (25 September)

It is likely that neighbours, including 'Jack', teamed up to assist at the minister's harvest. Meanwhile, Mary did not hesitate to send 'the women' out to the garden for weeding.

### *The Lodgers*

From before his marriage, the minister had single gentlemen, later called boarders, living at the manse, presumably contributing to the household economy. It is not clear how these men from the Lowlands ended up on Lismore, but it seems that they were 'remittance men', financed by their families to keep out of trouble. James Jarvie, described as a retired merchant from Glasgow, was resident in the manse in the 1850s and 1860s but died of 'excessive drinking' in 1867, aged 47. James Archer, an 'annuitant' from Coupar Angus (*i.e.* living on an allowance or inheritance), was present at least from 1851 to 1871, dying of old age in Appin in 1884, aged 77. There is no evidence that he posed any problems for the household, travelling to and from the island, and even helping in the garden.

Some time before 1868, Mary's aunt, Mary Robertson, widow of Lord Robertson, came to live at the manse. She was generally confined to her room, presumably owing to age and ill health, but 'came down' from time to time. On one of these forays (28 January), she complained that her 'whiskey' was too weak and, on 24 February:

Rachel cleaned out Auntie's room sorely against the Lady's will.

Auntie, clearly a demanding guest, outlived Mary, dying on Lismore in 1875.

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### MARY'S LIFE

Mary MacGregor was a woman of her time, informed by the prevailing attitudes to class and gender. Throughout the diary, she refers to her husband as Mr MacGregor and to her son-in-law, Charlotte's husband, as Mr McArthur. The formality did not prevent the occasional squabble at the manse:

Mr MacGregor went to Appin today & as he took the key of the Schoolroom with him I had to take the Sabbath school children into the porch. (5 January)

Mr McG very fractious about his almanac. (7 January)

Had some disagreement with Mr McG about the mill. (10 February)

The same respect is shown to the gentlemen boarders, and visitors invited to tea are consistently referred to as Mr and Mrs. Personal names are reserved for her children and servants. There is ample evidence throughout the year of her devotion to both her family and her religious life, for example:

Darling Agnes' [*i.e.* her granddaughter's] birthday. She is now four years, may God bless the child, may she grow up one of his own adopted Ones. (28 May)

#### *The Round of Household Work*

A great deal of Mary MacGregor's life was taken up with managing and supervising the relentless series of domestic chores, before the era of labour-saving devices. There were regular washing days, with the struggle to dry bed clothes out of doors in a wet climate, followed by mountains of ironing:

A fine day. Up very early getting the blankets washed, got them nearly dried. Mary here at ironing. (22 May)

A Field day washing blankets; fine, of course, or they could not be done. (27 March)

I got some of the blankets dried. (1 April)

The blankets were out all day. (2 April)

A fine day. Found a blanket that Rachel had left out. (3 April)

A big house of ten rooms required regular cleaning, but the domestic servants were also dispatched to clean out the schoolroom and even the hen house.

Feeding the household was an even greater challenge, even though most of the basic cooking would have been done by the servants. The outside staff were responsible for growing the minister's oat crop on the glebe, and arranging for it to be kilned and milled. While Mary ensured that the manse girdel was kept topped up (5 bolls of meal were delivered on 11 February), she was directly responsible for the other principal dietary staple – potatoes:

A fine mild day, rather wet in the evening. Got the women to cut potatoes, hope they will soon be planted. (16 March)

In the event, it took till 4 April before planting was completed, presumably in the walled garden behind the manse. In 1867/8, the household was self-sufficient in potatoes: on 18 July (when new potatoes would have been available), Mary reported that they had 'the last dish of the old potatoes'. Although she mentioned baking cakes, shortbread, tarts and pies (using flour delivered in a barrel on 9 June) there is no mention of bread making at the manse. It was probably supplied regularly from Oban, although there could be problems:

Rather stormy start. The post got across in good time, the bread was a little wet but not quite destroyed. (1 February);

and there were 'but two loaves today' on 5 December.

A major part of the manse meat supply came from two pigs, presumably raised on the glebe, slaughtered and 'broken down' in May and November. Afterwards, they were busy in the kitchen making sausages and curing hams, and presents of meat were sent on to Inveraray. On 11 March, there was 'a

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quarter of mutton from Appin' and, on 22 December, they were salting beef. Mary made a haggis on 10 June. There were cod and ling from the island and, in December, a 'great quantity of herrings were taken', which replenished the herring barrel. It is not clear to what extent meat and fish were offered to the manse by the congregation. Mary and her women were responsible for the poultry: hens and ducks but also turkeys, and there were challenges in finding nests, particularly the turkeys'.

The diary does not list the full range of vegetables grown for the table, mentioning only onions and cabbages, looked after by 'the Dunche', but there were also rhubarb, strawberries and gooseberries in the garden, which Mary preserved as jams and jellies. She was on the lookout for brambles in September, made marmalade in February, and 'keatchup' in August, keeping 'the sugar jar' full in support of baking and preserving. Other demanding chores included manufacturing candles: she made wicks on Saturday 21 March and, two days later:

Made some candles & was very angry with Annie for spilling some of the tallow. (23 March)

On days when she was not in the kitchen or supervising the laundry, Mary kept busy dressmaking, knitting (concentrating on socks for the family), patchwork, making bed clothes and mending carpets. Mrs Addison, a young dressmaker in Appin, came over to work with Mary for two days in January and three days in September. As well as all of these roles, she looked after the health of the family, although her remedies might have been questionable:

A fine cold day. Mr MacGregor very ill with a cold & lay in bed, took caster oil. (11 April)

### *The Dairy*

In a very busy life, Mary had great pride in butter- and cheese-making, from milk produced by the manse cows, Lady and Isla, which grazed on the Cow

Park to the south of the manse, and fed on the stored glebe hay in winter. Isla calved on 19 May and Lady on 26 April, ensuring a steady supply of milk, and rennet when the calves were killed. No doubt she had help with work in the 'milk house', but with its relentless daily recording of 'churns, curds and cheeses', the diary shows that dairy work was at the centre of her life from spring to autumn. The quality of her products were recognised by prizes awarded by the Lismore Agricultural Society.<sup>7</sup>

The fact that Mary was not only churning milk to make butter but also making curds, in preparation for cheese-making, on many days from the start of May to the end of October, shows that the supply of milk from the manse cows was both substantial and reliable. Liquid milk was available for home use as well as for gifts to needy parishioners. The first butter of the year was made on 4 May and the first salting was on 18 May. By 15 July, 9 lbs were sent to Oban for sale, and churning continued till mid November.

The traditional method of cheese-making on Lismore was to hold the milk in a clean warm environment (normally the dairy) for several hours to allow fermentation to proceed from natural inoculation and then to coagulate the milk to give curds. The curds could be eaten as soft cheese ('crowdie') or placed in fine cheesecloth in a *fighan* (small tapering wooden bowl) and pressed by weights on a wooden lid to drive out the whey through holes in its base.<sup>8</sup> This gave a white cheese, which could be eaten fresh or salted for longer storage. The products of several days could be combined and compressed to give a harder cheese using a bigger-scale cheese press.

In the manse milk house, natural inoculation was used to produce curds in May and most of June, but rennet was introduced from 20 June. From the first on 25 May, Mary records a 'cheese made' on sixty-six days up to the end of October. Productivity slowed down in November, with the last on the 25<sup>th</sup>. As there is no record of cheese being sold or provided as presents, it must have featured strongly in the manse diet.

*Leisure and Social Life*

The diary provides ample evidence that Mary was driven by duty, and expected high standards of her servants and daughters, scolding them regularly for idleness or breakages:

No scolding today for a wonder. (4 January)

One of the worst days we have had yet. Got letters from John and Charlotte & Jeanie. Made a few curdles and was in a rage at the women. (4 March)

The day a little better but very showery. I did not go to Oban as I wished to do, was busy knitting all day. I read a little. Did not scold today. (5 March)

Did not rant much. (14 December)

She did allow herself some respite from a busy life, particularly reading, conducting an extensive correspondence with her family and others, and knitting. From time to time there were short walks on the island to visit needy parishioners, often with gifts of broth or milk. It comes as a surprise to find that she and her daughters bathed out of doors in the heat of the summer. There was strict Sunday observance, although reading, studying the catechism, visiting, and involvement with the Sabbath schools were acceptable.

Although her husband was travelling to the mainland every week, Mary was largely confined to the island. There were only four trips to Oban in the year. She spent the night at the Great Western Hotel on 10 March, but otherwise she returned with her groceries on the same day. There was also a day trip, alone, to Kingairloch (the detached part of the parish across Loch Linnhe) in July: after calling on Mr Forbes, the landowner, and dining with Mr McIntyre, she 'got home at 8'. The only extended visit was five days in January to Ardchattan for the marriage of Mary MacTaggart, the 23-year old daughter of Charles MacTaggart, doctor of medicine, to George Campbell (31), assistant surgeon, Royal Navy (Devonport), at the manse, Ardchattan. One consolation was that her grandchildren were with her at the manse for most of August, September and October.

The diary gives the impression of a rather uneventful life for Mary, who had grown up in a family with 'social connections', but it was enlivened by visits from the mainland. Apart from the inn at Point, at the crossing to Port Appin, the manse was the only 'port of call' for travellers to the island, and there were regular visits from the Appin doctor, Robert McKelvie.<sup>9</sup> On 16 January, accompanied by a policeman, he called in on his way to the lighthouse at the south end, presumably to take into custody the keeper, William Laidlaw, who was suffering from 'acute mania' but their mission failed because he had died in the meantime. Angus Gregorson, writer and banker in Oban, who factored much of the Fell (formerly Campbell of Airds) land in the north of the island, appeared from time to time in the diary. On 16 December he was at the manse during the half-yearly collection of rents.

The MacGregors exchanged visits with the Gregorson family, who holidayed on the island in September, and with the Bernards, the family of a retired army officer with two young daughters, living in Ballachulish. Amongst numerous invitations to tea, there were summer visits from the landowning class: Mrs Fell, Mrs Campbell of Baleveolan and Mrs Cheyne, widow of James Cheyne, who carried out major clearances on Lismore in the 1840s.<sup>10</sup> There appears to have been a warm friendship between Mary MacGregor and Frances Cheyne, who brought a 'splendid' present to the manse on 16 September. This was a complex relationship, since the minister was now tenant of part of Portcharron township, which the Cheynes had cleared of its population.

It has not been possible to identify some of the other visitors, but two stand out, staying at the manse for a week in early October: Mrs Dalgleish and Captain Playfair. The connection here is with St Andrews, where the minister and his son studied: Captain Playfair was almost certainly the son of Sir Hugh Playfair (Indian Army and provost of St Andrews) and his wife Jane Dalgleish.

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### *Health*

On 26 October:

The Doctor came & tied up the little lump on my cheek; felt very thankful when it was done.

She was clearly very worried about this, but the signs were good:

A stormy day. The dear good Doctor here today; he removed the little lump on my cheek and put some caustic & sticking plaster on; I feel very thankful. (28 October)

A better morning. My cheek continues better, thanks be to God for his mercies; I am not up so early on these days; dear Jeanie is working willingly for me. (29 October)

A stormy morning. Not up early. My cheek still continues better for which I have to record my gratitude to God for this & for all his other mercies to me. (30 October)

A fine calm morning. Not up early but feel thankful to God that I am getting better; dear Jeanie saves me the trouble of today. (31 October)

Had the plaster removed off my cheek & am thankful to God for his mercy to me a Sinner. (7 November)

Her cheek does not feature through most of November but, towards the end of the month, her optimism began to falter:

Up not very early. The morning dark but fine & dry. The kind Doctor came & dressed my cheek & comforted me by telling it would soon be well. Busy at my work. (20 November)

I felt very low today about the lump on my cheek. I try to say God's will be done. (24 November)

'My cheek in the same way' she commented on 9 December. Mary had only

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two more years to live, dying in January 1871 of ‘disease of the head, unknown’, aged 56. Suffering, presumably, from a form of cancer, her last months must have been miserable. It is to be hoped that ‘the dear good doctor McKelvie’ was able to do something to alleviate the pain. In due course, it fell to Jane/Jeanie to run the household for her father.

