

## Chapter 12 - History of Clan MacLean

### Our Clan MacLean Ancestors and Their Place in History

There are some complete and lengthy books on this subject. This is an “abridged edition.”

#### Irish Origins of a Celtic People:

The first recognized Chief of the Clan MacLean would be Gilleain na Tuaighe MacLean, born in about 1174. However, according to the ancient Scottish pedigree his lineage goes back about 10 generations to a mythical character named Lugaid Riab nDerg who lived in Ireland. So the origin story of the MacLeans runs parallel to the origin story of the Scots.

It was the Romans that named the Scots. They had a habit of naming different tribes according to geography. At the time of arrival of the Romans, the British Isles were inhabited by people that carried such tribal names as the Britons, the Picts, the Welsh, the Irish, and the Scots. Unbeknownst to the Romans these were all Celtic tribes with very similar DNA.

It was actually Celtic people from Ireland that would move across the North Channel of the Irish Sea to settle the lands of the Western Isles of Scotland. The area that includes the Antrim Coast of Northern Ireland and the Western Isles of Scotland would become known as the ancient Kingdom of Dal Riada around 500 A.D. The people of these lands were known as “the Irish Scots.” This would forever establish the Gaelic or Celtic nature of the Western Isles and the Highlands which would set them apart from the rest of Scotland.

Another story that illustrates the movement of Celtic people to Scotland is that of St. Columba. In 563, he traveled to Scotland with twelve companions in a wicker currach covered with leather. According to legend he first landed on the Kintyre Peninsula, near Southend. However, being still in sight of his native land, he moved farther north up the west coast of Scotland. The island of Iona was made over to him by his kinsman Conall mac Comgaill, King of Dál Riada. There is a sense in which he was not leaving his native Irish people, as the Ulster Gaels had been colonizing the west coast of Scotland for the previous couple of centuries. Although, it has been said that other Christian holy men had come to Scotland, it would be St. Columba that would be most recognized as the person who brought Christianity to Scotland. He was very energetic in his work as a missionary, and in addition to founding several churches in the Hebrides, he worked to turn his monastery at Iona into a school for missionaries.

Crimthann Nia Náir was the son of Lugaid Riab nDerg, and according to medieval Irish legend and historical tradition, he was a High King of Ireland. Supposedly, his son Fearadhach Fionnfeachtach was also a high King of Ireland. His grandson Dugald of Scone was born about 1040, during the reign of Macbeth. He served as a Judex (or Judge) and was believed to be a Councillor to David I, King of Scots. This is the generation in which the MacLeans would become ensconced in Scotland. Dugald’s son Raingee MacLean would be associated with Lord

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of County Argyll.

Argyll is of ancient origin, and corresponds to western isles part of the ancient kingdom of Dál Riada. So the placename can also be translated as "Coast of [the] Gaels". Raingee MacLean's son Cuduilig MacLean was born about 1174 and would become the Abbot over Abbey lands on the Island of Lismore in Argyll. His Great Great Grandson was Gilleain na Tuaighe MacLean, the first Chief of Clan MacLean.

### The Origins of the Clan System:

Throughout the medieval period, when the Clan Maclean had its beginnings, Scotland was not the nation we now know it to be. The original Scottish clans of the highlands and the great families of the Lowlands and Borders were gatherings of families, relatives, allies and neighbors for mutual protection against rivals or invaders. Scotland experienced invasion from the Vikings, the Romans and English armies from the south. The Norman invasion of what is now England also had an influence on land-holding in Scotland. Some of these invaders stayed on and in time became "Scottish."

The word clan derives from the Gaelic language term "clann", meaning children, and it was first used many centuries ago as communities were formed around tribal lands in glens and mountain fastnesses. The format of clans changed over the centuries, but at its best the chief and his family held the land on behalf of all, like trustees, and the ordinary clansmen and women believed they had a blood relationship with the founder of their clan. These were two way duties and obligations. An inadequate chief could be deposed and replaced by someone of greater ability. Clan people had an immense pride in race. Their relationship with the chief was like adult children to a father and they had a real dignity. The concept of clanship is very old and a more feudal notion of authority gradually crept in.

By the sixth century the "British" kingdoms of Strathclyde, Lothian and Celtic Dal Riada (Argyll) had emerged and Scotland, as one nation, began to take shape in the time of King Kenneth MacAlpin. Like England and much of Europe, boundaries were much looser and the government had less centralized power. In the Hebrides, the clan chiefs held a lot of power, and directly above them was not the Scottish king but the MacDonald, Lord of the Isles.

At first, the Highland clans resisted the idea of a Scottish government. The Highland clans spoke a different language, Gaelic, whereas the language of Lowland Scotland and the court was Scots and in more modern times, English. The Highlanders dressed differently, had different customs, and their wild mountain land sometimes seemed almost foreign to people living in the Lowlands. The Gaelic culture was very rich and story-telling, poetry, piping, the clarsach (harp) and other music all flourished and were greatly respected. Highland culture was different from other parts of Scotland but it was not inferior or less sophisticated.

The Macleans rebelled against the Scottish king's growing power over the Lordship of the Isles, but also united under the king against English rule in the War of Independence.

By the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Macleans became an independent clan under the King, but held a lot of power themselves, especially over the sea routes. When their interests clashed with other powerful clans such as the Campbells and the MacDonalds, the result was prolonged

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feuds.

The long wars to ensure Scotland's independence against the expansionist ideas of English monarchs extended the influence of some clans and reduced the lands of others. Those who supported Scotland's greatest king, Robert the Bruce, were awarded the territories of the families who had opposed his claim to the Scottish throne. Gradually the relationship between the clans and the Crown became strained as Scottish monarchs became more oriented to life in the Lowlands and, on occasion, towards England.

Central Government, whether in London or Edinburgh, sometimes saw the Gaelic clans as a challenge to their authority and some sent expeditions into the Highlands and west to crush the power of the Lords of the Isles.

Nevertheless, when the 18<sup>th</sup> century Jacobite Risings came along the cause of the Stuarts was mainly supported by Highland clans. The word Jacobite comes from the Latin for James – Jacobus. The Jacobites wanted to restore the exiled Stuarts to the throne of Britain.

