

**P993 The MacLeod Collection**  
**RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT**

Reference number: GB1741/P993

Alternative reference number: -

Title: The MacLeod Collection

Dates of creation: 1858-1997, n.d.

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 5 volumes; 104 digital files

Format: Paper, .pdf (PDF), .png (PNG)

**RECORDS' CONTEXT**

Name of creators: David MacLeod; John MacLeod; James MacLeod; Willie Munro; Jessie MacLeod; Laura Steven; various

Administrative history: Diaries of David MacLeod

Written by Dàibhidh MacLeòid (David MacLeod) before being held by brother Eathan MacLeòid (John MacLeod), niece Laura MacLeod (Steven) and great-grand-nephew Adam MacLeod (Byrne).

David was born at Leodibest, Strath of Latheronwheel, a native Caithness Gaelic speaker and eldest son of Kenneth MacLeod and wife Janet Sutherland. Kenneth's MacLeods were said to have originated in Strathnaver and before that, Assynt. They came to Latheron via Burringil, Forse and before that, Achverga farm, Halkirk.

Kenneth's father James was a cooper and met his mother, Lucy MacKenzie in Helmsdale. Her mother Rose MacPherson was said to have eloped with her father Kenneth in a "runaway match" as her own father was reputed to have been a general in the British Army.

Kenneth MacLeod ran the Latheron shop from 1854 until 1890 when he sold all his stock and moved south to reside

with his son, and David MacLeod's brother, John in Edinburgh. John was by that time a policeman there.

David's mother Janet's people were Sutherlands and Barnies who all belonged to Leodibest (mentioned often in the diaries) and neighbouring crofts and farms in the Latheron hinterland for many generations previously.

David himself never had much luck with work, travelling far and wide across the UK to seek it, but never managing to find a "situation" for very long. His writing shows no regard for his own Gaelic language and culture, apart from a desultory note here and there saying that he attended the local Gaelic service.

John MacLeod recalled that their parents "only spoke Gaelic when they didn't want me to understand what they were saying", but since David was marked on the 1881 census as an habitual speaker, we must assume that Gaelic was used in the house and that this practice only faded in later years.

Gaelic was held in extremely high regard by John in later life and a lasting ire was passed on to his daughter about its loss to the family. David was a conflicted Christian; although active in the local young men's associations and the like and a keen church-goer, he appears to have been obsessed with bringing about a "second birth" due to his strict Free Church upbringing, something which never seemed to happen for him. His writing is heaving with terrible guilt and mental anguish over his perceived sin and lack of breakthrough on this front. His forced walk home from Liverpool to Perth after failing to find employment is a particular low, although in retrospect makes superb reading material.

David was to die at the tender age of 39 after venturing out for a walk with the Sunday paper from his brother John's house in Morningside, Edinburgh, before perishing from hypothermia. He fell

asleep on Corstorphine Hill in December 1892 and never woke up.

David MacLeod (01/11/1853-02/12/1892)

#### Diary of John MacLeod

This diary was composed By Eathan MacLeòid (John MacLeod) between the years of 1909 and 1920 and written from the perspective of John's new-born daughter Laura, who as the diary progresses, grows and engages in numerous childhood activities such as going to the beach with her parents, riding on public transport of the time and visiting her father's childhood home of Latheron, Caithness. Caithness material, although brief, does mention local people and places.

Custodial history:

The diaries were deposited by David Macleod's great-grand-nephew Àdhamh MacLeòid (Adam MacLeod Byrne).

### **RECORDS' CONTENT**

Description:

Diaries of David and John MacLeod, Latheron, giving an insight into everyday life, work, religion, habits and culture of the period.

The diaries also include newspaper cuttings, transcripts of songs and poems and many annotations by two family members, namely his younger brother John MacLeod and John's daughter Laura MacLeod Steven (Adam's maternal grandmother). There is also a list of David's siblings by his father Kenneth MacLeod, then shopkeeper at Latheron.

The diaries are also available as PDF files.

Appraisal:

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Accruals:

Expected

## RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access:	Some restrictions
Closed until:	-
Access conditions:	Physical diaries will only be produced with prior consent of the depositor. Please let the archive staff know if you would like a request for access to be submitted.  PDF files available without consent in the Archive searchroom.
Copying:	Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters
Finding aids:	Available in Archive searchroom and online

## ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material:	CC/7/5 – Latheron Parish Records CC/5/3/26-38 – Latheron Parish Schools CC/5/4/5 - Latheron School Board SUTH/5/59, 97-98 – Oral history recordings of people from Latheron
Publication:	-
Notes:	-
Date of catalogue:	Dec 2025

