

## Crofting dates

1766 - The Clan MacDonald produces a plan of the estate (Stobie map)

1811 - The MacDonald Estate prepares plans for crofts (Blackadder map)

1865 - The slopes of Ben Lee are leased to a sheep farmer for an annual rent. The crofters have to remove their stock.

1881 – The grazing lease is up for renewal but the crofters are refused the option of taking it on. A group march to the factor's office in Portree and refuse to pay any rent until the hill is returned to them.

1882 – The Battle of the Braes. This incident attracted a lot of attention but the whole year was eventful as Lord MacDonald, the landlord, instigates legal action against the crofters. There is more than one attempt to enforce the law (led by Sheriff Ivory), resulting in refusals to accept letters from the estate and further crowd scenes.

1883 – On 8 May the Napier Commission has its first sitting at the MacDiarmid Trust school (and church) in Braes to gather evidence on the state of crofting in Skye and other parts of Scotland.

1884 – Napier Commission report published.

1884 – Failed emigration to south east North Carolina includes two of the convicted crofters.

1884 – Tenants of Gedintailor, Balmeanach and Peinachorrain demand that the additional rent for Ben Lee (agreed at the end of 1882) should be cancelled.

1886 – The Crofters Holdings Act creates legal definitions, security of tenure and establishes the Crofters Commission, a land court which rules on disputes between crofters and landlords.

1887 – The Crofters Commission sits at Portree to make 'fair rent' decisions. Rents are reduced by about 30% and about 60% of the total arrears are cancelled.