The monarchies of Scotland and England became one in 1603, when King James VI of Scotland (1<sup>st</sup> of England) gained the English throne after Queen Elizabeth died. The Union of Parliaments of Scotland and England, the Treaty of Union, took place in 1707. Lowland families opposed the Jacobites and supported the incoming Hanoverians.

After the Jacobite cause finally went down at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 a kind of ethnic cleansing took place. The power of the chiefs was curtailed. Tartan and the pipes were banned by law.

### **First Chief Gilleain na Tuaighe MacLean (1174 - 1263)**

In Gaelic the MacLeans are known as *Mic Ghille Sheathain*, shorten to *Mic Gill Eathain*. This name means: “the sons of the Servant of John,” the “Servant of John” being probably Gilleain na Tuaighe, but who the “John” was is not known. Some believe it was Saint John the Apostle.

In about 1174, the first chief, Gilleain of the battle-axe, was born. The long version of his name was Gilleain na Tuaighe MacLean. He is our 26<sup>th</sup> Great Grandfather. The name “Maclean” originates from “Mac Gilleain” or son of Gilleain. Gilleain's mother was Margaret Marirotte. She descends from Gaelic people and possibly some Scandinavian people from the Orkney Islands.

The following anecdote is related to Gilleain, which probably accounts for the origin of the Maclean crest, which consists of a battleaxe between a laurel and a cyprus branch. He on some occasion engaged in a stag hunt when he became separated from his companions in a mist. For three days he wandered about, and on the fourth, he entered a crowberry bush, where, fixing his battleaxe in the earth, he lay down. On the evening of the same day his friends discovered the head of the battleaxe about the bush, and found the owner, with his hand round the staff, stretched in a state of insensibility, on the ground.

Gilleain made his headquarters in an around the Island of Mull. It would be under his chieftainship that the great curtain wall around Duart Castle would be built in the mid 1200s.

In 1263 Haakon Haakonsson, King of Norway attempted to reassert Norwegian sovereignty over the western seaboard of Scotland by attempting to land an invasion at Largs in

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Ayrshire. Gillean MacLean fought ferociously at the Battle of Largs when the Scots trounced the invading fleet of Vikings. King Haakon Haakonsson just happens to be our 21<sup>st</sup> great grandfather through our Icelander ancestral lines. Gillian died in about 1263.

### **Second Chief Malise Gille Losa Maoliosa MacLean (1220 - 1300)**

The second Chief of Clan MacLean was Malise Gille Losa Maoliosa MacLean. He was born about 1220 on the Isle of Mull in Argyll. Malise is old Scots-Norse, meaning “Friend of Jesus” and Maoliosa means the servant of Jesus. Malise MacLean married Gillise Gille Losa Maoliosa in 1240. She was the daughter of the Gaelic MacRath family. They were known to have had two sons and a daughter.

The Western Isles had long been under Norse rule which the King of Scotland, Alexander III, was determined to end. In 1263 Haakon Haakonsson, the Norwegian King, prepared a large fleet and army and descended on the Clyde estuary, where he was met with a storm, which prevented him from concentrating his force before they were set on by Alexander and destroyed at the Battle of Largs. Malise is said to have fought bravely in the Scottish army alongside his father Gillean na Tuaighe MacLean. The actual battle was not a big affair but it was decisive in ending Norse influence in all except the Northern Isles. By 1266 the Treaty of Perth is agreed to by the King of Norway who withdrew overlordship over the Western Isles.

Malise MacLean was clan chief during the times of the First War of Scottish Independence and William Wallace. In the Battle of Sterling Bridge in 1297 the Scottish were opposed by John de Warenne, 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Surrey. This John de Warenne happens to be our 23<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather through another Scottish ancestral line. Wallace and the Scottish forces won this battle. However, the Battle of Falkirk in 1298 was led by the English King Edward I and the Scots were defeated. No sources have been found that would indicate that Clan MacLean was engaged in either of these battles. Malise MacLean died in about 1300.

### **Third Chief Maolcaluim MacLean (1260 - 1329)**

The third Chief Maolcaluim MacLean was the son of Malise MacLean. He was born about 1260 in Knapdale in Argyll. Malcolm's name has been written Maol-Calum and Gille-Calum, which means Servant of Columba. He was married in about 1280 to Riognach Carrick, daughter of Lord Gamail of Carrick, Ayrshire. They were known to have had three sons.

Malcolm MacLean fought at the Battle of Bannockburn on June 14, 1314. He and his clan formed part of the reserve of spearmen. The following clans, commanded in person by their chiefs, have the distinguished honor of fighting nobly: Stewart, MacDonald, MacKay, MacIntosh, MacPherson, Cameron, Sinclair, Drummond, Campbell, Menzies, MacLean, Sutherland, Robertson, Grant, Fraser, MacFarlane, Ross, MacGregor, Munro, MacKenzie, and MacQuarrie. The clans from the Isles, formed the fourth line of battle. Malcolm, at the head of his clan, served under Robert the Bruce himself and it was when the reserve was launched into the fray that the course of the battle changed and Edward II of England was frustrated in his attempt to make himself overlord of Scotland. Malcolm MacLean died about 1329 on the Isle of

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Mull in Argyll.

### **Fourth Chief Ian Dubh MacLean (1280 - 1330)**

The fourth Chief Ian Dubh MacLean was the son of Malcolm MacLean. He was born about 1280 in Knapdale in Argyll. He was known as Ian Dubh MacLean, or Black John MacLean. He married a daughter of Cumming, Lord of the Braes of Lochaber. They had two sons, Hector Reaganach Maclean and Lachlan Lubananch MacGilean. He also had an illegitimate son name John MacLean.

At the end of the Norse rule of the western seaboard, following the Treaty of Perth in 1266, the Isle of Mull was in the hands of descendants of Somerled, the Clan MacDougall of Lorn. The MacDougalls however supported the Balliols, the losing side in the Wars of Independence at the start of the 14<sup>th</sup> century; King Robert the Bruce awarded their lands to the loyal MacDonalds. The MacDonalds were the Lords of the Isles. The prominence of Ian Dubh MacLean during the reigns of Robert II of Scotland and Robert III of Scotland, as well as their own affable behavior and pleasing manners, gained for him the friendship of John MacDonald, first Lord of the Isles. John MacDonald put much of the lands in Argyll in the custody of Ian Dubh MacLean.

