24-Christina Buchanan, Breanish (1854-1957)

There is no record of her birth but a tragedy marked it in the minds of the people. Towards summer 1854, a new boat being sailed home from Wick by Breanish men was lost off Cape Wrath. All hands perished, among them her father, Malcolm MacRitchie.

In1883, Christina married Neil Buchanan who, eight years later, was lost while great-line fishing in Loch Ewe. Neil and Christina had four children. Their daughter Dorothy died of fever as a child. Malcolm John was killed at the Battle of Mons and Neil died at 26 after serving in the Royal Navy. The next war took the life of her grandson Neil, lost off Gibraltar in 1942. The last of her four children died two years later.

Christina barely left her home village in the course of a long life, so often marked by afflictions which these generations endured – disease, war and the dangers of the sea.