Ref.	Description	Dates
<b>P993</b>	<b>The MacLeod Collection</b>	<b>1858-1997, n.d.</b>
<b>P993/1</b>	<b>Diaries and records of David MacLeod, Latheron</b>	<b>1870-1892, n.d.</b>
P993/1/1	Diary of David MacLeod, Latheron (1 volume) [the diary begins with a detailed description of the author's family tree titled 'My Fore Father's By My Father's Side' and ends with extensive notes by niece Laura MacLeod Steven, in blue ink, giving more detail on the family tree]	1874-1880
P993/1/2	Diary of David MacLeod, Latheron (1 volume) [the inside cover contains a member's ticket for the Caithness Land Law Reform Association]	1881-1885
P993/1/3	Diary of David Macleod, Latheron (1 volume) [there are pressed flowers on pages 31 and 32. There	1886-1892

	are also notes, in blue ink, at the end of the diary by niece Laura MacLeod Steven]	
P993/1/4	Digital copy of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Clapham Road, Member's Communion Card for Mr David MacLeod residing at 179 Battersea Park Road (2 digital files)	c.1870-1880s
P993/1/5	Digital copy of character reference for David MacLeod, written by Rev. James McCulloch (1 digital file)	27 Dec 1874
P993/1/6	Digital copy of The Shop Assistants' Twelve Hours Labour League, membership certificate for Mr D MacLeod (2 digital files)	c.1880s
P993/1/7	Digital copy of A Grocers Xmas Working Hours 1881 for David MacLeod (2 digital files)	1881
P993/1/8	Digital copy of Wick Free Church, Young Men's Association, fellowship meetings and syllabus 1884 flyer (1 digital file)	1884
P993/1/9	Digital copy of Caithness Land Law Reform Association, Latheron Branch, member's ticket, for David MacLeod (1 digital file)	n.d.
<b>P993/2</b>	<b>Diary and records of John MacLeod, Latheron</b>	<b>1880-1931, n.d.</b>
P993/2/1	Diary of John MacLeod, Latheron (1 volume)	1909-1920
P993/2/2	Digital copy of incomplete letters addressed to David MacLeod from his brother John MacLeod, regarding everyday activities such as swimming, work that needs to be done and an upcoming marriage between James Macdonald and Margaret Henderson (4 digital files)	c.1880
P993/2/3	Digital copy of letter addressed to Miss Sutherland from John MacLeod, thanking her for her assistance with the 'Family Tree' (2 digital files)	1 Oct 1931
P993/2/4	Digital copy of invitation to a presentation for Mr John M. McLeod at the Union Hotel, Lothian Road (1 digital file)	n.d.
<b>P993/3</b>	<b>Records relating to James MacLeod</b>	<b>n.d.</b>
P993/3/1	Digital copy of handwritten document titled 'Ancestors of James C. MacLeod,' details his parents as George MacLeod (farmer at Westerdale, Halkirk) and Catherine Mackay and his siblings; John, Margaret	n.d.

	and Elizabeth and their marriages and children (5 digital files)	
P993/3/2	Digital copy of handwritten document with additional notes to accompany 'Ancestors of James C. MacLeod' (1 digital file)	n.d.
P993/3/3	Digital copy of family tree showing George MacLeod and Catherine MacKay and their four children and their grandchildren's details (2 digital files)	n.d.
<b>P993/4</b>	<b>Records relating to Jessie MacLeod</b>	<b>1954-1983, n.d.</b>
P993/4/1	Digital copy of letter to Laura from Jessie MacLeod, detailing connection to Ben Sutherland (4 digital files)	4 Sep 1954
P993/4/2	Digital copy of letter to Laura from Jessie MacLeod, detailing her grandfather, Alexander Sutherland's, upbringing in the hills of Forse, Latheron, on a farm called 'Golsary,' and his marriage to Barbara Budge (who was one of eight daughters) [Pages missing, as letter finishes mid-sentence] (2 digital files)	19 Sep 1954
P993/4/3	Digital copy of letter to Laura from Jessie MacLeod, regarding connection to Lily Miller and Laura's upcoming trip to the area for family history research (4 digital files)	28 Feb 1983
P993/4/4	Digital copy of letter written in Jessie MacLeod's handwriting, regarding her correspondence with Laura and family history [Pages one and two are missing] (2 digital files)	n.d.
<b>P993/5</b>	<b>Records relating to Kenneth MacLeod</b>	<b>1858-1890</b>
P993/5/1	Digital copy of tenancy agreement for Tenants Park, Latheron signed by Kenneth McLeod (2 digital files)	1 Apr 1858
P993/5/2	Accounts for Latheron shop for Mr K. McLeod [Kenneth McLeod] (1 volume)	1864-1868
P993/5/3	Digital copy of rent receipt for Kenneth McLeod (2 digital files)	11 Nov 1868
P993/5/4	Digital copy of rent receipt for Kenneth McLeod (2 digital files)	11 Nov 1870
P993/5/5	Digital copy of rent receipt for Kenneth McLeod (2 digital files)	11 Nov 1871
P993/5/6	Digital copy of advertisement taken from unknown source, advertising a sale at the 'house of Kenneth M'Leod, Latheron' [Kenneth McLeod] of drapery and grocery goods [2 copies] (2 digital files)	1890

