

**Gene Donald Lamont
1925-2013**

Gene Donald Lamont, son of Howard Lamont and Florence Mistersky, was born in Detroit, USA, on 27th March 1925. As a young child he may have known vaguely that he was of Scots ancestry but he had no idea what this meant until he was about 10 years of age and sat down with his Great Aunt Hannah who showed him a small book on the clans and tartans of Scotland and pointing to a map on the inside cover said “I want you to know you are Scottish, and this is Tiree where your people came from”.

The memory of that occasion remained vivid in Gene’s memory for the rest of his life and, after his Aunt Margaret encouraged his growing interest in family history, was the inspiration for his masterpiece *They Came From Tiree*, published privately in 2004 and revised in 2007 and 2011, which confirmed his reputation as a historian and writer. The book was a best seller at the Tiree Gathering in Guelph, Canada, in 2004, and when it was later published on the Isle of Tiree Genealogy website it gave the website historical dimension, added credibility and international standing.

Gene’s enthusiasm and capacity for research and writing were prodigious. From 1979 to 2011 he produced 16 substantial works on family history or general history relating to Tiree, and co-authored two others. As a believer in the free sharing of information he contributed his history and genealogy works to the Isle of Tiree Genealogy website where they became available to everybody. These included:

They Came From Tiree

Tiree in the Viking Age

The Fifty Years War: The Maclean-Campbell Conflict

The Lamonts of Tiree

Donald Maclean in Ruaig

The MacFadyen-McPhadden Family in Coll & Tiree (with Glenda McPhadden Franklin)

Accolades were not what Gene sought. He always said he was just writing for his family to make it possible for them to understand and appreciate their heritage, just as his Great Aunt Hannah and Aunt Margaret had helped him. In the process, of course, he helped many of us to discover our own heritage.

Gene’s great legacy to us is his writings. But he was much more than a historian and writer. He was a friend, mentor and confidante to many of us. He was the sage of our Tiree/Coll group. It is true that we have lost a friend, and our personal memories will fade as we get older, but his writings will still be there for generations to come.

Gene died on 26th January 2013, aged 87. He is survived by his wife Margaret, daughter Mary, son Donald, and grandchildren John and Ellen.

Keith Dash & Louise MacDougall

(We are pleased to acknowledge the help of Gene’s daughter Mary Lamont Hartman and our colleague Glenda McPhadden Franklin in the preparation of this note.)