## TRAVELLING

Although the diary is full of journeys to and from the mainland, understanding how they were achieved is not entirely clear. The short passage between Point and Port Appin was by the foot ferry, presumably still an open rowing boat: ‘Mr McG went over with the foot’ on 7 March. In 1868 a daily steamer called at Port Appin (part of the Glasgow to Fort William service) and carried passengers to Oban on its southward progress. The steamers carried all cargoes and, at times, access could be problem:

Went to Oban to day and did not get off from Port Appin till 12 o'clock pm; had to go to the steamer in small boats, a number of pigs on board. (9 March)

It was not until 1882 that steamers called daily at Lismore, at the new pier built at Achnacroish by the duke of Argyll.

It was also possible to travel from Lismore to Oban with the ‘packet’:

A dark rainy morning. Louisa, Jeanie [and] Janetta went to Oban in the Packet & returned in the steamer. (7 July)

This was the Oban, Mull and Lismore Packet, based at Kilcheran in the south of Lismore and operated by Donald Black (celebrated in the song *Dòmhnall an Dannsair – Donald the Dancer*).<sup>11</sup> Reliant on sail and the skill of the skipper, the packet timetable could not have been entirely predictable. It is not known whether or not the official ferry from Port Appin to Kingairloch was still operating in 1868 but Mary was able to cross Loch Linnhe and return

on the same day on 29 July; with the wind in the prevailing south west, sailing smacks could cross each way in a hour or so on a broad reach.

There was also a great deal of travelling within the island, not least the many journeys to and from Point, which was around 2 miles from the manse. Mary mentions a gig only once, and nothing about horses, but it is very likely that the minister had a pony and trap for his many visits around the island. It is also likely that there was a vehicle available for hire at Point, for example, for the doctor's visits to his island patients.

### THE CHURCH AND ECUMENISM

For a man of 71, it was an arduous life being the minister of Lismore and Appin. Gregor MacGregor not only had to preach in two languages in his own parish, but also had to officiate regularly in the neighbouring parishes of Ardchattan, Glenorchy and Inishail, Kilmalie, and Kilmore and Kilbride. From time to time, he preached at the edge of his parish in Glencoe. Most weeks he was over the water in Appin or Oban for meetings or visitations, and was frequently delayed by stormy weather. However, 1868 was an important milestone in his life because of the decision made by the Church of Scotland to divide the extensive parish, and to limit his duties to the island. The diary records that three candidates for the new parish of Appin preached there in late March and early April, and that the youthful Duncan Dewar (29), a single man, was called and duly inducted on 20 August.

Gregor MacGregor's early years in the ministry suggest that he was conservative. Sponsored by the duke of Argyll, he was one of only two ministers in the presbytery of Lorn and Mull to remain in the Established Church at the Disruption of 1843.<sup>12</sup> He seems to have ensured that a congregation of the Free Church did not form on Lismore but, as convenor of the presbytery, a heavy responsibility fell upon him to keep the church life of the parishes going, and to ensure the appointment of new ministers. It has been estimated that, in the twenty-one months from the Disruption, he travelled 3,382 miles and made 300 ferry crossings in the discharge of these duties.

In his submission to the *New Statistical Account*, Gregor MacGregor is dismissive of other Christian groups on Lismore: 'there are no other Dissenters or Seceders in the parish, except three or four Anabaptists in Lismore'.<sup>13</sup> This was a strange statement, in view of the small, but very active, congregation of Seceders who built their church at Baligrundle in the 1840s.<sup>14</sup> In due course, it would evolve into a United Presbyterian (UP) congregation. In fact, following the visits of evangelical preachers, there was a great deal of dissent on the island, including a strong Congregational movement, with a chapel at Achuaran. McGregor also failed to mention the Baptist missionary activities of Alexander Livingstone of Bachuil.

It, therefore, comes as a surprise to find out from the diary that, by 1868, MacGregor was closely involved with, and supportive of, other Christian activists and congregations in the area. On several Sundays in the year, he taught at the Achuaran Sabbath School, run by John McDugald, the lay preacher, who, for thirty years, maintained the Independent/Congregational chapel.<sup>15</sup> At the same time, his wife and daughters were holding their own sabbath school at the church. The diary also includes visits to the manse from Duncan Ross (minister of Appin Free Church) and James MacDougall, the local Glassite missionary. Mary notes that the congregation at the church on 28 June was small, and relates that to the communion being held at the UP church that Sunday.<sup>16</sup> It seems, however, that relationships between the two manses were cordial, with her children paying a visit to the UP manse earlier in the month.

This degree of tolerance, even ecumenism, amongst the clergy is confirmed by the report in the *Oban Times* of 21 February 1874 of a church 'soirée' at the Achuaran Chapel, involving MacGregor, McDugald, Livingstone and Alexander Ross, the UP missionary. On that occasion, MacGregor was reported to be a 'genial and venerable host'.

The diary also includes some more subtle clues to the attitudes of the minister. He is quoted as always conducting weddings in the church but, on Thursday 26 November, 'a marriage from Kingairloch came & they were married in the kitchen'. James McPherson, 22, farm servant, Kingairloch,

## INTRODUCTION

and Catherine McVarish, 28, domestic servant, Glensanda, were in a hurry – their daughter was born six months later.

## WEATHER

1864 and 1868 turned out to be the driest and hottest years on record in the British Isles before the drought year of 1976 and subsequent years affected by global warming. For central England, whose records are the most complete,<sup>17</sup> there were days in each month from May to September when the air temperature exceeded 32°C and reached an all-time record of 37°C at Tonbridge (Kent) on 22 July. In Ardrrossan, the nearest meteorological station to Lismore, the weather was more moderate but still very fine. The temperature at 8am between 1 July and 10 August never fell below 15°C; and it was 20°C or above on 11 of those days, reaching 22°C on 12 July and 4 August. The values must have been considerably higher during the day. Mary's son thought that 2 August was 'the warmest of the season'. It is not surprising that she and her daughters sought relief in bathing.

The summer weather was also very dry – only a trace of rain in July up to the 15<sup>th</sup>; 13 mm (half an inch) in small amounts from 16 to 27 July; and nothing more until trace amounts from 6-10 August. All was looking well for the oat harvest, but the second half of August was very wet, starting with 56 mm (over 2 inches) of rain on 12 August, and more every day till the end of the month (104 mm, over 4 inches) (all Ardrrossan data). However, a window of fine dry weather allowed reaping to start on 1 September, with the stacking completed by the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Higher than average temperatures are commonly associated with unsettled weather. This was certainly the case on Lismore in 1868. The year started with fine, calm and frosty days but the wind (recorded at Ardrrossan) began to pick up on 13 January, reaching gale force 9 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and continuing at least at gale force for 5 days, reverting to calmer weather on the 19<sup>th</sup>:

## INTRODUCTION

A very stormy day. Mr Macgregor came from Oban & brought the little things I wanted for dear Mary's marriage; he had it very stormy and was sick. There was a great deal of lightening tonight. (14 January)

Bad weather continued through to spring. Mary describes the weather as 'stormy' on thirty-two days up to the end of March.

A most tempestuous day, and we were detained at Ardchattan all day, and could not get out at the door it was so stormy. (24 January)

One of the most stormy days; high wind & rain. I feel anxious about Janetta, if she is on the way. (20 February)

The unsettled weather persisted into June:

A very stormy day. Mr Macgregor & John went to Appin to church and could scarcely get across home as the wind was so high. (7 June)

Later in the year, there was 'stormy weather' on twenty-three days from 1 October to the end of the year.

## MISCELLANEOUS ENTRIES

Mary was not a systematic recorder of the natural environment but there were a few entries: first snowdrops on 31 January; aurora borealis on 27 April; first cuckoo on 9 May; and the landrail (corncrake) calling on 19 May. Scattered insights into island life include: the persistence of the Julian calendar, with Christmas celebrated on 6 January and the New Year shinty match on 13 January; the annual ploughing match on 27 February (she sent 'a large bowl full of barley to put in the broth'); and the annual fair in early November, when surplus cattle were sold to dealers.

## INTRODUCTION

## NOTES

- 1 Hay, R K M. Rev. Gregor MacGregor (1797-1885) – his life as minister of the parish of Lismore and Appin (1836-1885), *Historic Argyll: Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society*, 19 (2014), 29-43.
- 2 Lismore Archive, LISDD:2007.A1, The diary of Mary Cameron MacGregor, 1868.
- 3 National Records of Scotland, CH2/984/6, Presbytery of Lorn – Minutes, 1839-53.
- 4 Hay, R K M. Rewriting history: the childhood and youth of Alexander Carmichael, the folklorist, *History Scotland*, 17 (2017), 24-28.
- 5 For further information about Alexander Carmichael and his itinerary, see the Carmichael Watson Collection webpages at: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/crc/research-resources/gaelic/carmichael-watson>.
- 6 Hay, R K M, ed. *The Minute Book of the Lismore Agricultural Society, 1853-1868*, Sources in Local History online, 2018: <https://www.regionalethnologyscotland.llc.ed.ac.uk/written/minute-book-lismore-agricultural-society-1853-1868>.
- 7 Hay, R K M, ed. *The Minute Book of the Lismore Agricultural Society, 1853-1868*, Sources in Local History online, 2018: <https://www.regionalethnologyscotland.llc.ed.ac.uk/written/minute-book-lismore-agricultural-society-1853-1868>.
- 8 Hay, R. *The Story of Lismore in Fifty Objects*, Lismore, 2018, 93-95.

- 9 Robert McKelvie MD (1836-1901) was the medical officer to the parishes of Lismore and Appin (1860-75) and Kilmore and Kilbride (1875-1901). His friends erected a fountain to his memory in Argyll Square, Oban.
- 10 Hay, R K M. *How an Island Lost its People. Improvement, Clearance and Resettlement on Lismore, 1830-1914*, Isle of Lewis, 2013.
- 11 MacIlleDhuibh, D. *Sgeul no dhà às an Lios/ A Tale or Two from Lismore*, Glasgow, 2006, 76-77. For a rendition of the song, see the Tobar an Dualchais/ Kist o Riches website: <http://www.tobarandualchais.co.uk/en/fullrecord/9913/1>.
- 12 Hay, 2014.
- 13 *New Statistical Account* VII (1841), 223-56: Lismore and Appin.
- 14 Hay, R. *The Story of Lismore in Fifty Objects*, Lismore, 2018, 37-39.
- 15 Miller, M A. *My Dear Son: Letters from John McDougall (weaver), Isle of Lismore, Scotland, to his son, John, in America*, Bloomington, Indiana, 2015.
- 16 During the 1860s, the United Presbyterian church at Baligrundle had between twenty and thirty communicants. Attendance was often four times that number, however, possibly because it was more convenient than the parish church or because the Reverend MacGregor was away preaching on the mainland.
- 17 Met Office historic UK climate records, Met Office website: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/about/archives>.

## EDITING

In preparing the diary for publication misspellings, lack of capital letters, and variations in personal names have been retained – for example, the alternation between MacGregor and Macgregor. Where necessary, corrected spellings are given in [ ]. Words that are unclear in the original text and have been transcribed tentatively are given as [?word]. Other editorial comments have been inserted in [ ]. Not untypically for the time, Mary's use of punctuation was erratic, and in many entries she used no punctuation at all. To make the text more accessible, the punctuation has been standardised and new punctuation introduced. Finally, the entries for Sundays, which were grouped in a separate section at the start of the diary, have been transferred into their place in the calendar.