Ian Dubh MacLean chose to divide his land holdings amongst his sons. To Lachlan Lubananch MacGilean he granted the lands on Mull known as Duart and Lachlan would become the fifth clan chief. To Hector Reaganach MacLean he granted the lands on Mull known as Lochbuie and he would become the first Laird of the MacLaines of Lochbuie. His branch of the family would use a different spelling of the surname. Hector would become the progenitor of the MacLeans of Urquhart, Dochgarroch and Kingerloch. Ian Dubh MacLean's illegitimate son John MacLean would become the progenitor of the mainland MacLeans of Lorn, Ardgour and Morvern. Ian Dubh MacLean died in about 1330.

### **Fifth Chief Lachlan Lubanach MacGilean (1325 - 1411)**

The fifth Chief Lachlan Lubanach MacGilean was the son of Ian Dubh MacLean. He was born about 1325 in Knapdale in Argyll. Lachlan Lubanach means Lachlan the Crafty. After being granted the lands on the Isle of Mull known as Duart, he became the first chief to be known as MacLean of Duart. He would become a most influential chief, and one of the reasons for that is that he married well. In 1367, he married Mary McDonald daughter of John MacDonald, the seventh Lord of the Isles. This marked the first recorded mention of the MacLeans of Duart in a Papal dispensation of 1367 which allowed Lachlan Lubanach MacLean to marry th daughter of the Lord of the Isles, Mary MacDonald.

Mary MacDonald's pedigree stretches back to Somerled and some early Viking invaders in the Western Isles. Her pedigree also includes the Stewart dynasty and some of the early Anglo-Normans from the Lowlands. Lachlan Lubanach MacGilean and Mary MacDonald had five sons: Hector Eachan Ruadh nan Cath MacLean, John MacLean, Lachlan MacLean, Neil MacLean, and Somerled MacLean.

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As a result of his marriage, Lachlan Lubanach MacGilean received from John MacDonald, Lord of the Isles, the first known Charter of the lands of Duart dated 1390. Thus the MacLeans came to own much of Mull, the MacKinnon lands being granted to them by the MacDonalds as a dowry. The area of Duart derives from “Dubh Ard” or “Black Point” referring to the piece of land that juts out into the Sound of Mull. Lachlan Lubanach was Chamberlain to MacDonald. It was probably he who, in the 1390s, embarked on adding the Keep of Duart Castle to the original courtyard enclosure built by, or on behalf of, the MacDougalls.

Some sources show his death on July 24, 1411 at the Battle of Harlow. If this is true, he died alongside his son Hector Ruadh MacLean and 900 other highlanders in a failed bid to keep it as property of the Lord of the Isles. Lachlan Lubanach MacGilean’s son Lachlan would become the progenitor of the MacLeans of Coll.

### **Sixth Chief “Red” Hector Eachan Ruadh MacLean (1367 - 1411)**

The fifth Chief Hector Eachan Ruadh nan Cath MacLean was the son of Lachlan Lubanach MacGilean. He was born about 1367 at Duart Castle, on the Isle of Mull in Argyll. On May 30, 1393 he married Marion Mor Campbell. They were known to have three sons.

Marion Mor Campbell’s pedigree includes many significant ancestors. It includes the Campbells of Loch Awe, the Steward dynasty, and even King William “the Conqueror.” It is another link to the ancient Scottish pedigree that includes persons of English and Anglo-Norman heritage.

Red Hector was one of the finest swordsmen of his day. He early distinguished himself by daring exploits. He became so celebrated as a swordsman, that many knights who had gained for themselves renown came from distant parts to measure weapons with him. One of these was a renowned knight of Norway, who challenged Hector to mortal combat. The challenge was accepted. They met at Salen, on Mull, where they fought, and where the Norwegian fell.

There was an old Gaelic poem, which affirmed that Hector commanded a great fleet to the coast of Ireland, and there defeated some of the ships of the King of England. He landed his troops; placed the city of Dublin under contribution; carried fire and sword into the country; destroyed many of his enemies, and burnt their houses. This must be the expedition hinted at in Raphael Holinshed's Chronicle of Ireland where it is recorded that "in the year 1400 at Whitesuntide, the first year of King Henry IV, the constable of Dublin, and divers others at Stanford in Ulster, fought by sea with the Scots, where many Englishmen were slain and drowned."

At a time, the Lord of the Isles was also claiming the Earldom of Ross, a claim opposed by the Regent Albany on behalf of the young Scottish King, James I. When the Lord of the Isles invaded the mainland, he called the MacLeans and other clans to join his Highland army to find the Regent’s Lowland army commanded by the Earl of Mar.

At the Battle of Harlow on July 24, 1411, Hector was serving as a lieutenant-general under his uncle Donald of Islay, Lord of the Isles. Hector commanded the right wing in an indecisive engagement. Hector was killed by Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum in hand-to-hand combat, which was described as "a noble and notable single combat" where both men died of

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their injuries.

### **Seventh Chief Lachlan Bronnach MacLean (1394 - 1472)**

The seventh Chief Lachlan Bronnach MacLean was the son of Red Hector MacLean. He was born about 1394 at Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull in Argyll. He received the name of "Bronnach", or swag-bellied, on account of his large body. He would marry Janet Stewart in 1422. They were known to have four sons and a daughter. Janet Stewart was a descendant of the Stewart dynasty.

In 1411, Lachlan Bronnach MacLean had fought alongside his father at Harlow and been taken prisoner by Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar. During his captivity, he became acquainted with the earl's daughter, the Lady Margaret (or Janet), whom he afterward married. It is not probable that he remained in confinement for any considerable length of time. He did not possess the same war-like character that distinguished his father. He appears neither to have sought, nor avoided war, but was ready for action when the time arrived.

His name, does not come prominently forward until the year 1427, when war was brought through the actions of King James I. James summoned a parliament to meet him at Inverness, in 1427, at which the Highland chiefs were invited to attend. As the chiefs entered the hall in which parliament was assembled, each was immediately arrested and placed in irons in different parts of the building, not one being permitted to communicate with any of the others. Two of the chiefs were immediately beheaded, and the rest sent to various prisons, where after a time some were liberated, and the rest put to death.

