

CENSUS 30th March 1851

Parish of Jura and Collonsay (part of), District of Islay and Jura, County of Argyll

Remarks of the Minister of the Parish: “ Since last census about 80 persons emigrated from the parish of Colonsay to Upper Canada, and four families removed to different parts of Scotland. One family consisting of 7 persons came to reside in it - Lachlan McKenzie, Minister of Jura & Colonsay.”

Enumeration District No. 8 “So much of the Parish of Collonsay as lies North East of the road leading from the Quay at Scallasaig to the house of Killoran and of an imaginary line running from that South of the Houses of Bentuaidh to the sea on the north side of the island.”

District No. 8 includes:

49 Separate Occupiers in 49 inhabited houses with 127 males and 150 females, a total of 277 persons. The enumerator was Alexr. McNeill, who witnessed on 2 April and submitted the returns to Dugald Taylor on 10 April; the latter witnessed it on 11 April and it was accepted by “Archd. Campbell Jura JP” the same day.

Enumeration District No. 9 “So much of the Parish of Collonsay as is bounded by a line from Killoran house to the Sea, and by the lake South of Killoran house and a line extending from the West end of it along the ridge of the Hill to the Sea.”

District No. 9 includes:

62 Separate Occupiers in 61 inhabited houses with 195 males and 180 females, a total of 375 persons. The total includes 9 males not “enumerated as inmates of any dwelling house” but believed to have slept “in barns, sheds or the like.” Those that were enumerated included 4 males only temporary resident and excluded 1 male and 1 female who were absent but “usually dwell in the district”. The enumerator was Donald Downie, who witnessed on 1 April and submitted the returns to Dugald Taylor on 4 April; the latter witnessed it on 5 April and it was accepted by “Archd. Campbell Jura JP” on 8 April.

Enumeration District No. 10 “All the parish of Colonsay that is South of the Church leading along the range of hills on the coast of Scalsaig to the sea on the west coast & also including Oransay Isl.”

District No. 10 includes:

32 Separate Occupiers in 32 inhabited houses with 88 males and 97 females, a total of 185 persons. The enumerator was John McNeill, who witnessed on 31 March and submitted the returns to Dugald Taylor on 4 April; the latter witnessed it on 5 April and it was accepted by “Archd. Campbell Jura JP” on 8 April.

*Therefore, total houses: 142; males: 410; females: 427; population: 837; families: 143
Since 1841 Census, the recorded population had fallen by 72 females and 70 males, but this can be corrected to an actual loss of 71 females and 82 males by allowance for transients. The number of families had fallen by 28 and the number of occupied houses had fallen by 27; no houses were recorded as “unoccupied” in either census.*

Note: the above information and the census information were transcribed by Kevin Byrne, Colonsay Hotel, Argyll PA61 7YP in September and October 1997; no attempt has been made to change significant spellings etc. It is thought to be accurate but detailed entries should be checked against the original documents. This transcribed information is intended for private research and is not for publication.

Information on Colonsay and Oransay emigration will be welcomed by Kevin Byrne.

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