The diary contains a small number of rough notes made by Mary, often relating to household expenditure. They have not been transcribed here, but examples can be seen in Figures 8 and 9.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The diary was handed down by Mary's son, John, minister of Kilmore (Argyll), to her grandson, who emigrated to the USA. It was found in a collection of papers in an attic in New York. By chance, a journalist, aware of the twinning arrangement between a local school and Oban High School, brought the diary over to the Reverend Andrew Campbell, minister of Oban and Kilmore; and he, generously, presented it to the Lismore Historical Society. The text of the diary is reproduced here with the permission of the directors of the Lismore Historical Society / *Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr*. Laura Gloag, the Society's genealogist, made some very useful contributions.



Fig. 1 Mary Cameron MacGregor (1814-71).  
(Courtesy of Lismore Historical Society/Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr)



Fig. 2 Mary's husband, Reverend Gregor MacGregor, minister of Lismore and Appin (1836-85).  
(Courtesy of Lismore Historical Society/Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr)



Fig. 3 Mary MacGregor's inscription on the flyleaf of the diary.  
(Courtesy of Lismore Historical Society/Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr)



Fig. 4 The diary (132 mm x 93 mm) encased in its leather covers. (Courtesy of Lismore Historical Society/Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr)

August.	September.
<p>23 SUNDAY. A stormy day no sermon here &amp; Mr. J. Grey preaching at Salween &amp; the day continued stormy the S<sup>c</sup> came adoped</p>	<p>13 SUNDAY. Mr. Macgregor up at the Glebe's Sa- crament that day was fine &amp; no sermons were preached. He took note but went to his Sabbath school</p>
<p>30 SUNDAY. A fine day &amp; they sermon here Mr. J. Grey in Church. Mr. Macgregor did not go to church Jaccott went to his September.</p>	<p>20 SUNDAY. A fine day but there had been rain during the night the sermon here &amp; Mr. J. Point proclaimed. Mr. Macgregor preached &amp; Mr. Chign in Church</p>
<p>6 SUNDAY. Rather a fine day Mr. Macgregor preached here and went to the Arkwara school in the evening</p>	<p>27 SUNDAY. A tolerable day but rather damp the sermon here at Mr. Macgregor preached in Appin. He was thanked in the afternoon</p>

Fig. 5 Sundays are grouped together at the start of the diary.  
(Courtesy of Lismore Historical Society/Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr)

January.

6 MONDAY. a most beautiful day a number of boys played in the field in honour of Christmas & Mr MacDonnell came from the house of Ardchattan this evening I feel rather tired

7 TUESDAY. a tendency to straw to day. I had been very stupid and idle with a bad headache & a pain in the throat wrote to Mother giving a pain Mr MacDonnell went to Ardchattan

8 WEDNESDAY. A fine day Mr MacDonnell went to Ardchattan to day to introduce Mr MacDonnell to his charge & Mr MacDonnell came, in his absence and he himself came after

Fig. 6 A page from the diary recording three days in January 1868.  
(Courtesy of Lismore Historical Society/Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mór)

June.

29 MONDAY. A fine morning  
up early & made a cheese.  
This is John Myles the  
birth day of Patrick McKeown  
came in the evening.  
I took a turn out in  
the evening. The wind  
was blowing.

30 TUESDAY. A very pleasant  
morning. My mother went  
off early. I made a cheese.  
The father called after  
breakfast. He said he had  
a fine weather. Mr. Goff  
called. July. in the afternoon.

1 WEDNESDAY. A fine morning  
birth day of a brother  
up early & made a cheese.  
The father called. Mr. Goff  
said to see the evening  
was warm.

Fig. 7 A page from the diary recording three days in June and July 1868.  
(Courtesy of Lismore Historical Society/Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr)

December. Bought a lb of  
 tea from Kate a Hooper  
 & 2 lbs of sugar at 4/6  
 Jan 28 bought a  
 lb of tea & 2 lbs of  
 sugar from Kate a Hooper  
 at 4/6  
 Bought 9 lb of sago at 4/9

Fig. 8 Mary occasionally used the diary to make a note of household expenditure. Here she records the purchase of tea and sugar from Kate a Hooper. (Courtesy of Lismore Historical Society/Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr)

January. 1/21 28 Sago rice  
 Coffee barley boots paper  
 thin warm grey & red  
 cotton flannel  
 apron boots order a  
 bonnet

Fig. 9 Another rough note inserted in the diary by Mary. Here she lists some goods to be purchased, including barley, coffee, sago rice, cotton yarn (grey and red), cotton flannel, boots, a bonnet and an apron. (Courtesy of Lismore Historical Society/Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr)



Fig. 10 The manse on Lismore. (Photograph by Robert Hay)



Fig. 11 The manse barn. (Photograph by Robert Hay)

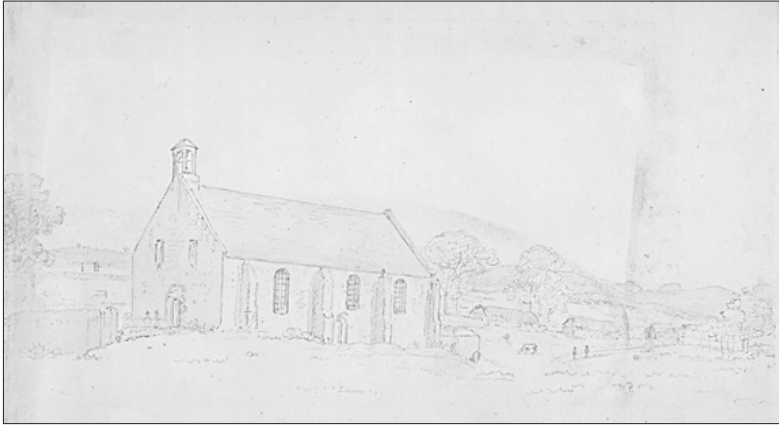


Fig. 12 A sketch of Lismore kirk, 1820.  
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)



Fig. 13 A detail of Mary MacGregor's gravestone in the cemetery of Lismore kirk.  
(Photograph by Robert Hay)



Fig. 14 Map of Lismore, from the Ordnance Survey's one-inch to the mile series.  
(Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

THE DIARY OF  
MARY CAMERON MACGREGOR,  
ISLE OF LISMORE  
1868

# JANUARY

## *1 Wednesday*

New year's day. Fine day. Joint letters from Charlotte, Jeanie & Nettie. Scolded the women very much in the kitchen.

## *2 Thursday*

Another fine day. Packed up a hamper for dear Charlotte, which her father took over to Appin. Scolded a little to day. Had a washing done at which Maryan Dact was [*blank*].

## *3 Friday*

A fine day. Did not scold so much to day. Built up the rock work with the assistance of the women.<sup>[1]</sup> Mr Macdougall the Missionary from Glencreeran came. Mr McWhannel here to tea.

## *4 Saturday*

Fine frosty day. Sent Annie with the Turkeys to Ardchattan. Mr McDougall went off to day. Had a letter from Jeanie to day. No scolding to day for a wonder.

*5 Sunday*

Mr MacGregor went to Appin today & as he took the key of the Schoolroom with him I had to take the Sabbath school children into the porch.

*6 Monday*

A most beautiful day. A number of boys played in the field in honour of Christmas;<sup>[2]</sup> & Mr Macdougall came from the manse of Ardchattan this evening. I feel rather tired.

*7 Tuesday*

A tendency to thaw to day. I had been very stupid and idle with a bad headache & a pain in the throat. Wrote to Mother, Eliza & Jeanie. Mr McG very fractious about his almanac.

*8 Wednesday*

A fine day. Mr Macgregor went to Appin to day to introduce Mr Mcdougall to his charges. Mr McKenzie came in his absence and he himself came afterwards.

*9 Thursday*

Beautiful day. Dr McKelvie came to day; had been attending a poor creature down at the street. Told us he had sent for Dr McGillesbig. I humbly trust the poor creature is better.

*10 Friday*

Fine day, still. I was most thankful to hear that the poor woman was better. Mr Macgregor was prevented from taking Mr McK to Kingairloch as the wind was contrary.

*11 Saturday*

Very busy with a dress. Rather fine day. Iain Peggy's wife here for a while. Had some letters. Scolded Rachel in the afternoon for idleness.

*12 Sunday*

Mr McGregor preached in Lismore. I went out with the two women & taught in the Sabbath school. Came in & read during the evening. Mr McKenzie ill with his eye.

*13 Monday*

New years day OS.<sup>[3]</sup> A few boys played shinty in the field. The Doctor came, going to the Light House. Mr Ross's Soiree. Posts child baptized. Mr McGregor went to Oban at night. Very wet night & stormy.

*14 Tuesday*

A very stormy day. Mr Macgregor came from Oban & brought the little things I wanted for dear Mary's marriage; he had it very stormy and was sick. There was a great deal of lightening to night.

*15 Wednesday*

Stormy day. Letters from the dear girls & John, thankful to hear they are all well. Went to see Dugald Mor's wife, who has had a fall.

*16 Thursday*

Another stormy day. The Doctor & Policeman came to remove the Light Keeper but found he was dead. Had a washing and did not scold very much today. Made a [*illegible*] house for dear Mary's marriage.

*17 Friday*

Rose early & made a churn and got on without much scolding. Wrote to dear Charlotte. Did other useful bits of work. Patrick McKenzie went off to day as the day was tolerable.

*18 Saturday*

Morning stormy. Mrs Addison did not come. Mr McG went to Appin in order to preach tomorrow. Got the lad from Achindoun.

*19 Sunday*

A lovely day. Mr McG went to Appin last night, came in good time. I went to see Dr Innes' wife & taught the school in the evening, had 21 scholars; then went to Dugald Mor's house, both of them in bed.

*20 Monday*

A very fine day. Mr McG went to Appin & sent Mrs Addison to me, very glad to get her. Very busy all day at my dress. Got fish from two different parties.

*21 Tuesday*

A lovely day. Mr McG & I set of in great force to Ardchattan to dear Mary's marriage. Went to Shean [*i.e.* Shian]. Met the new minister there & reached Ardchattan about 4 o'clock.

*22 Wednesday*

The marriage day & very beautiful. All the guests have now arrived & dear Mary's marriage took place at 12 o'clock & then the pair went off.

*23 Thursday*

Another splendid day. Some of the guests went away to day and we went down to see the Inveraray gentlemen off in the boat across Loch Etive. The two Miss Campbells went in the evening.

*24 Friday*

A most tempestuous day, and we were detained at Ardchattan all day, and could not get out at the door it was so stormy. I was very happy seeing so much of Charlotte & Helen.

*25 Saturday*

The day is better and we got home and had some difficulty in crossing the ferries; the Minister drove us to Shean [*i.e.* Shian].

*26 Sunday*

A fine day. The preaching here and a large congregation. Went to the school in the afternoon.

*27 Monday*

A very damp day. Scolded about a torn tablecloth, which took me all the day mending. Auntie down stairs a good deal and pretty well upon the whole.

*28 Tuesday*

Rather stormy. Wrote a number of letters. Auntie came down to the diningroom for a while, asked for some whiskey & complained it was too weak.

*29 Wednesday*

A very stormy day with snow in the hills. Letters to day from the dear children & one from Louise Glass. Had a call from Gregor to day, he is looking well.

*30 Thursday*

Another very stormy day. Worked at the new bed but did not finish it as I began to read a book. Had a few things washed in the forenoon. Sent some broth to Dugald Mor.