In 1429, Lachlan Bronnach MacLean was summoned by the young Lord of the Isles, to assist him. Joined by the Lord's other vassals, they advanced against the town of Inverness, which they burnt to the ground; they also laid waste to certain crown lands. King James I immediately placed himself at the head of a large army, and launched a surprise attack. Lachlan Bronnach MacLean and several other vassals, were forced to surrender unconditionally, and were imprisoned in Tantallon Castle. Lachlan Bronnach died in about 1472 at Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull in Argyll.

One of our Isle of Tiree ancestors, Allan Mclean descends in 12 generations from Lachlan Bronnach MacLean through the Lairds of Borerary.

### **Eighth Chief Lachlan Og MacLean (1422 - 1484)**

The eighth Chief Lachlan Og MacLean was the son of Lachlan Bronnach MacLean. He was born about 1422 at Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull in Argyll. He married Catherine Campbell in about 1443. Catherine Campbell's lineage links with the ancient Scottish pedigree, the Campbell dynasty and the Stewart dynasty. Her fourth great grandfather was King Robert the Bruce. Lachlan Og MacLean and Catherine Campbell were known to have two sons and a daughter

Lachlan Og was called Lachlan the Younger to distinguish him from his father. He was Lord of Duart and Chief of Clan MacLean when political changes were taking place in the

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Western Isles. The western chiefs had thought themselves independent of the king, and were obedient only to the Lord of the Isles, who ruled in princely style. In 1448, John of Islay, Earl of Ross became one of the strongest opponents of the king's party. In 1462, he entered into a compact with the banished House of Douglas and the commissioners of England, in which it was stipulated that John, with his vassals and such auxiliaries as would be furnished by Edward IV of England, and the assistance that might be given by the Douglasses, should enter upon the conquest of Scotland; that John, Donald Balloch, and John, the sons and heirs of MacDonald, upon the payment of a stipulated sum of money should become forever the sworn vassals of England, and assist in the wars in Ireland and elsewhere. In the event of the conquest of Scotland, then that kingdom should be equally divided between John, Donald Balloch, and the Earl of Douglas. While these negotiations were still pending, the Lord of the Isles assembled a large force, captured the castle of Inverness, and commenced to assert authority over Inverness, Nairn, Ross, and Caithness. How this extraordinary rebellion was suppressed is uncertain. He was summoned before parliament for treason; and that on failing to appear, the process of forfeiture against him was suspended for a time, and he was allowed to retain undisturbed possession of his estates for about fifteen years. The treaty of 1462 did not come to light until 1475, when the Scottish government determined to proceed against John as an avowed traitor and rebel. Commission was given to Colin Campbell, 1st Earl of Argyll, to prosecute a decree of forfeiture against him; and on the appointed day, failing to appear, sentence was passed upon him. So great were the preparations now made against him, that MacDonald sued for pardon, and with much humility surrendered to the king's mercy. He was pardoned and restored to his forfeited estates on July 1, 1476. Soon after, the earldom of Ross and the lands of Kintyre and Knapdale became inalienably annexed to the crown. This caused great dissatisfaction on the part of Angus, the bastard son of MacDonald, a man who was early accustomed to rebellion. The division of the lands also divided the vassals of the Lordship of the Isles, the MacLeans, MacLeods, and MacNeils adhering to John, while the various branches of the Clan MacDonald made common cause with the turbulent heir of the lordship.

Lachlan Og MacLean died about 1484.

### **Ninth Chief Hector Odhar MacLean (1445 - 1496)**

The ninth Chief Hector Odhar MacLean was the son of Lachlan Og MacLean. He was born about 1445 in Argyll. He was known to have one illegitimate son, Lachlan MacLean by a woman with the possible surname of MacKintosh (Marjorie). Marjorie was the daughter of the 11<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacKintosh and descends on her maternal side from the MacDonald, Lord of the Isles, dynasty.

During Hector Odhar MacLean's chieftainship, the conflict between the Lords of the Isles, the MacDonalds, and King James IV was coming to a head. Angus Og MacDonald, bastard son of the John of Islay, Earl of Ross, the Lord of the Isles, a man of great natural violence, succeeded in establishing a supremacy over his father, among the chiefs descended from the family of the Isles. These chiefs were easily drawn off, because John of Islay, Earl of Ross, in 1476, gave up the earldom of Ross and the lands of Kintyre and Knapdale, and had made



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improvident grants of lands to the MacLeans, MacLeods, MacNeills, and some smaller tribes.

Angus placed himself at the head of the various branches of Clan Donald, and raised the standard of revolt against his father. John of Islay, Earl of Ross went to Stirling, and there, on account of his son's disobedience, resigned all his possessions to the king, except the Barony of Kinloss in Murray, of Kinnaird in Buchan, and of Cairndonald in the West, which he reserved to support his own grandeur during his lifetime. Angus determined not to surrender any of the hereditary possessions to the king, or even to his father himself. Several expeditions sent by the king against Angus proved unsuccessful. The first, under the Earl of Athol, assisted by the MacKenzies, MacKays, and Frasers, was defeated with great slaughter at Lagebread.

The second expedition, under the Earl of Crawford and Earl of Huntly, made no impression. A third, under Argyle and Athol, accompanied by John, succeeded, through an accommodation, in persuading several tribes to join the royal forces. The two earls appeared to be afraid of attacking Angus, and this expedition resulted in failure. "John, the father, however, undismayed by their pusillanimity, proceeded onward through the Sound of Mull, accompanied by the MacLeans, MacLeods, MacNeills, and others, and having encountered Angus in a bay on the south side of the promontory of Ardnamurchan, a desperate combat ensued, in which Angus was again victorious." This place is near Tobermory, and has since been known as Badh-na-fofa, and the conflict is known as the Battle of Bloody Bay.

Hector Odhar MacLean not only headed his clan, but also took his hereditary post of lieutenant-general under the John of Islay, Earl of Ross. A naval engagement was fought with the most rancorous animosity, and prodigious slaughter was committed on both sides. Angus Og MacDonald succeeded in taking prisoner both his father and Hector Odhar MacLean. The result of this battle, fought in 1482, was to establish Angus completely in possession of the extensive territories of his clan.

However, Hector Odhar MacLean was the first to benefit from the gradual weakening of the Lord of the Isles as the MacDonalds quarreled among themselves. Hector Odhar MacLean made his piece with King James IV and held his lands directly from the Crown. At about that time the domain of Clan MacLean included much of the Isle of Mull, the Isle of Tiree, the Isle of Coll, the northern half of the Isle of Jura, Morvern, and Ardgour.