<b>P993/6</b>	<b>Records relating to Laura Steven (née MacLeod)</b>	<b>1982-1997, n.d.</b>
P993/6/1	Digital copy of letter to Laura Steven from William Munroe, regarding a more detailed history of David Sutherland, and his work in Aberdeen with regards to the herring fishing and working on the docks with the herring gutters. His marriage to Isabella MacKay and their settlement at Latheronwheel. The letter contains a detailed family history for the David and Isabella bloodline (6 digital files)	8 Dec 1982
P993/6/2	Digital copy of letter to Laura Steven from Lily Miller, regarding the family connection of her mother knowing Laura's father and Lily's mother was a Sutherland from Latheron and related to Jessie MacLeod (4 digital files)	13 Feb 1983
P993/6/3	Digital copy of letter addressed to Miss Gunn from Laura Steven, regarding family history (2 digital files)	6 Mar 1985
P993/6/4	Digital copy of letter to Laura Steven from W. Munroe regarding everyday happenings in relation to crops but also with relation to some more family history research (2 digital files)	21 Aug 1997
P993/6/5	Digital copy of typed letter titled 'From Laura MacLeod Steven' regarding the Sutherland family tree (2 digital files)	n.d.
P993/6/6	Digital copy of family tree of Barbara Budge and Alexander Sutherland (1 digital file)	n.d.
P993/6/7	Digital copy of family tree of Isobella McKay and David Sutherland (1 digital file)	n.d.
<b>P993/7</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>1878-1998, n.d.</b>
P993/7/1	Digital copy of The Presbyterian Church of England, Clapham Road, services programme 1878-9 (2 digital files)	1878-1879
P993/7/2	Digital copy of Wick Free Church Young Men's Association syllabus for 1885 (2 digital files)	1885
P993/7/3	Digital copy of syllabus programmes for 'Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, Latheronwheel' (8 digital files)	1885-1890
P993/7/4	Digital copy of letter to Mr John Sutherland from his uncle George Sutherland, regarding everyday activities such as the planting of corn and potatoes and the health of various family members (4 digital files)	27 Apr 1892

P993/7/5	Digital copy of programme for Grand Concert in aid of Latheronwheel New Hall (2 digital files)	21 May 1898
P993/7/6	Digital copy of article taken from The Express, titled 'Scots Nobel prize winner dies aged 64,' regarding Professor Allan MacLeod Cormack [from Caithness] who worked with Geoffrey Hounsfield and invented the CAT scan (1 digital file)	23 May 1998
P993/7/7	Digital copy of Young Men's Christian Association (West Branch) advertisement brochure with handwritten note from James Pearce (1 digital file)	n.d.
P993/7/8	Digital copy of undated newspaper clipping from the 'Weekly Scotsman' titled 'MacLeods gather in Parliament' (1 digital file)	n.d.
P993/7/9	Digital copy of letter addressed 'Dear John' from B. Sutherland, regarding the return of £1 and goes on to mention Barry and discuss Kenneth and his activities (4 digital files)	n.d.
<b>P993/8</b>	<b>Genealogy material</b>	<b>n.d.</b>
P993/8/1	Digital copy of family tree titled 'The Sutherland Family, Caithness, from 1874-', 'digital file titled 'Donald of Forse (genealogy).png' (1 digital file)	n.d.
P993/8/2	Digital copy of handwritten notes by unknown author regarding genealogy, digital file titled 'William and Elizabeth Sutherland (deaths).png' (1 digital file)	n.d.
P993/8/3	Digital copy of handwritten notes by unknown author regarding genealogy, digital files titled 'David and Janet Budge (deaths 01).png' and 'David and Janet Budge (deaths 02).png' (2 digital files)	n.d.
P993/8/4	Digital copy of handwritten notes by unknown author regarding genealogy, digital file titled 'Donald and David Sutherland (deaths).png' (1 digital file)	n.d.
P993/8/5	Digital copy of handwritten notes by unknown author regarding genealogy, digital file titled 'Adam Sutherland (death).png' (1 digital file)	n.d.
P993/8/6	Digital copy of family register for William MacLeod and Margaret [Trantor] and their children James, Sinclair, Barbara, Robert, William, James and Lucy (2 digital files)	n.d.