JANUARY 1868

*31 Friday*

A very stormy day & rain coming in through different parts of the house. Gathered the first snow drops to day & had the women out cleaning the garden.

## FEBRUARY

### *1 Saturday*

Rather stormy start. The post got across in good time, the bread was a little wet but not quite destroyed. No letters from any one to me to day.

### *2 Sunday*

A rather stormy day. Mr McGregor went to Appin & did not come home at night. Went out & taught the Sabbath school, there were 22 scholars, who said their lessons well.

### *3 Monday*

The day very stormy with snow. Worked all day at a bedgown & had Rachel cleaning out my bed room. Auntie very ill. No scolding to day.

### *4 Tuesday*

Rather better. Wrote to Louise, Jeanie & Netta, then Father came home having been away for nearly 3 days. Very angry at the Dunche for opening the sluice & letting the water into the cesspool.

*5 Wednesday*

A tremendous day. The cesspool full of water and no cessation to the storm all day. Letters from the dear children but the post could scarcely cross.

*6 Thursday*

A fine day, a contrast to the preceding ones. I finished a pair of socks & began another pair. Aunt Robertson down in the dining room a good deal today.

*7 Friday*

A tolerable day. Wrote two letters to Charlotte & Jeanie. The Doctor came in the evening and he brought me such a nice present, the Queen's book;<sup>[4]</sup> I am so pleased with it.

*8 Saturday*

Another fine day. Got a jar of treacle. Got a letter from Jeanie. Got the lobby cleaned, also the little house.<sup>[5]</sup>

*9 Sunday*

One of the most rainy days on record. The sermon in Lismore, and very few in Church. Went to the Sabbath school, 13 only.

*10 Monday*

The morning considerably better but wet in the evening. Had some disagreement with Mr McG about the mill. Had a small washing to day.

*11 Tuesday*

A tolerable day, the linens were pretty dry. 5 bolls of meal put in the girdel. Mr McGregor in Appin to day. Wrote no letters to day. For a wonder did not scold.

*12 Wednesday*

A rainy day. Mr McG in Appin at a parochial meeting. Sent the women to Achendoun [*i.e.* Achinduin], they brought fish, 2 cod & a ling; I am to send them to Inveraray.

*13 Thursday*

Very wet indeed. Packed up the fish for dear Charlotte. Got the ironing done. Sent some broth to Dugald Mor, milk to the others.

*14 Friday*

Another wet and stormy day. Wrote letters. Mr McG went to Appin to the soiree, I thought he would not be able to cross.

*15 Saturday*

Still stormy. Got a letter from Janetta; she expects to be home some time next week and Jeanie is to go to Inveraray.

*16 Sunday*

Rather stormy with rain. Mr McG. in Appin today but he was able to come home; the soiree had been a success & the poor widows got more than £6. Had the Sabbath school in the porch, 22 in all.

*17 Monday*

A very fine day & Mr McGregor made ready and went off to pay a visit to John. I got a few things packed up for John, which his Father took along for him.

*18 Tuesday*

This day was so stormy, as well as the preceding night, that I do not know whether Mr Macgregor got on or not. It rained a great deal. Also I sent the letters to A H & M.

*19 Wednesday*

This was quite a beautiful day. I got a lettuce from Charlotte. Janetta is to leave for home tomorrow if the day is suitable.

*20 Thursday*

One of the most stormy days; high wind & rain. I feel anxious about Janetta, if she is on the way. The hen was set on 15 eggs.

*21 Friday*

A rather better day but very rainy. I was very glad to see Janetta, who came home to night from Inveraray where she had been for 9 weeks.

*22 Saturday*

A very stormy day. Letters from John, Jeanie & her Father. Poor Don McPhail died to day and I am very sorry for him.

*23 Sunday*

Very wet & rather stormy. There was no sermon here as Mr McG was away at St Andrews. Janetta and I sat in the dining room and read all day.

*24 Monday*

The morning not so very stormy, but towards evening became stormy & rainy. Netta and I made some marmalade which has succeeded very well. Rachel cleaned out Auntie's room sorely against the Lady's will.

*25 Tuesday*

Very stormy & became worse at night. Wrote several letters. Rachel cleaned out the drawing room. I paid 3/6 to Kate a hooper for a lb of tea.<sup>[6]</sup> Sent some milk to the Post Office.

*26 Wednesday*

Another wet day & stormy at night. A Mr P Campbell came to day; he brought a letter from Jeanie. The Doctor came & staid for a short time.

*27 Thursday*

Very wet & stormy but became a little better in the evening. There was a ploughing match at Achouran [*i.e.* Achuaran] to day; sent a large bowl full of barley to put in the broth.

*28 Friday*

A great improvement in the day, which was fine & mild. Mr McGregor came home to day from his visit to John. Rachel cleaned the schoolroom.

*29 Saturday*

A better day than the generality of them. Bought a tin dish. Gave a little of the small coal to Nelly. Annie crossed to Benderloch.

## MARCH

### *1 Sunday*

Wet but not stormy. The ground in the morning white with snow, which melted when the sun rose. Mr Macgregor preached here.

### *2 Monday*

A fine mild day though damp & hasy [*sic*]. Made a most successful churn to day. Intend to go to Oban tomorrow if the day is fair. Began to foot a pair of socks for Mr McGregor.

### *3 Tuesday*

Such a wet and misty day that I could not get to Oban; it rained all day and those who did go could not return; at night very stormy.

### *4 Wednesday*

One of the worst days we have had yet. Got letters from John and Charlotte & Jeanie. Made a few curdles and was in a rage at the women.

### *5 Thursday*

The day a little better but very showery. I did not go to Oban as I wished to do, was busy knitting all day. I read a little. Did not scold to day.

*6 Friday*

Wrote some letters, read & worked during the day. Sent some broth to Dugald Mor. Sent some milk to the post office. The day rather better than the preceding ones.

*7 Saturday*

Very fine in the morning but became frightfully stormy in the fore noon. Mr McG went over with the foot & paid Mrs Addison.

*8 Sunday*

A rather fine day after a most dreadful night of high winds & sleet. Mr MacGregor preached here and went to see Mrs MacDougall in the evening. Janetta went to the school.

*9 Monday*

My daughter Janetta a very fine girl. Went to Oban to day and did not get off from Port Appin till 12 o'clock pm; had to go to the steamer in small boats, a number of pigs on board.

*10 Tuesday*

At the Great Western Hotel. The steamer came so early that I could not go in it and had to walk and was very tired and met with the greatest kindness from Callum the [illegible] and Miss McColl at the Point.

*11 Wednesday*

Was not so fine and I felt glad I had got home the day before. Had letters from Charlotte & Jeanie. Read a little & got on with my knitting.

*12 Thursday*

A fine day but turned so showery at night that Mr McGregor could not go to Oban as he intended. This was Jeanie's birthday and we had a pudding & a drinking of her health.

*13 Friday*

My daughter Janetta an exemplary girl. This has been a wet and rather windy day and very stormy at night. Wrote to Charlotte today and read & worked a little.

*14 Saturday*

A tolerable day. I hung up the hams today. Had a letter from Jeanie. Mrs Macintyre called in the afternoon & Janetta walked down with her.

*15 Sunday*

Wet & rather stormy. Mr McGregor in Appin. Janetta & I at home. We read a good deal & said the half of the Shorter Catechism. Mr McG came home. He had dined at the Doctor's.

*16 Monday*

A fine mild day, rather wet in the evening. Got the women to cut potatoes, hope they will soon be planted. Worked a great deal and did not read much today.

*17 Tuesday*

A tolerably fine day. Had a washing done. Paid 22d for a currant loaf. Got the dyed silk home. Read a letter and wrote to Jeanie.

*18 Wednesday*

A fine day. The first potatoes planted. Tea with daylight for the first time this year. The Doctor called. [Got] a letter from John. Worked a good deal & did not scold.

*19 Thursday*

A fine day. Had the linens dried & some of them ironed. Jenny Vore cleaned the hen house. Read a good deal & worked at knitting.

*20 Friday*

A damp day. Went down to the school & staid there for a while. Went to see Mrs Carmichel and Callum MacAllan's hay. Worked and read a little. The hen house finished to day.

*21 Saturday*

A stormy misty day. Made candle wicks & made two pairs of the new blankets. Had a letter from Jeanie which should have come on Wednesday.

*22 Sunday*

Wet & cold with some showers of sleet. Mr McG preached here. Janetta gave the books to her Sabbath scholars.

*23 Monday*

The ground white with snow in the morning, which continued all day. Made some candles & was very angry with Annie for spilling some of the tallow.

*24 Tuesday*

A fine day, frost in the morning and thaw in the evening. Finished the blankets & did some knitting & sewing. Scolded Janetta a little & did not write any letters today.

*25 Wednesday*

A very wet and stormy day. Mr McKenzie and Archibald Grant came across from Kingairloch. Did not get much work done but read a little.

*26 Thursday*

A fine cold day. The Doctor came on his way to Achindoon [*i.e.* Achinduin]. I went with Mr McGregor to see the school examined & was much pleased with the proficiency of the children.

*27 Friday*

A Field day washing blankets; fine, of course, or they could not be done. Mr McGregor came home after seeing Mr Archer off to Oban. Donald [?Gitbie] working in the garden, asked him to prepare a spot for onions.

*28 Saturday*

Finished a few candles, the last of the tallow I had. Janetta not at all well with a sore throat. Read a little but did not do any work.

*29 Sunday*

A Mr Dewar was in Appin & Mr MacGregor went over to hear him; he is one of the candidates for Appin. The day was fine and I went to the Sabbath school as Janneta was ill.

*30 Monday*

Mr McGregor went to Ardchattan to examine the schools. Janetta much better to day. Busy at altering a dress. Rachel cleaning Mr Archer's room, which was very dirty.

MARCH 1868

*31 Tuesday*

A fine day. Onions planted to day & some more got from the roadman. Wrote to Cousin Janetta. Worked & read [?to] Mr MacGregor. Mr Paterson called on his way home to Kilihearan [*i.e.* Kilcheran].

## APRIL

### *1 Wednesday*

A beautiful day. Mr MacGregor and Jeanie came home late in the evening. I got some of the blankets dried and had the girls' rooms made up.

### *2 Thursday*

A very fine day. Worked at my dress all day & did not read much. Scolded Jenny Vore a little. Mr McGregor went to Oban at night. The blankets were out all day.

### *3 Friday*

A fine day. Found a blanket that Rachel had left out. Made two half blankets for the closet & John's room. Mr McGregor came home from Oban and brought John's luggage.

### *4 Saturday*

A tolerable day. Had the closet just in order for P Mackenzie, who came in the afternoon. Some potatoes were planted yesterday.

*5 Sunday*

A rainy day. Mr P Mackenzie preached here. Mr McGregor in Appin hearing Mr McDonald from Lochgair. Jeanie and Janetta went out to the Sabbath school.

*6 Monday*

A beautiful day. P McKenzie went off today. Mr Archer came back from Inveraray & said he had enjoyed the visit very much; he was looking very well indeed.

*7 Tuesday*

Rather wet in the morning but did not rain much. Had a washing to day. The Doctor called after breakfast. Mended some small articles and wrote to Ralia.  
<sup>[7]</sup>

*8 Wednesday*

A very cold morning. Snow on the hills to the half. Had letters from Charlotte and Jamie Robertson. Worked at my knitting and read a little.

*9 Thursday*

Night Frost but the sun shone out and warmed the world. Mr Paterson called after breakfast. Dear John came home in the afternoon.

*10 Friday*

A fine sunshining morning. John Macdougall's wife sent me some nice onions. I filled the sugar jar. First sowing of corn to day at the top of the Glebe.