### **Tenth Chief Lachlan MacLean (1465 - 1513)**

The tenth Chief Lachlan MacLean was the illegitimate son of Hector Odhar MacLean. He was born about 1465 at Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull in Argyll. He was married to Marion MacLean of Treshnish in about 1480. Lachlan MacLean inherited the whole of the lands that had been confirmed to Hector Odhar MacLean, in 1495. He was also heritable keeper of various castles in the Treshnish Isles and Dunconnell in Scarba. He supported James IV in his attempted invasion of England and was killed at the Battle of Flodden on September 9, 1513 in Branxton, Northumberland, England.

### **Eleventh Chief Lachlan Cattanach MacLean (1480 - 1523)**

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The eleventh Chief Lachlan Cattanach MacLean was the son of Lachlan MacLean. He was born about 1480 at Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull in Argyll. Lachlan Cattanach MacLean is said to have had at least six wives or mistresses. To cement his alliance, with the Argylls in about 1496 he married Elizabeth Campbell (also known as Elizabeth Campbell McLean the subject of the poem Glenara). They were known to have two sons.

Lady Elizabeth Campbell was the daughter of Archibald Campbell, First Earl of Argyll. Her lineage is linked to the ancient Scottish pedigree. She descended from a long line of Campbells as well as the Stewart dynasty. Robert the Bruce was among her ancestors. She also has lineage with the early Lords of the Isles and even the Bissett family of the Seven Glens of Antrim, Ireland.

Lachlan Cattanach MacLean was clan chieftain at a time when the clan had risen to prominence as stewards of the Lords of the Isles and had been given lands in Mull, Morvern, Tiree, Islay, Jura, and Lochaber, and now owed their position directly to James IV of Scotland.

MacLean had royal support to become clan chief as is shown by the royal charter he received in 1496. However he resisted the efforts of James IV of Scotland to bring the Scottish Isles more firmly under his control. By the end of 1503 MacLean was in open revolt and after attacking and devastating Badenoch, and supporting Donald Dubh MacDonald, an illegitimate grandson of John of Islay, claim to be Lord of the Isles. For these acts James IV of Scotland declared him a traitor and sent a fleet to the isles which captured MacLean's castle of Cairn-na-Burgh on the islet of Cairn na Burgh Mòr in the Treshnish Isles west of Mull. James gave the castle to Colin Campbell, 1st Earl of Argyll. Colin Campbell was Lachlan Cattanach's father-in-law. After this defeat Lachlan Cattanach MacLean in 1505 set the example among the clan chiefs in the isles by submitting to the authority of the King and the charge of treason was dropped.

In 1513, Lachlan Cattanach MacLean seized the royal castle at Carneburgh, near Mull. Colin Campbell then went to the Privy Council to proceed against MacLean and his associates. Various disputes had arisen with others, like Donald of Lochalsh. Therefore, Lachlan MacLean filed a petition to seek some redress over the situation. His petition included the following demands: First, a free remission of all offenses to himself and his associates. This remission was authorized by the Council to be granted to MacLean. Then he wanted in the second place, that Sir Donald of Lochalsh, with his associates, should be proceeded against as traitors, and their lands forfeited, according to law, for their treason and perseverance in rebellion. In the third place, he demanded that Sir Donald's two brothers, then in MacLean's custody, should be executed according to law. MacLean promised that he would from then on act with double zeal in the King's service on "... destroying the wicked blood of the Isles: for, as long as that blood reigns, the King shall never have the Isles in peace, whenever they find an opportunity to break loose, as is evident from daily experience." MacLean demanded as an heritable grant of one hundred merk lands in Tiree and Mull, free from all duties. He made various other demands, chiefly regarding his lands and possessions in the Isles; and with few exceptions, these were all acceded to. When the arrangements of the Council were finally concluded, Lachlan Cattanach MacLean gave his solemn oath of allegiance to the King and Regent.

After the death of his wife Elizabeth Campbell in 1516, he married her sister Lady

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Catherine Campbell.

Lachlan Cattanach MacLean is best remembered for what he did to this wife. Their marriage was not a happy one and was said to be childless. He decided to get rid of her. In 1519, he had her bound tight with ropes and then marooned her at low tide on a prominent rock (Lady's Rock) in the sea channel between the Island of Lismore and Mull. She did not drown but was rescued by a kinsman. That a kinsman should happen to have been sailing by at the crucial moment, before the tide rose, has led some to argue she must have engineered the incident herself to escape from what was clearly an unhappy marriage.

The next day, Lachlan sent news as what he described as a drowning tragedy to her Campbell kinsfolk at Inveraray. Then he traveled there to pay his condolences and much to his consternation, he found her sitting in a room flanked by her relatives. Surprisingly the Campbells let him go, but they had not forgotten. In Edinburgh on November 10, 1523, Lachlan Cattanach MacLean was murdered in bed by the brother of the Earl of Argyll, John Campbell of Cawdor, in revenge for what happened at Lady's Rock.

### **Twelfth Chief Euchuinn (Hector) Mor MacLean (1497 - 1570)**

The twelfth Chief Euchuinn (Hector) Mor MacLean was the son of Lachlan Cattanach MacLean and Marian MacLean. He was born about 1497 at Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull in Argyll. He married Mary MacDonald of Islay in about 1520.

Mary MacDonald was a descendant of the Lords of the Isles. She also had lineage to the MacDonnells of Antrim, Ireland, the primary occupants of Dunluce Castle. She descends from the people of the Glens of Antrim and the great O'Neill dynasty of Ulster including several Kings of Ulster.

Euchuinn, was better known as Hector Mor MacLean, or Hector the Great. Hector Mòr was described by A. MacLean Sinclair as a man of strong intellectual powers, but arbitrary and stubborn, and also capable of exceedingly harsh conduct, especially in his treatment of MacLean of Coll, which is described below. He amassed a great amount of wealth, was a shrewd manager of his financial affairs, and was known for his princely hospitality. That evaluation tells only part of the story, however, because during his tenure he embarked upon a vicious war with the MacDonalds of Islay, which would ultimately bring ruin to each.

