

## **BOURBLAIG FAMILIES at the TIME of the CLEARANCES**

A search of baptism records available through the Scotland's People data base reveals eleven families who were at Bourblaig at some time between 1800 and 1828:

***Hugh Stewart and Christian (Christina also known as Christy)***

***Henderson of Buorblaig baptized:***

*Isobel 11 Oct 1802*

*Margaret 12Jun 1807*

*Sarah 6Feb 1811*

***Dugald Stewart and Ann Stewart of Buorblaig baptized:***

*Dugald born 17Apr 1803*

*Kenneth 16Oct 1810*

***Dugald Stewart and Mary McLachlan of Buorblaig baptized:***

*Charles 21May 1803*

*Angus 31Aug 1805*

*Ann 15Dec 1810*

***John Stewart and Ann McLachlan of Buorblaig baptized:***

*John 26May 1807*

*Mary 21Apr1809*

*Ann 17Mar 1811*

*Allan 13Mar 1815*

*Anne 21Sep 1817*

*Isobel 19Apr 1820*

***John Stewart and Mary Stewart (Cameron) of Buorblaig baptized:***

*Mary 10Feb 1822*

*Dugald 10Nov 1823*

***Dugald Carmichael and Beth McLachline of Buorblaig baptized:***

*John born 29Sep 1803*

***Dugald Cameron and Ann McDonald of Buorblaig baptized:  
Donald 24May 1807***

***John McDonald and Anne Cameron of Buorblaig baptized:  
Ewen 15Jul 1821***

***Alexander McIntyre and Anne Stewart of Buorblaig baptized:  
John 23Aug 1821***

***Allan McDonald and Anne McGilvray of Buorblaig baptized:  
Archibald 18Nov 1821***

***Ewen McKenzie and Kate McDonald of Buorblaig baptized:  
Mary 10Dec 1821***

Of the eleven families listed above five are Stewarts, plus the family of Alexander McIntyre and Anne Stewart has a Stewart as a family member. We know Alexander, John and Duncan Dugald and possibly other Stewarts were at Bourblaig in 1782 from Ardnamurchan Estate records. We also know at least three families were still at Bourblaig for a short period after the Clearance from records of baptism:

*McColl, the man responsible for evicting the families from Bourblaig, was granted a tenancy at nearby Tornamona. Probably working for him there was John Campbell whose wife Sarah, listed as a residenter at Bourblaige, had a son Colin baptized in June 1834. Duncan Stewart, crofter, Bourblaige, and Isabel Cameron his wife had a son, Ewen, baptized on 8 February 1833. Further, Allan and Isabella Cameron had a son Donald born at Bourblaige on 10 November 1832.*

We do not know the relationship between the Stewart families at Bourblaig. According to Helen Ferguson the Hugh Stewart married to Christy Henderson was the son of Duncan Dugald Stuart listed in Estate records for 1782. Most likely they were siblings or cousins.

I have speculated that the Stewarts arrived at Bourblaig following the repercussions of the Jacobite defeat at Culloden, and found the names of some possible ancestors from that period.

## **A Possible Ancestor of the Bourblaig Stewarts.**

From Ardnamurchan Estate records via the Ardnamurchan History and Heritage Association we learn that in 1917 Bourblaige was primarily occupied by the McPhails and the Campbells. Stewarts only appear to have been at Bourblaig after the defeat of the Jacobites at Culloden in 1746.

The Stewarts, at least those from the Highlands, supported the Jacobites. When Bonnie Prince Charlie assembled his forces at Glenfinnan in 1745, the Cameron Clan with a force of around 800 attended. The Stewarts of Ardnamurchan may have been with the Camerons, or otherwise with the Stewarts of Appin. There is evidence that there were Stewarts from Ardnamurchan with the Stewarts of Appin forces. Alan, James and John Stewart of Ardnamurchan are listed with the Stewarts of Appin who were at Culloden<sup>1</sup>.

1. *No Quarter Given: The Muster Roll of Prince Charles Edward Stuart's ARMY, 1745-46.* Ed. Livingstone, Aikman, Stuart-Hart. Aberdeen University Press. 1984

The Albemarle Papers, being the correspondence of the Second Earl of Albemarle, appointed Commander in Chief of Scotland after Culloden, records that settlements in the area were mainly occupied by Camerons, and they had all been in the rebellion. The Camerons over all had suffered badly, of less than 800 in the rebel army around 460 had been lost ([www.boydhouse.com](http://www.boydhouse.com)>Cameron). If the Camerons had all been involved, their friends the Stewarts must surely also have joined the rebels. The John Stewart who left Tobermory for Australia in 1839 was married to Mary Cameron, and baptism records reveal other marriages between these two families.

Duncan Stewart from Swordlechiell, on the north side of the Ardnamurchan Peninsular above Bourblaig, is a possible ancestor of the Bourblaig Stewarts. The Ardnamurchan Heritage website indicates that Duncan Stewart of Swordlechiell handed in arms after the 1715 uprising. From the same source, Duncan Stewart is also shown as a tenant at Alchateny near Swordle, in 1737, and also at the other localities of Camas na Geal and Culoan, Ardslnish, Glenmore and Glenbeg. Ardslnish is actually on the south coast, just a few kilometres east of Bourblaig. This connection between Duncan Stewart of Swordle and Bourblaig suggests he may have been an

ancestor of the Stewarts of Bourblaig. Duncan, or perhaps his offspring, may have been involved in the '45' Uprising.

In 1732 a John Stewart was a tenant at Ockle and Swordlecheil, and Allan Stewart was the only tenant at Branault in 1739, all on the north side of the peninsular, and also possible ancestors of the Stewarts of Bourblaig.

After Culloden survivors of the Highland clans who supported the Jacobite cause were punished, at the least by being displaced from their lands. This may have been the reason that the Stewarts of Bourblaig came to be poor tenant farmers at this small settlement near the Western end of the Ardnamurchan Peninsular.

After Culloden, the Argyle Shire Militia were stationed at Mingary Castle at Kilchoan near Bourblaig, and the Government army went through the Ardnamurchan Peninsular, as elsewhere, burning houses and seeking out rebels. An 1845 account states:

*After the discomfiture of the Highland Army at Culloden, these districts (Ardnamurchan) were laid waste with fire and sword, and subjected to the fullest measure of vengeance which, although perpetrated by the army of civilized Britain, rivalled the savage cruelty of the most barbarous age<sup>2</sup>.*

It is possible that Stewarts may have been resident at Bourblaig prior to Culloden and not there as a result of any displacement following that battle. If they were there as a result of the aftermath of Culloden, then the Highland Clearances that took place around the 1830s may have been the second time these Highlanders had been displaced from their homes.

2. [www.theclearances.org](http://www.theclearances.org)