*11 Saturday*

A fine cold day. Mr Macgregor very ill with a cold & lay in bed, took castor oil. Got a quarter of mutton from Appin.

*12 Sunday*

A fine day. Mr McG, Jeanie & Janetta went to Appin. Mr McDougall did not come as he was ill. John and I here at home and I went with Rachel & Annie to the Sabbath school.

*13 Monday*

A bright warm day. Had the pig broken down.<sup>[8]</sup> John went down to Kilihearan [*i.e.* Kilcheran] & had tea also. Mr Archer working at my flowers. Took a turn in the evening.

*14 Tuesday*

A nice warm day. A few potatoes planted. Wrote to Lucy, John and Patrick Robertson. Found the first turkey's egg. The dunche planted early cabbage in the garden.

*15 Wednesday*

A nasty close mist in the morning which cleared up in the middle of the day, but great rain came on at night again.

*16 Thursday*

A damp day but fine & mild. Had a washing. The Doctor called. Mr McG & Jeanie went to Appin & brought back home some beautiful flowers & Brocoli.

*17 Friday*

Another fine mild day. Sowing going on in Lag an Lochan. Sent down to ask for Kate and heard she is no better. Mr Ross came to tea with his niece. Went up to Miss Macgregor's.

*18 Saturday*

A fine day but cold in the evening. The last of the onions planted. Jeanie & Janetia went to see Kate. Jeanie went to Ian [?Gous] with the milk.

*19 Sunday*

A Mr MacPherson preached in Appin. Mr McGregor, Jeanie & John went to church. The day rather cold. The Doctor came & staid for a short time.

*20 Monday*

A misty morning and continued damp all day. Found the turkey's nest. Rachel cleaned up the drawing room. Jeanie intends to go to Oban tomorrow.

*21 Tuesday*

A wet day. Went to Oban with Jeanie & from there to Glen Feochan. Left Jeanie & had a rather rough passage home.

*22 Wednesday*

A calm day after a very stormy night. Had a letter from Charlotte. Heard that the grocery box had come to Port Appin. Worked at my stocking.

*23 Thursday*

A regular April day with mild showers. Unpacked the groceries & filled the jar in the dining room press with what remained of the old sugar.

*24 Friday*

A sunshining day. Had the first dish of stewed rhubarb yesterday. Mr Ross & his niece at tea to night. The Doctor came & staid all night; he had been visiting J Stewart.

*25 Saturday*

A fine day. Made some rhubarb jam, tied it up and felt rather tired. A letter for Jeanie from Charlotte; they have all come to Larochban.

*26 Sunday*

Mr McGregor preached in Lismore. Pretty wet in the morning but the afternoon was fine. Lady had a calf through the night.

*27 Monday*

Fine in the morning but very cold in the afternoon and the tops of the hills white with snow. Mr Archer went to Barcalden [*i.e.* Barcaldine] & returned. A fine Aurora Borealis to night.

*28 Tuesday*

A fine cold morning. John & Janetta off to Ardchattan for a day or two. Sent Rachel to Oban to meet Jeanie but she did not come, the night was very stormy and I was glad.

*29 Wednesday*

A tremendous gale all night & this morning one of the windows of the schoolhouse blown in. The gale got up again at night; the post came late.

*30 Thursday*

Stormy in the morning but [*illegible*] at night. John came home from Ardchattan & Jeanie came home from Glenfeochan. Had a field day at the pantry.

## MAY

### *1 Friday*

A very cold day. The women cutting potatoes. Wrote to Charlotte. Rachel's cordagh beag took place to night.<sup>[9]</sup>

### *2 Saturday*

A finer day. Made the first bit of curd to day.

### *3 Sunday*

Mr McGregor and John went to Appin. The day very cold and stormy.

### *4 Monday*

Rachel busy at the cleaning of the house; had my own bed out all day in the sun; Auntie's room made up.

### *5 Tuesday*

A fine cold day with sunshine. Made the first cheese to day. Mr Macgregor went to a meeting of Presbytery. The Doctor called here.

*6 Wednesday*

Had a washing to day. Made the churn & began Auntie's gown. The day very wet in the afternoon. Jenny Vore cleaned the hen house.

*7 Thursday*

Still wet. Found that the ducks had not been put in and was angry at Annie and scolded her. Rachel at the cleaning of the house.

*8 Friday*

Mr Macgregor & James MacLennan came. Rachel went off to get ready for her marriage. Wet in the morning but cleared up at night.

*9 Saturday*

A fine mild day. Heard the cuckoo for the first time to day.

*10 Sunday*

Mr MacGregor preached here and there were 2 proclamations,<sup>[10]</sup> Rachel & Dugald & James Smith. It was a lovely day.

*11 Monday*

Rather cold. Very busy making 2 tarts & a pie and some shortbread, shall fire them tomorrow. The dunche at the garden.

*12 Tuesday*

Very busy today. Made two cakes. Mr McG went to Shean [*i.e.* Shian] Fair & engaged two servants for our soninlaw.<sup>[11]</sup> The Miss Bernards called. Bought two lbs of tea from Kate a hooper but did not pay [for] them.

*13 Wednesday*

Very stormy and was disappointed at not getting a letter from Charlotte. Jeanie & Louisa & Janetta went to Craiganbreck [*i.e.* Creckanbreck].

*14 Thursday*

Rachel was married to day and James Smith yesterday; the day was very fine and there was a number of people. Mr MacCalman came.<sup>[12]</sup>

*15 Friday*

Very wet to day. This is the Fast day and we were all in church.<sup>[13]</sup> This was the first day of Annie's attendance at the table, she did very well.

*16 Saturday*

A fine day. Mr McCalman preached a beautiful sermon. Mrs Macdougall came. Very busy all the afternoon.

*17 Sunday*

The Communion Sabbath; a beautiful day; dear John it was the first time & may it be blessed to him.

*18 Monday*

A fine day. Up very early preparing the dinner as there was preaching to day. The Doctor here to dinner. Busy remembering the [*illegible*] for Mr McCalman.

*19 Tuesday*

Mr MacCalman & Louisa Maclellan went away to day. Mr McDougall also heard the landrail for the first time to day. Isla calved today. Wrote to A K & Robertson.

*20 Wednesday*

Very heavy rain. Mr Macgregor and Archy off to the sale at Laroch, back the evening; got better. Had a letter from Charlotte. Helen's birthday.

*21 Thursday*

Pouring rain but better in the evening. Very busy all day sewing.

*22 Friday*

A fine day. Up very early getting the blankets washed, got them nearly dried. Mary here at ironing. Busy at work. Janetta, she heard the Cuckoo calling often to day.

*23 Saturday*

Pouring rain. Was up early and lifted some milk. Very stormy about 3 o'clock. Mr McGregor came home. I wrote to Louisa about the children.

*24 Sunday*

Cold & stormy. Mr McGregor & John went to Appin & came home very cold & a little wet.

*25 Monday*

Up very early and made a small cheese. The day rather cold.

*26 Tuesday*

A stormy day. This is the Term day and Marian Docter went away & Flora came.<sup>[14]</sup> Worked at knitting a good deal.

*27 Wednesday*

A cold day but not so stormy. Up very early and made a churn & a cheese. Flora seems to be a tidy girl.

*28 Thursday*

Mr McG, the dunche & [illegible] off to [Connel] with the packet. Darling Agnes' birthday, she is now four years, may God bless the child, may she grow up one of his own adopted Ones.

*29 Friday*

Went to Oban with Mr Macgregor. Very wet & uncomfortable. Paid 12/- to Christian for boots for Aunt Robertson. The wheel came off the gig, Archy was thrown out.

*30 Saturday*

Up pretty early & made some curd. The smith came and opened the lock of the back pantry.

*31 Sunday*

A tolerable day. Mr MacGregor preached here and there was no English sermon. He went up to the Achouran [*i.e.* Achuaran] school & Jeanie & Janetta went out to their own school.

## JUNE

### *1 Monday*

A fine day. Janetta rebalious at breakfast. I was up at 6 o'clock & made the first large cheese. Rain came on heavily in the evening.

### *2 Tuesday*

Rather a cold day. Up early and made some curds and made preparations for a washing. Had a washing. Mr Livingston called.

### *3 Wednesday*

A fine day but rather cold. Was not up very early to day. The women lifted the washing as the day was dry.

### *4 Thursday*

Up very early in the morning & made a cheese & some nice butter. The night very stormy & cold. Set a duck on the Lady's rock.<sup>[15]</sup>

### *5 Friday*

A fine sunshine this morning. Mr McGregor going over to Appin. I was not up early this morning. Mr McGregor came back when we were at dinner. Rain at night.

*6 Saturday*

A very stormy morning. Up early and made a cheese. Found some eggs, amongst the rest a turkie's egg in a duck's nest.

*7 Sunday*

A very stormy day. Mr Macgregor & John went to Appin to church and could scarcely get across home as the wind was so high.

*8 Monday*

Very cold still but fine & dry. Up early & made a cheese. The Doctor here to day. Mr Macgregor went to Oban in the afternoon. Had the carpet lifted off the schoolroom.

*9 Tuesday*

A better day upon the whole. Did not rise early today. Had the school room cleaned up and was busy mending carpets. The flour came in a barrel.

*10 Wednesday*

A cold dry day. Up early & made a cheese. Made a haggis. Louisa came along with Mr MacGregor after his visit to [blank].

*11 Thursday*

A beautiful day. Not up very early. No potatoes to day for the servants. For the first time took a walk in the morning.

*12 Friday*

Up very early & made the churn. John went to Oban. The day rather wet. Mr Ross called on his way from the marriage of John McFarlane.

*13 Saturday*

A damp morning. Up at six and made a cheese. Busy at work all day. Jeanie got a book to read.

*14 Sunday*

A tolerable day. The sermon in Lismore, not very many in Church. Went in the evening with Jeanie to Tigh an Lochan.

*15 Monday*

A fine dry morning. Up early & made a cheese. My hand a little stiff as a rusty nail had run into it. Mr Ross called in the afternoon.

*16 Tuesday*

A gloomy morning. Had a long sleep. Rose & fed the hens. Worked at my stocking a good deal. Mr Ross called in the evening.

*17 Wednesday*

A stormy day. Up early & made a cheese. The evening got better and the girls & John went down to the UP Manse.

*18 Thursday*

A lovely day. Up very early & made a cheese & a splendid piece of butter & salted the first butter of this year. This is the Fast day in Appin; Mr McGregor, John & I went.

*19 Friday*

A lovely warm day. Mr MacFarlane here. Have been very busy in the kitchen cooking the dinner, and found it very warm. Gave a skin to Jenny Vore at 3/, not paid.

*20 Saturday*

Another very warm day. I was busy this day in the kitchen cooking, and put rennet in the warm milk for the first time this year.

*21 Sunday*

The Communion Sabbath in Appin; Jeanie & John & Janetta & I all at the Lord's Table together. May it be blessed to our souls. The day very fine upon the whole; thunder & lightening at night.

*22 Monday*

A stormy morning. Up very early & made a cheese. Mr Macgregor & Jeanie went to Appin. Had the women in the garden weeding. The evening turned very fine.

*23 Tuesday*

A calm day. Up early & made a cheese. John went yesterday to Ardchattan on his way to Inveraray. The women weeding in the garden. The evening very wet.

*24 Wednesday*

A windy day. Up early & made a cheese. Mr Macgregor went to Appin to see a sick woman but did not get across as it was stormy. 1/- worth of eggs, Jen Vor.

*25 Thursday*

Up very early. Made the churn and cheese. Had a washing. Mary here. The evening very stormy & cold, there was a shower of hailstones to day. Set the hen to hatch.

*26 Friday*

Up early and made a cheese. Had the sacks washed. The day rather better than yesterday. Mary did a little ironing but had to go away as she was not well.