Hector Mor MacLean is described by the seanachaidhs as being good, kind, affectionate, and brave, an accomplished politician and an approved warrior; and that in him the clan realized all it desired in a noble chieftain. To most of his vassals he granted extended leases, by way of encouragement in the improvement of lands and the building of more comfortable dwellings. He lived altogether, while permitted to do so by his troublesome neighbors with which he was surrounded, more like a noble of modern times than a feudal baron. He made many improvements on Duart Castle; and was the founder of that noble addition, the Great Tower. He strengthened the south east range and the gatehouse to the castle. His alliance was courted by many of the powerful lords; and the king thought it of importance to secure his loyalty by calling him into his council. Hence, we find him taking his seat in parliament as one of the lords of the kingdom. In private life his character was above reproach, and in his warlike pursuits he acted

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upon that system which had legal sanction.

By this time the power of the Lords of the Isles was broken; the MacLeans were wholly independent, and the King of Scotland was, at last, making himself felt in the islands. In May of 1530, Hector Mor was one of nine principle Islanders that proposed to make his submission to the King. The King then granted them a protection against the Earl of Argyll and any others, provided that they would come to Edinburgh before June 20 and remain as long as the King should require their attendance. Alexander of Islay and Hector Mor made their personal submission to the King, by whom they were pardoned, upon giving security for their obedience in the future. In 1540, King James V personally came to the Isles. He visited in succession, the Isles of Mull and Islay, and the districts of Kintyre and Knapdale, taking with him, on his departure, Hector Mor MacLean of Duart and James MacDonald of Islay, the two principle leaders in the South Isles. The King held these chiefs hostage until they promised good order.

However, the Lords of the Isles would continue their resistance. They had made a commitment to serve the King of England. In doing so, they were gathering an army to join with factions of the English. Three thousand Islesmen were to receive pay from the King of England for two months. But apparently the money went to the Isle of Mull as noted in the following account:

A ship came from England with a supply of money to carry on the war, which landed at Mull; and the money was given to MacLean of Duart to be distributed among the commanders of the army; which they did not receiving in proportion as it should have been distributed amongst them, caused the army to disperse.

So it appears that Hector Mor once again acted to quell any further disturbance against the King of Scotland. In the beginning of the chiefship of Hector Mòr all was well with the MacDonalds of Islay, and they made common cause against the Earl of Argyll and his Campbells. Together they made a formidable coalition, since they were the two strongest clans in the Western Isles, and were a challenge to the designs of the Campbells in the region. In 1527 Hector Mòr, who hated the Campbells for the murder of his father, led a vengeful expedition into Roseneath and Craignish, plundering these properties and other Campbell lands. The Campbells retaliated and the king had to step into quell these hostilities.

The dissolution of the Lordship of the Isles a few years before the birth of Hector Mòr introduced a different era in the Western Isles. Under the Lordship the natural rivalries of the island clans had been kept in check, and when violence broke out between them it was more of the brush fire category. Without the restraining hand of the MacDonald Lords, however, confrontations between contenders often erupted into full-fledged conflagrations. Hector Mòr contributed more than his fair share in the turbulence in the Hebrides during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. He was guilty in disrupting the unity of Clan MacLean by continuing the feud of his father with the MacLeans of Lochbuie, which reached murderous proportions in 1538 when John Og MacLean of Lochbuie and two of his sons were slain. This so embittered this branch of the clan that they refused to aid the successors of Hector Mòr in their many battles.

When Donald Dubh MacLean raised his standard in 1540 and mustered the former

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vassals of the Lordship of the Isles in an attempt to recreate that Gaelic principality, the MacLeans, the MacNeills of Barra, the MacLeods, and all the branches of Clan Donald, except the MacDonalds of Islay, supported him. When this poorly managed campaign fell apart, Hector Mòr alleged he had only joined Donald Dubh in order to scuttle his chances. This hollow excuse was evidently accepted by the Scottish king, when Hector Mòr made a great show of submitting to him. Such a dance between the king and the chiefs of the island clans had been going on for some time. Whenever the violence in the Western Isles reached extreme proportions the king would bring a fleet and army into the region to squash such activity; once jailing Hector Mòr and other chiefs for two years. The chiefs, in turn, would make a great show of submitting to the king's authority, be released, and then go back to their old behavior.

It was the wars with the MacDonalds of Islay, however, which were to consume the reign of Hector Mòr and those of his son and grandson, and so weaken each that they later became easy prey to their Campbell enemies in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The friendship between the MacDonalds of Islay and Hector Mòr, which had marked the beginning of his tenure at the helm of the Clan MacLean broke down in a quarrel over the ownership of the island of Gigha and escalated into open warfare over the Rhinns of Islay which each had claimed for some years. (Incidentally, our Great Great Grandfather John McLean is believed to have come to Canada from the Parish of Kilchoman at the Rhinns of Islay.) The Rhinns of Islay were a very fertile and desirous piece of property, but its true value was in its control of the rich trade route between Argyll and Ulster. Edinburgh stoked the fire in these hostilities by granting ownership of land in Islay to the MacDonalds which was occupied by tenants of MacLean of Duart, and ruthlessly playing off one opponent against the other to diminish the strength of each. In this they were aided and abetted by the Campbells, who hoped to gain land through forfeiture, if and when one or another of the antagonists were adjudged guilty of treason. The wars between the MacDonalds and the MacLeans were far more ferocious and serious than the usual clan warfare, in that they were marked by invasions of each other's territory with sizeable armies and with corresponding casualties. These conflicts later resulted in the death of the faithful Ian Dubh MacLean of Morven and later in the death of Sir Lachlan Mòr MacLean, the grandson of Hector Mòr, and were tragic for both of the adversaries.

Hector Mòr was kidnapped, with many other Chiefs, by the King's (James V) Lord Lieutenant at a dinner on board a ship off Aros Castle. They were taken south to Edinburgh, where they were forced to agree to the terms of the Statues of Iona, under which they lost much of their sovereignty over the islands. Hector Mor himself was only released when he agreed to the destruction of all his galleys. He was Lord of Duart from 1523 till 1568.

