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61 So. Albert St  
New Glasgow,  
B2H 3T9  
March 28/

Dear Mrs. Brittain:

Well, I finally went down to the graveyard and found my grandfather, Daniel McDearmid, was born in 1847 and he just had one name. He died in 1912 at the hotel. He was born in the Orkney Islands in Scotland and came out to this country with his family when a very small boy. His family and several others settled at Piedmont and this site was know a "Little Orkney" because the families had all come from the Orkney Islands.

I found the spot about 15 years ago it was after you crossed the railway in Piedmont; you climbed up the hill

for about a mile and when you got to the top you could see Merigonist Harbour. Here is where these families built and all that was left were holes where the houses had been.

My grandfather worked as a painter and later bought "The Banquet House" a small two story building and built on to this in stages. He renamed it Hotel Vendome <sup>in 1879</sup> and had plate glass windows made in Scotland with the name inside the glass. One window was broken but Doug McDonald has the other one.

Lord Beaverbrook stayed there when he was Max Aikens and skipped out owing a bill and never made any attempt to pay it.

At one time a letter hung in the hotel office from Mark Swain and it

said he knew the story of the "Long Winded Preacher" was true because he was on the train that day. Somehow he had read my grandfather's story and wrote him this letter. The letter was taken by someone and has never turned up.

My grandfather had a brother John and two sisters but I do not know a Finlay. I believe my greatgrandfather was Hugh.

Like everyone else I never asked the questions when the people who knew the answers were alive and now it is too late.

Sincerely,

Faunette MacDear