*27 Saturday*

A great deal of rain in the morning. Up early & made some curd and made the rest of the curd after breakfast.

*28 Sunday*

A fine warm day. Mr MacGregor preached here; the congregation not very large; the Communion in the U.P. Church. Read a little & went out to the compound in the evening.

*29 Monday*

A fine morning. Up early & made a churn. This is John Magrath's birthday. Patrick McKeig came in the evening. I took a turn out in the evening. The maids busy ironing.

*30 Tuesday*

A very warm morning. Mr McG went off early. I made a cheese. The Doctor called after breakfast. Jeanie & I had a nice bathe. Mr Ross called in the afternoon.

## JULY

### *1 Wednesday*

Beloved Charlotte's birthday & a lovely day. Up early & made a churn & cheese. Mr McWhannel here to tea. The evening was warm.

### *2 Thursday*

Very warm. Up very early & made a cheese. Mr Macgregor went to Ardchattan as it is their Fast day. Louisa, Jeanie, Janetta & I bathed. A tea pairt [*i.e.* party] to Mr Ross.

### *3 Friday*

Another fine day & very warm. Up early & made a cheese. Went down with Louisa, Jeanie & Janetta & had a nice bathe. Eliza Smith here to tea.

### *4 Saturday*

A fine warm morning. Up early and made a cheese. Did not bathe to day as it turned cold at the time. Mr Ross came & was taken to the Church.

### *5 Sunday*

The Communion day at Ardchattan and Mr Macgregor there. The girls went down to hear Mr Ross' farewell sermon in the evening.

*6 Monday*

A dark morning with a little rain. Up early & made a cheese & another small one. Mr Macgregor came home & told me that Mrs McFarlane was dead.

*7 Tuesday*

A dark rainy morning. Louisa, Jeanie [and] Janetta went to Oban in the Packet & returned in the steamer. Had the women in the garden. Read a good deal & walked a little.

*8 Wednesday*

Up very early & made a churn & also a cheese. Had the women weeding in the garden. Mr McGregor & the girls went to John Keith's marriage.

*9 Thursday*

Up pretty early made a cheese. The day was fine. Worked at the bedcover. John came home in the evening and we were glad to have him again.

*10 Friday*

A lovely warm day. Up at 7 o'clock only & made a cheese. Paid Jenny Vore 3d for eggs. Rory brought [*illegible*] Donald Stevenson.

*11 Saturday*

A more gloomy day than yesterday. Up early & made a cheese. John went over to Appin & was to remain at the Doctor's house.

*12 Sunday*

Mr Dewar was to preach in Appin. Mr Macgregor preached here; the day was very fine & warm. Sat out under the trees with James & the girls.

*13 Monday*

A very warm day. Up early and made a cheese. Mr Macgregor went off to Glenorchy to assist Mr MacFarlane.<sup>[16]</sup> John came home from Appin.

*14 Tuesday*

Another lovely day. Up early & made a cheese & a churn, which did not turn out very well as it was rather soft.

*15 Wednesday*

Rather dark but clearing up. Sent Annie to Oban in the Packet with 9lbs of butter. Louisa went away & we were all very sorry.

*16 Thursday*

After a very rainy night it is a little better now. Made a small cheese. Went up to see the hay cut. The evening fine and warm.

*17 Friday*

A close warm morning. Up early & made a small cheese. Had the dunche at the walks. Mr Paterson called in the evening.

*18 Saturday*

A dark rainy morning. Up early and made a churn & cheese. Had the last dish of the old potatoes.

*19 Sunday*

Mr Macgregor in Glenorchy at the Communion. The day rather fine & a number of the people disappointed that there was no preaching here.

*20 Monday*

A dark rainy morning and raining all day. Up early and made some curd. Made 2 small jars of strawberry jam. Mrs McDow from Glasgow called.

*21 Tuesday*

Another dark rainy morning. Up late. I made a large cheese. Mr Macgregor came while we were at breakfast. Busy all day & Jeanie had a cold.

*22 Wednesday*

Jeanie much better. Up early and made some curd; & John went to Appin to make an apology for the girls.

*23 Thursday*

A splendid morning. Up early & made a large cheese. Mr McVean went away to day & the girls went over to Mrs Bernard's.

*24 Friday*

Another very fine morning. Mr Gregorson, Mr Campbell, Mr Hall & Mr Farquarson all called. John went to Oban and came home in the evening. The hay put in.

*25 Saturday*

Another very fine day. Up early and made a large cheese. Made another of the warm milk. The girls came home.

*26 Sunday*

A very fine day. Mr McGregor preached here to a pretty good congregation. Took a walk in the evening.

*27 Monday*

A cloudy day. Up early & made a churn & a little curd. Worked at patchwork part of the day & had the women lifting a washing.

*28 Tuesday*

Up early and made a large cheese. Intended to travel over to Kingairloch but the wind was too high.

*29 Wednesday*

Went to Kingairloch as the day was very fine. Called at Mr Forbes and dined at Mr MacIntyres, got home at 8.

*30 Thursday*

A stormy day. Up early and made a cheese. Had a call from the two Mrs Carmichels. Worked all the afternoon & took a nap part of the time.

*31 Friday*

Up early and made a cheese. The day rather stormy, but not rain. Mr Macgregor went to Appin & went off to Fort William to the Communion. Mr Dewar came.

## AUGUST

### *1 Saturday*

A misty morning. Up early & made a cheese. Mr Dewar here; the Doctor here.

### *2 Sunday*

A very warm day, John desires me to say the warmest of the season. Mr MacGregor at Ft William. Mr Dewar preached two sermons.

### *3 Monday*

Up very early to see Mr Dewar off. Made a small cheese. The morning fine. Got a bathe at the big stones. Mr Macgregor came home.

### *4 Tuesday*

A very warm day. The servants busy at the hay. Busy making a jacket. Had Auntie's bed out. Scolded Janetta a good deal. Dugald [*words erased*].

### *5 Wednesday*

A dark day but very warm. Up very early & made a churn; the butter too warm. Dugald Livingston called here. Picked the onions.

*6 Thursday*

A great deal of rain last night. Mr MacArthur, Charlotte and the dear children came to day, and the evening got better.

*7 Friday*

Another rainy day and high wind at night. Up very early and made a little nice butter. Also a cheese. Mr MacArthur went away and took Rory with him.

*8 Saturday*

Up not so early the [*i.e.* this] morning. Made a cheese. Very busy in the kitchen. Made another warm milk cheese.

*9 Sunday*

A rather fine day. Mr Macgregor preached in Appin and Charlotte, Jeanie & Janet with John accompanied him. At home all day and very busy.

*10 Monday*

Up early and made some curd. The morning wet & rather cold. Gathered gooseberries in the afternoon and had some blankets washed.

*11 Tuesday*

Very wet & rather cold. Up early & made a cheese. Mr Macgregor went to the Point and I sent some gooseberries.

*12 Wednesday*

Very busy making jelly & jam. The day improved and the servants were out at the hay.

*13 Thursday*

A wet & cold morning. Up very early & made a churn & cheese. The butter very good. The day very hot & the children could not get out.

*14 Friday*

Up at 6 o'clock. The night & morning wet & stormy. Made some curd for a cheese tomorrow. Worked at my knitting.

*15 Saturday*

Up early and made a cheese. Made some gooseberry jelly, was very busy all day. Made some keatchup.<sup>[17]</sup>

*16 Sunday*

A lovely day. Mr Macgregor preached here; dear Charlotte & the children in church with us. Read a little in the evening.

*17 Monday*

Up pretty early & made a large cheese. Made a cake. Charlotte made a cake. The people busy at the hay. The day very warm.

*18 Tuesday*

Up early. The day very fine. Swept the shelves of the milk house. Mr Ross & Mr [?Sheurlas] here to tea. Up pretty late and did not sleep very well.

*19 Wednesday*

Up very early & made a churn & cheese. A fine day. The hay stacked. Made curd. A large dinner in the kitchen.

*20 Thursday*

A fine day, and Mr Dewar to be inducted today; & Mr McG & John went to Appin. Dear Charlotte went off & Jeanie & I went across with her.

*21 Friday*

A cold day with a good deal of rain in the morning but better towards the evening. Packed the wool which is to go off tomorrow.

*22 Saturday*

Up early and made a Saturday's cheese.<sup>[18]</sup> Mr McGregor off to Kilmore. I got a little frightened about Helen.

*23 Sunday*

A stormy day, no sermon here. Mr Mcgregor preaching at Kilmore. The day continued stormy. ~~the doctor came~~

*24 Monday*

Up early and made some curd. The day continued stormy. Mr McGregor came home from Kilmore.

*25 Tuesday*

Up early and made a cheese. The morning cold & wet. Had a small washing & prepared for the cheese. The day very wet.

*26 Wednesday*

Up very early & made a churn. The chimneys swept. Made some curd. The morning cold & wet.

*27 Thursday*

Up very early & went with Jeanie to Oban where we met Mr MacArthur. Jeanie went with Mr MacArthur to Inveraray. The day stormy in the extreme.

*28 Friday*

Up early & made some curd. Mrs Fell, Mrs Gregorson & the Dr called here to day. The day not so wet but rather cold and stormy.

*29 Saturday*

Up early and scolded the servants for wasting the porridge. Made a cheese & did not lift the Saturday's milk.

*30 Sunday*

A fine day & the sermon. I left Mr Fell & his bags in church. Mr Macgregor did not go to Achouran [*i.e.* Achuaran]. Janetta went to her school.

*31 Monday*

Up early & made a cheese. The day wet but not stormy. Mr Macgregor & John went off this day to Inveraray. Mr Dewar called. Very wet at night.

## SEPTEMBER

### *1 Tuesday*

Up pretty early & made some curd. Busy all day. The Doctor came & remained to dinner. Reaping begun to day; & Archie furious & swearing at the women.

### *2 Wednesday*

Up early & made a churn & a cheese. The day fine & reaping going on. Mr Dewar went away in the evening.

### *3 Thursday*

Up early & made some curd. The morning fine and reaping going on. Miss Gregorson came & remained till the afternoon.

### *4 Friday*

Up early. The morning very wet. Made a cheese. Mr Macgregor came home. The day did not clear up. Busy letter writing.

### *5 Saturday*

Up very early & made a cheese. Made the new carpet & put it down in the lobby.

*6 Sunday*

Rather a fine day. Mr Macgregor preached here and went to the Achouran [*i.e.* Achuaran] school in the evening.

*7 Monday*

Up early. The morning very wet. The milk all sour. Made a questionable cheese. Lizzie went away & Nettie has the children. John came home.

*8 Tuesday*

Up early. The morning very fine. Made a bit of curd. Reaping going on. Very busy all day & wrote some letters.

*9 Wednesday*

Up very early & made a churn & a cheese. The day very fine. Lizzie returned here at night.

*10 Thursday*

Up pretty early & made a bit of curd. The day very fine and reaping going on; the first corn put in the barn & Jack busy forking it in.

*11 Friday*

Janetta a very great assistance to me, the dear child. The first stack made this morning. Up early & made a cheese. Reaping going on & the dear children are able to get outside.

*12 Saturday*

Up early and made a cheese. The day very fine & reaping going on. Went up to the Point to call on Mrs Gregorson.

*13 Sunday*

Mr Macgregor up at the Glenco [*i.e.* Glencoe] Sacrament. The day very fine & no sermon here. Janetta ill with a cold but went to her Sabbath school.

*14 Monday*

Up early and made a small cheese. The morning very fine & a second stack made. Mr Macgregor came back. Mrs Gregorson & all her children here.