In 1559, Hector Mor MacLean of Duart had a dispute with MacLean of Coll. Because Hector Mor MacLean saw himself as Chief of all Clan MacLean, he insisted that Coll should follow and serve him like the other gentlemen of the clan. Coll, however, who held all his lands direct from the Crown, declined to submit to Hector's demands. Coll claimed he owed no service but to his King as his feudal superior. Hector Mor then caused Coll's lands to be ravaged and his tenants imprisoned. They plundered Coll's tenantry, carrying off livestock valued at 4000 marks, and continued in possession of these plundered lands for another two or three years. Coll was reduced in a short time to the brink of ruin. Coll sought redress through the Privy Council and

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Hector Mor was ordered to make reparations to Coll and to refrain from molesting him or his followers in the future.

Hector Mor Maclean died on September 15, 1570 at Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull in Argyll.

One of our Isle of Tiree ancestors, Allan McLean descends in 7 generations from the 12<sup>th</sup> Clan Chief Euchuinn (Hector) Mor MacLean. Allan McLean also descends in 7 generation from Euchuinn (Hector) Mor MacLean's son, 13<sup>th</sup> Clan Chief Eachuinn Hector Og MacLean.

### Family Tree Departure from the Chiefs of Clan MacLean

In my research I have found at least four family trees posted on Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org that connect our known ancestors to a descendency from Clan MacLean. However, none of these trees are a descendency through the male McLean lines of our ancestors. Rather we descend from Clan MacLean through our McDonald ancestors from the Isle of Tiree. Some of the posted family trees are somewhat nebulous and not well documented and validated. However, one tree (family history) is provided in an article called *Donald Maclean in Ruaig: his Ancestors and Descendants* by Gene Donald Lamont that is published on the Isle of Tiree Genealogy website at <https://www.tireegenealogy.com/> Mr. Lamont published this article in 2010, however he died in 2013. His article is the result of extensive research into this family. I have determined that we connect to this family through a DNA match. Because this tree is far more comprehensive than the other possible trees, I have chosen Mr. Lamont's work to present here.

This is the point at which our family tree separates from lineages of privilege, wealth, and title. Within just seven generations of descent from the clan chief of MacLean, our later ancestor Donald MacLean would be nothing more than a farmer on the Isle of Tiree. Donald Maclean in Ruaig was a direct descendant in the male line of Gillean of the Battle Axe, the founder of Clan MacLean. Among his ancestors were also the Gallo-Norse hero, Somerled, the founders of Clans Donald, Campbell, Cameron, and Lamont, as well as the early Kings of Scots.

The vast majority of the people of Tiree, of whatever surname, carried the blood of the early chiefs of Clan Maclean. Such a descent moves downward in the social scale. Kings might cross the seas to marry, nobles might look to another county for a bride, but the younger sons and daughters were more apt to stay close to home to find a mate. Thus over the centuries the blood of the chiefs of the clan were spread to their clansmen. Donald Maclean in Ruaig and his descendants are an excellent example of this process.

### Ian (John) Dubh MacLean, of Morven (1540 - 1586)

Ian (John) Dubh MacLean, of Morven, was born about 1540 on Mull. He was the second son of Hector Mòr MacLean, 12<sup>th</sup> Maclean Chief and Mary MacDonald, of Dunnyveg.

Ian Dubh had wanted to marry his cousin Margaret, daughter of Hector MacLean, 5th of Coll, but could not obtain the dispensation from the church to do so. He solved this problem by hand-fasting with her. This union produced at least one son.

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Ian Dubh married Catherine (Mary) Campbell, daughter of John Gorm Campbell, 1st of Lochnell and widow of John Stewart of Appin, and Margaret, daughter of Archibald Campbell of Ardintenny.

Ian Dubh MacLean and Catherine Campbell had at least seven children: Allan, Marian, Mary, Catherine (1<sup>st</sup>), Catherine (2<sup>nd</sup>), Julian, Una, and Janet.

While his older brother Eachuinn Hector Og MacLean would become to 13<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, Ian Dubh MacLean was the founder of the MacLeans of Morvern. This branch came into being at the zenith of the power of the clan, but sadly saw its power greatly diminished with the loss of the Duart Estate. During these important years it exerted a powerful influence in clan affairs, when it gave unstinting loyal support to its chiefs. The MacLeans of Morvern had many branches, among them the MacLeans of Kinlochaline, Drimnin, Calgary, Grulin, Killunaig, Torranbeg, Pennycross, and, of course, the MacLeans of Salum and Ruaig.

Ian Dubh of Morvern played a prominent role in clan affairs during the chiefship of his brother, Hector Og, and his nephew, Sir Lachlan Mor. In 1573 Ian Dubh was granted tacks of land in Morvern and Islay and was appointed bailie of Morvern. He solidified his position with Sir Lachlan Mòr, when he aided him to thwart the conspiracy of Ailein Nan Sop and the Earl of Argyll to take over control of the Duart estate. He went on to become the strong right arm of his bellicose nephew in the battles with the MacLeans of Lochbuie and Coll and the MacDonalds of Dunnyveg, often commanding the MacLean forces in military actions.

There are several accounts of the death of Ian Dubh MacLean. One being that he was beheaded by the orders of the MacDonald chief, who had taken Sir Lachlan Mòr and some of his more prominent followers prisoner in Islay through an act of treachery. A more creditable version is that Ian Dubh and MacDonald Herrach took refuge in a small building and refused to surrender to the MacDonalds, knowing that they could expect no mercy. They proceeded to challenge the MacDonalds to battle, but their enemies, respecting their reputations as notable warriors, chose to fire the building and burned them to death.

Ian Dubh MacLean died in July of 1586.

### **Allan MacLean, 1<sup>st</sup> of Ardtornish (1566 - 1630)**

Allan MacLean, 1<sup>st</sup> of Ardtornish, was born about 1566. He was the son of Ian (John) Dubh Maclean, of Morvern and Catherine Campbell, of Lochnell. He married Una MacIan, of Ardnamurchan. She was the daughter of John MacIan, 9<sup>th</sup> of Ardnamurchan.

Allan Maclean, 1<sup>st</sup> of Ardtornish, was the tacksman of Ardnacross in Mull. Allan showed himself to be every bit the warrior that his father had been before him, when at the age of sixteen he began a series of raids into the home territory of MacIan of Ardmurchan to punish him for being instrumental in his father's death. Listening to the outraged cries of his tenantry on their losses in livestock and crops, MacIan made peace with Allan. To seal the agreement MacIan offered his daughter in marriage with Allan and provided her with a large dowry.