*15 Tuesday*

Up early & made a bit of curd. The day fine. Mr Macgregor ill with a cold. Janetta ill with a cold. Busy at the bed cover.

*16 Wednesday*

Up very early & made a churn & cheese. John had breakfast and went off to Inverary. The day very fine. Mrs Cheyne called & gave me a splendid present.

*17 Thursday*

A fine calm morning. Up early & made a bit of curd. Mrs Campbell Balleveolans [*i.e.* Baleveolan] party here to breakfast & dinner & nearly lost [their] passage.

*18 Friday*

A fine morning, dry and not much sunshine. Up early & made a cheese. The crop all in today. Janetta and I went to call at Mrs Cheyne's today.

*19 Saturday*

Up early & made a cheese. Had Mrs Cheyne's seat in church cleaned. The day fine & dry. I had the dining room carpet taken up.

*20 Sunday*

A fine day but there had been rain during the night. The sermon here & [?Mary] Point proclaimed. Mr Macgregor preached & Mrs Cheyne in church.

*21 Monday*

Up very early & prepared Mr McGregor's breakfast as he was away to Oban. Made a cheese. The day very fine. Mr MacGregor came home from Oban in the afternoon.

*22 Tuesday*

Up early and made a bit of curd the day. Very fine. The children out a good deal. Mrs Gery and Miss Anna & Mrs Shaw called.

*23 Wednesday*

Up early & made a cheese. The day very fine. Mr McGregor & Janetta with Lizzie & the children went to gather brambles. They got but few, they are not ripe.

*24 Thursday*

Up very early & made a churn & a bit of curd. The day very fine. The Dunche in the kiln with oats. Busy at the mangle with Annie, some of the things laid past.

*25 Friday*

Up early. Another fine day. Made a cheese. The Dunche making meal today; 3 bolls of new meal came home from the mill.<sup>[19]</sup> Mrs Addison came.

*26 Saturday*

Up early & made a small cheese. The morning very wet, cleared up in the evening. Mrs Addison here.

*27 Sunday*

A tolerable day but rather damp. No sermon here as Mr Macgregor preached in Appin. There was thunder in the afternoon.

*28 Monday*

Up early & made a cheese. The morning very wet. Mrs Addison came & worked all day and went away in the evening.

*29 Tuesday*

Up early and made a bit of curd the morning. Very wet. Mrs Dagleish & Capt Playfair came in the morning. John came home at night.

*30 Wednesday*

Up very early & made a churn. The wind very high in the morning. Charlotte came & had a dreadful day.

## OCTOBER

### *1 Thursday*

Up very early. The day beautiful. Made a cheese. Mrs Dalglish & Janetta went to pick brambles; got some from Maire an [?Dactair]. The Doctor called.

### *2 Friday*

Up early and made some curd. A beautiful day. The dear children & Charlotte left us to day. Janetta went off to school & Mr McGregor went to Appin with [blank]. The barrel of herring came.

### *3 Saturday*

Up early, made a cheese. The day fine. Had a fine walk with Mrs Dalglish. Worked at my stocking & got the breakfast things in order.

### *4 Sunday*

A tolerably fine day. Mr Macgregor preached here. Mrs Dalglish & Capt. Playfair came to the English.<sup>[20]</sup> Mr McGregor & John went to the Achouran [*i.e.* Achuaran] school & I taught Janetta's school.

*5 Monday*

Up early. Made a bit of curd. The day fine. Mrs Dalglish & Capt Playfair went away. Had the carpet taken up off the blue room. John went to the Point with his aunt.

*6 Tuesday*

Up early. The morning raw & windy. Had the women at the blue room. Did not lift the milk. Worked at my stockings & kept in the house all day.

*7 Wednesday*

Up early & made a cheese. Had Jeanie's room & the school room cleaned. Jeanie did not come. Worked at my stocking.

*8 Thursday*

Up very early as Mr Macgregor was going to Oban. Made some curd. The day wet & raw. The evening stormy with high wind.

*9 Friday*

Rose very early & made a churn. The morning calm though wet. Jeanie came home from Inveraray in the morning & Mr Macgregor came at night.

*10 Saturday*

A fine morning. Up very early & made a cheese. Dear Janetta's birthday. Jeanie & I had a nice walk & called on the old woman at Kilandrist.

*11 Sunday*

A fine & mild day. Mr Macgregor preached here. John went to the Sabbath school. Jeanie & I went to the Sabbath school in the Church & afterwards to Dugald Mor's.

*12 Monday*

A fine day. Up early & made a bit of curd. Jeanie went over to Appin & returned later in the evening & had to walk from the Point.

*13 Tuesday*

Up very early. The morning [*illegible*] with rain. Mr McGregor went to Oban. Mr McGregor returned from Oban while we were at dinner.

*14 Wednesday*

Up early & made a cheese. Did not go out the day being rather stormy. I made some bramble jam.

*15 Thursday*

The morning stormy, the previous night very much so. Not up very early. Mrs Dalgleish's servant went off today. The night very stormy.

*16 Friday*

Up early & made a cheese. The morning very cold; the first snow on the hills today. Mrs Alexander Ross called in the evening.

*17 Saturday*

Up very early & made a churn & cheese. Very busy all day at candles & felt rather tired at night. Coals being taken home.<sup>[21]</sup>

*18 Sunday*

The day very cold & snow all over. Few attending the sermon here & I went out to the Sabbath school and John & Jeanie went to Achouran [*i.e.* Achuaran].

*19 Monday*

A fine dry cold day. Up early & made a cheese. Mrs Livingston called here. Packed up Janetta's trunk & Archy went to Appin with it.

*20 Tuesday*

A cold dry day. Mrs Addison called. Not up early today. Busy making a pair of stockings for Jeanie. The day very cold. Had the henhouse cleaned up.

*21 Wednesday*

Up early. The morning fine. Made a bit of curd. John went off to Kilmore. The day showery & I am afraid he could be wet.

*22 Thursday*

Not up early. The morning calm & the ground wet & cold. Mr Macgregor went to Oban. Jeanie & I took a walk. John came home.

*23 Friday*

Up very early. The morning very stormy. Made a cheese. Archy went to Oban. Mr McGregor came home from Oban. Jeanie went up to meet him.

*24 Saturday*

Up very early. Made a churn & a cheese. The day very wet. I was busy working at my stocking.

*25 Sunday*

A cold & rather stormy day. The sermon here & a tolerable congregation. Went to the Sabbath school in the afternoon. Jeanie took a walk & John went to Achouran [*i.e.* Achuaran].

*26 Monday*

Up pretty early & made a small churn. The Doctor came & tied up the little lump on my cheek; felt very thankful when it was done. Mrs Carmichel here to tea.

*27 Tuesday*

Not up early, I am sorry to say. The morning stormy. The good kind Doctor here in attendance on Mrs Carmichel; I trust she will soon be better.

*28 Wednesday*

A stormy day. The dear good Doctor here today; he removed the little lump on my cheek and put some caustic & sticking plaster on; I feel very thankful.

*29 Thursday*

A better morning. My cheek continues better, thanks be to God for his mercies; I am not up so early on these days; dear Jeanie is working willingly for me.

*30 Friday*

A stormy morning. Not up early. My cheek still continues better for which I have to record my gratitude to God for this & for all his other mercies to me.

*31 Saturday*

A fine calm morning. Not up early but feel thankful to God that I am getting better; dear Jeanie saves me the trouble of today.

## NOVEMBER

### *1 Sunday*

A wet day. I did not go to church but sat in the dining room & read. Mr McGregor, Jeanie & John went. Jeanie went out to the school in the church & John went to Achouran [*i.e.* Achuaran].

### *2 Monday*

A very stormy day after a stormy night. Mr McGregor & John both went off to Appin & Jeanie & I are most anxious on their account as the storm is so great.

### *3 Tuesday*

A stormy morning after a most stormy night. The field below full of water. Clachan Fair going on under great disadvantage. Mrs Alexander Ross here to tea. The night pretty calm.

### *4 Wednesday*

A cold morning but calm; the night quiet & the sun struggling to come out. Mr MacGregor & John came home. The evening rather better.

*5 Thursday*

A fine morning. Not up early. A great number of herring taken [?Mr Deowr]. Mr Macgregor went to Oban. Mrs Macqueen here to tea. The evening very cold. Busy at Jeanie's stockings.

*6 Friday*

A cold frosty morning. The first snow down on the low ground. A great quantity of herrings taken. Mr MacGregor came home from Oban. Wrote letters & sewed a little.

*7 Saturday*

Up very early & made a churn, the butter very good. Had the plaster removed off my cheek & am thankful to God for his mercy to me a Sinner.

*8 Sunday*

A fine frosty day. Jeanie & John went to church & heard a beautiful sermon from Mr Macgregor. John went to the Achouran [*i.e.* Achuaran] school & I went to the church.

*9 Monday*

A fine frosty day. Not up early but cheek better & pray to be made very thankful. Mrs Bernard came to day & took Jeanie over with her for a couple of days. John took tea with Mr Ross.

*10 Tuesday*

Another fine frosty morning. Up between 8 & 9 & made arrangements for breakfast. Busy at my knitting; & Mr Macgregor & John looking at the stars as the night was frosty.

*11 Wednesday*

A milder day with the appearance of a change. Up early & made a small cheese. Had the servants at Auntie's room. Jeanie came home & brought a pack of apples.

*12 Thursday*

Up not early. The day fine. Annie going to the Fair. Busy all day as Dear John was preparing to go away to College; he went in the afternoon & we were thankful the evening was so fine.

*13 Friday*

A lovely morning for which we are most thankful as Dear John will be going round the Mull [*i.e.* of Kintyre] to day. The day continued beautiful. Had a tea pairt for Janetta's sabbath class.

*14 Saturday*

Up very early & made some nice butter & a small bit of curds. The day very fine. Busy at work. Had the women cleaning out dear John's room & washing the [?lobby doors].

*15 Sunday*

A fine frosty day. Went to church with Mr Macgregor & Jeanie. The congregation pretty good. Staid in the house in the afternoon & Jeanie went to the Sabbath class & Mr Macgregor went to Achouran [*i.e.* Achuaran].

*16 Monday*

A fine morning, not up early. Archie & the pup off to Barbreck for the heifer dear Mr MacArthur is to give me. Jeanie went to call at several places P.P.C.<sup>[22]</sup> before going to Ralia.

*17 Tuesday*

Up early & had breakfast early as dear Jeanie was to go away after breakfast. The day very fine. Her Father went to Port Appin with her & they were barely in time as the steamer came early.

*18 Wednesday*

A fine day. Up early as Mr Macgregor was going to Appin. Made a cheese & Archy came with the beautiful hieffer dear Mr MacArthur sent to me.

*19 Thursday*

A fine morning. Not up early but angry at the women for not [*illegible*] [?the hens]. Mr Ross called to day. Was busy at sewing & knitting all day & read a little.

*20 Friday*

Up not very early. The morning dark but fine & dry. The kind Doctor came & dressed my cheek & comforted me by telling it would soon be well. Busy at my work.

*21 Saturday*

Up not early. Made a cover for the big chair. Had letters from Jeanie & Janta. The day stormy & rather wet.

*22 Sunday*

A rather wet morning but cleared up towards church time. A tolerable congregation; a collection for the schemes of the church. Went to the Sabbath class & to Dugald Mor's.

*23 Monday*

A fine dry day. Not up early but busy at my knitting. I read a little. Mr Macgregor went to Oban & is to be at a meeting of presbytery tomorrow. The evening fine. Mrs Livingston called.

*24 Tuesday*

A fine dry day. Not up very early. Getting ready for a washing. Had the washing. I felt very low today about the lump on my cheek. I try to say God's will be done.

*25 Wednesday*

Up very early to day & went to bed again for a couple of hours & then rose & made a very satisfactory churn & a bit of curd, this last bit is the last cheese this year.

*26 Thursday*

A damp morning. Not up early to day. Mr Macgregor came home last night. The women busy at the ironing. A marriage from Kingairloch came & they were married in the kitchen.

*27 Friday*

A very fine day. Not up early. Mr Macgregor going to Appin. Mr McGregor returned from Appin. Annie went to Benderloch. Busy writing letters in the evening. Busy at knitting.

*28 Saturday*

Not up very early. The morning fine, the evening stormy. The pig broken down. I packed a box for [*illegible*]. Annie not back yet.

*29 Sunday*

A stormy day, not many in church. The Doctor went to church here. Our friend Allister & Mrs Carmichel called after coming in.

*30 Monday*

Up after 8 o'clock. Annie not home yet. The day mild & damp. Emptied the barrel of herrings & Mr Macgregor put rosin on the lower end; had the herrings put in again. Annie came in the evening.

## DECEMBER

### *1 Tuesday*

A fine dry windy morning. Not up early. Mr & Mrs Carmichel came to tea & went home in the fine moonlight. Had the herring salted & the hams bathed at night.<sup>[23]</sup>

### *2 Wednesday*

A lovely day. Mr Macgregor went to baptise the baby at Kilendrist [*i.e.* Kilandrist] & I accompanied him & we enjoyed the walk very much. Mr Dewar came.

### *3 Thursday*

A rather stormy morning. Mr Dewar went away to day though we wished him to remain for the day. Flora went off by the steamer to Oban. The night rather stormy.

### *4 Friday*

A damp, dark morning. The cow rather better to day. Flora not home. Wrote letters to Charlotte & Kate. Busy knitting. The cow better. The evening rather better.

*5 Saturday*

A dark morning. Got up early. Got letters from Jeanie & John. Flora came home. There were but two loaves today.

*6 Sunday*

A wet & stormy day, very few people in church. I went out to the Sabbath class; the day so dark that I could scarcely see their lessons. Read the rest of the evening.

*7 Monday*

A dark morning after a very wet night. Got the women to a washing. Jessie McVarish & her husband came & had their little boy baptised. Ann went with them as Godmother.

*8 Tuesday*

A dark morning. The women not up in good time & I very angry. Busy at letter writing. Had the linens lifted but rain came before they were dry.

*9 Wednesday*

A fine morning. The women up in good time. My cheek in the same way. Heard news of James McColl. Busy at my knitting. The day very fine.

*10 Thursday*

Very stormy after a stormy night. Had the pickle put on the pork. Busy at my knitting. Annie ill with a cold & Flora in Appin. The night very stormy. Auntie very well & making a slip body.

*11 Friday*

Not up early as I intended as the morning was so stormy. The day a little better but still blowing. Wrote letters & was busy at knitting & finished a stocking for Agnes before going to bed.

*12 Saturday*

Up very early. Had a satisfactory churn. Had a letter from dear Jeanie. Busy with my knitting. Annie off with a bad cold. Flora in Appin.

*13 Sunday*

A fine cold day & a tolerably well filled church to day. Went to the Sabbath class & could not keep them long as it was so dark. Mr Macgregor went to Achouran [*i.e.* Achuaran].

*14 Monday*

A stormy morning. Mr Macgregor prevented from going to a meeting in Appin. The parties as witnesses in the sheep case going off to Inverary. Reading book all day & did not rant much.

*15 Tuesday*

A better morning than yesterday. Mr McGregor went to Appin & took Netta's parcel with him. I set the women to a washing in the kitchen. Mr McGregor came home in the evening.

*16 Wednesday*

A fine day. Mr Gregorson collecting the rents at the Point. The Doctor came on his way to the Point of Fiart. Annie went to her [uncle] [*illegible*].

*17 Thursday*

A fine damp morning. Preaching here today as a thanksgiving for the abundant harvest; a good number in church. Auntie quite well & going about as usual.

*18 Friday*

Up pretty early. The day very fine. Annie not home yet. Had the washing taken up. Had the women at the tripe, cleaning it at the [Sabre].<sup>[24]</sup> The witnesses back from Inverary.

*19 Saturday*

John's Majority. My very dear John's birthday. I had a nice letter from him, may the Lord keep him. We had a beautiful pudding which turned out very well.

*20 Sunday*

A fine day & a good number in church; there was an English sermon. Went to the Sabbath class. Mr Macgregor & I went to Dugal Mor's in the evening.

*21 Monday*

A dark stormy morning. Quite a field day as I was busy at the mincing of meat & suet for sausages. Very tired in the evening. Worked at my stocking.

*22 Tuesday*

A dark day. The women very lazy & not up to give Archy his breakfast. Very busy all day at the puddings & salting the beef. Archy went to Oban with the hide.

*23 Wednesday*

Up in good time. Very busy all day & very angry with the women for being lazy in the morning. Made the sausages & some nice soup. Sent cheese to Appin.

*24 Thursday*

A fine morning. Up in good time. Sewing all day. Meal came home, 3 bolls. Sent a bit of meat to Miss Macgregor. Got in the first 3 eggs to day. Busy knitting.

*25 Friday*

A fine day. Had Annie cleaning the scullery. Made soup. Sent some milk to Tigh an Lochan. Worked at my stocking & wrote some letters.

*26 Saturday*

A fine morning but stormy at night. Very busy all day. Auntie quite well & downstairs. A nice letter from Jeanie. Busy at my knitting.

*27 Sunday*

A very wet, stormy day & a wonderful sermon in church on this the last Sabbath of the year. Went to the Sabbath class & had a bad cold. Very stormy at night.

*28 Monday*

A wet day & great snow on the hills. Had a washing which kept them till it was pretty late. Had the flet done at night. Archy very ill with a bad cold.

*29 Tuesday*

Up pretty early. The day fine with snow on the ground. Made a cake & kept Jenny Vore out of the kitchen.

*30 Wednesday*

Had letters from Charlotte & John. Snow on the ground. Mrs Carmichel here making a nice dress.

*31 Thursday*

Up very early & made a churn & cut down the tallow. Scolding the women very much.

## NOTES

- 1 'Rock' was another name for a distaff. Mary Macgregor and her servants were either attaching a quantity of wool or flax to the rock so that it could be spun, or using the rock in conjunction with either a spindle or a spinning wheel to spin thread.
- 2 At this time, rural communities in many parts of Scotland continued to date Christmas Day according to the Julian, or Old Style, calendar. What became popularly known as Auld Yule originally fell on 5 January, but when Mary MacGregor was writing it had moved to 6 January. The boys were probably playing shinty, which was often played on festive occasions.
- 3 *i.e.*, Old Style. See endnote 2.
- 4 This was probably the newly published *Leaves from a Journal of our Life in the Highlands, from 1848 to 1861* by Queen Victoria.
- 5 'Little house' was a term widely used in Scotland for a room or building used as a privy. The Gaelic form, *taigh beag*, remains in use today.
- 6 'a hooper' is probably a Gaelic by-name. The rough notes that Mary made at the back of the diary record further purchases of tea from Kate. In July, for example, she bought a total of 4 lbs, which came to 13/12d.

- 7 Ralia, near Newtonmore (Inverness-shire), was where Mary's mother lived.
- 8 *i.e.* the pig was butchered.
- 9 A *cordagh beag* (usually, either *còrdadh* or *rèiteach beag*) was a betrothal ceremony where the espoused couple and their immediate families met, and the fiancé formally sought permission from the bride's father.
- 10 *i.e.* public notice was given in church of the intended marriage of Rachel and Dugald, and of John Smith. Such a proclamation, known as banns, gave anyone who knew of any impediment to the marriage the opportunity to lodge an objection.
- 11 A hiring fair was held twice a year at Shian.
- 12 *i.e.* the Reverend Donald MacCalman, minister of the parish of Ardchattan (1844-73). He was on the island to help the Reverend MacGregor with the parish's annual communion season.
- 13 A fast day began the annual communion season held by Church of Scotland parishes. The season traditionally lasted four or five days, from Thursday or Friday to Monday, and included various services, an examination of communicants and the communion itself.
- 14 Term days legally marked the commencement and expiry of leases and of contracts of employment, and the falling due of rents, wages and other payments. There were four term days in Scotland, although the main ones were Whitsunday (15 May) and Martinmas (11 November). It is interesting to note that the Old Style date for Whitsunday (22 May) was still being used on Lismore for the hiring of servants.
- 15 This perhaps refers to the distaff belonging to Mary's resident aunt, who is referred to as 'the Lady' elsewhere in the diary. In this context, 'duck' suggests the strong untwilled linen fabric used at this time for making hard-wearing clothing.

- 16 Robert MacFarlane was the minister of Glenorchy (1864-93). Gregor MacGregor was there to help with the parish's annual communion season.
- 17 *i.e.* ketchup. During the Victorian period, it was typically made with the juice or pulp of a fruit, vegetable or other foodstuff (and not just tomatoes, as in modern ketchups), combined with vinegar and spices, and used as an ingredient or a condiment.
- 18 In order to avoid breaking the Sabbath by making cheese on a Sunday, a small cheese was made on the Saturday evening from some of the day's milk. This was known as a 'Saturday's cheese'.
- 19 *i.e.* the mill at Balnagown.
- 20 *i.e.* to the English-language sermon.
- 21 The bulk delivery of affordable coal to island communities had been made possible by the advent of sea-going puffers. Its ready availability had an impact on various aspects of daily life, from heating and cooking to the design of houses.
- 22 This is perhaps an acronym for the French *pour prendre congé* (to take leave).
- 23 Bathing hams in a specially prepared pickle (usually comprising a mixture of water, common salt, nitre and sugar or molasses) helped to preserve the meat. Hams would then be left in the pickle for anything from a couple of days to a month, depending on the strength of cure required.
- 24 Tripe was usually washed in burns or other running water.

## FURTHER READING

The original diary can be consulted at the archive of the Lismore Heritage Centre, where it forms part of a collection of objects, photographs and other documents that tells the story of the island and its people.

The diary is one of the objects from the Heritage Centre discussed by Robert Hay in his *The Story of Lismore in Fifty Objects*, Lismore, 2018. For the wider historical background to the diary, see the same author's *Lismore: 'The Great Garden'*, Edinburgh, 2009; and *How an Island Lost its People. Improvement, Clearance and Resettlement on Lismore, 1830-1914*, Isle of Lewis, 2013. For Mary MacGregor's husband, and details about their life on Lismore, see Hay, R. Rev. Gregor MacGregor (1797-1885) – his life as minister of the parish of Lismore and Appin (1836-1885), *Historic Argyll: Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society*, 19 (2014), 29-43.

For other first-hand accounts of manse life in nineteenth-century Scotland, see *Selections from Letters and Journals of Ruthwell Manse Life, 1871-1889*, by Helen M'Farlan, ed. J Ballingal, Edinburgh, 1914; Taylor, J W. *In a Country Manse. Reminiscences of Life and Work*, London, 1890; Matheson, A. *Memorials of a Minister's Wife*, Edinburgh, c.1890; Smith, A T. *Children of the Manse: Growing up in Victorian Aberdeenshire*, Edinburgh, 2004. For a Western Isles context, see Norman Macleod's *Reminiscences of a Highland Parish*, London, 1867.

#### FURTHER READING

Brief descriptions of many of the places mentioned in the diary, including the manse, the Established and UP churches, and local farms, can be found in the 'Name Book for the parish of Lismore & Appin, Argyllshire', compiled by the Ordnance Survey 1868-78 (accessible online at <https://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk>).

Several of the individuals mentioned in the text have been identified through the Statutory Records of Scotland, particularly the Census Records for 1861 and 1871 (accessible online at <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>).