Allan continued in his father's footsteps in support of the wars of his chief, Sir Lachlan Mòr MacLean, and was with him at the Battle of Glenlivet in Banffshire in October, 1594. This was a disaster for the Highland forces led by the Earl of Argyll, who was killed in this action.

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They were defeated by the more disciplined Lowland army, which was led by the Catholic rebel earls, Huntley and Errol, who brought cannon into action. Artillery was new to the Highlanders, who found they could not withstand it. Sir Lachlan Mòr, the MacLean chief, and his clan distinguished themselves, but in a losing cause. Allan was shot in the head in this battle, only being saved from death by his helmet. This did strike him down, however, and he only saved from capture by Huntley's Gordons led by Lachlan Og MacLean of Ross, who came to his rescue. It is not known if Allan was at the Battle of Gruinart on Islay, where the outnumbered MacLeans lost Sir Lachlan Mòr. He was with Lachlan's successor, Hector Og, however, when the MacLean chief gathered a huge force to avenge the death of his father. This army was comprised of not only the MacLeans, but such allies as the MacKinnons, the MacLeods of Dunvegan, the MacNeills of Barra, and the Camerons of Lochiel. This host invaded Islay, routed a smaller MacDonald force at the Battle of Bein Begrie (Bengivory), and embarked upon an orgy of revenge, wreaking havoc upon the lands of the MacDonalds of Dunnyveg a huge force to avenge the death of his father.

### **Charles MacLean, 1<sup>st</sup> of Ardnacross (1610 -1681)**

Charles MacLean, was born about 1610 on Mull. He was the son of Allan MacLean, 1<sup>st</sup> of Ardtornish and Una MacIain, of Ardnamurchan. He is referred to in the Gaelic manuscripts as Tearlach Mac Ailein Mhic Iain Dubh. The date of his birth is not known, but it must have been near the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. His presence was recorded at Cairnburgh Castle in 1681, along with five of his sons, where they and the other principal followers of Sir John MacLean had gathered to support their beleaguered chief, who had lost Duart Castle and Mull to his Campbell enemies, and who hoped to regain his possessions.

Charles MacLean married Mary, daughter of Allan MacLean, 7th of Ardgour, by whom he had ten children. He also had a liaison with an unknown woman, which produced an illegitimate son (John McCharles MacLean), the founder of the MacLeans of Salum and Ruaig.

The position of Charles Maclean, 1st of Ardnacross, within the clan was a prominent one, as he was the foster father of Sir John MacLean and a man of wealth and considerable influence. The rent rolls of Ardnacross in 1674 show him in possession of Ardnacroish, Drumsyne, and Balliskait, for which he paid a rent of £266, 13s, 4d. Of all the tacksmen of MacLean of Duart only Hector MacQuarrie of Ulva and Allan MacLean of Inner Skavadill paid a higher rent. His wealth is illustrated by his ability to purchase of the lands of Drimnin from the Earl of Argyll for his eldest legitimate son, obtain the tacks of Calgary and Grulin in Mornish for two others, and arrange advantageous marriages for his daughters. It would appear that he also arranged for his illegitimate son, John McCharles MacLean, to obtain the tack of Salum in Tiree.

During the civil wars of the 1640s the Clan Maclean suffered hugely for their support of the royalist cause. They made a large contribution to the victory of Montrose at the Battle of Kilsyth, when the brother of Sir Lachlan, the MacLean chief, led 1100 men, 750 being his own clansmen, onto this field. This success was short lived, however, because after Montrose was defeated at Philipaugh in 1645 Sir David Leslie and the Campbell forces invaded Mull and occupied the home territory of the MacLeans for the first time in its history. This, along with the



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disaster at Inverkeithing in 1651 in which over 700 MacLean clansmen died, brought ruin to the MacLeans, from which they never really truly recovered. It is not known what part Charles of Ardnacross and his many sons played in these proceedings, but they must have had a giant impact on their lives.

### **John McCharles MacLean (1630 - )**

John McCharles MacLean was born about 1630 on Mull,. He was the illegitimate son of Charles Maclean, 1<sup>st</sup> of Ardnacross and an unknown woman. Illegitimacy carried very little stigma in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Recognized sons were often well provided for by the father, although they rarely succeeded to his titles unless there was no legitimate issue.

John was the first of his line to settle on the Isle of Tiree, and in 1662 was in possession of the tack of Salum on Tiree, and was still in this location in 1675. It is presumed that John's father, Charles of Ardnacross, was instrumental in John acquiring this tack for his son.

It is not known who John McCharles MacLean was married to, but he had a son named Lachlan Bàn MacLean.

The MacLeans were to suffered cruel losses during the civil wars of the 1640s and later. In 1651 Red Hector, the MacLean chief raised 1500 men for the Stuart cause, 800 being MacLeans and 700 being Buchanans. They met a terrible disaster at the Battle of Inverkeithing, when Hector refused to turn tail when confronted with a much larger enemy force, and his command was virtually annihilated. Only 40 MacLeans escaped with their lives in this debacle, which saw Hector and eight of his renowned bodyguard slain. It is not known what part John McCharles MacLean might have played in the event described above, if any, but it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for a MacLean tacksman to stay on the sidelines when his chief summoned the clan to battle. His name did not appear, however, among the gentry of the clan who were slain or wounded, and it he may well have been too young to see combat.

In late October or early November of 1675 John McCharles MacLean led a party of 60 men on a raid of Kilbride and the property of John MacLachlan, a Campbell supporter, carrying away 52 cows, 16 stirks, 4 horses, and 12 sheep. It is probable that some, if not all, the participants in this action came from Tiree, since John McCharles would first have called upon his tenants to join him on this raid.

John McCharles MacLean was not among the sons of Charles of Ardnacross, who were with their father at Cairnburgh Castle in 1681 in support of their chief and he may have been dead by that date. The source for establishing John as the 'natural', or illegitimate, son of Charles of Ardnacross are the notes that David Robertson transcribed for the revised version of *The Clan Gillean*. John McCharles MacLean probably died in Salum, Tiree.

The MacLeans of Salum and in Ruaig on Tiree were a branch of the Macleans of Morvern, and were founded by John McCharles Maclean, an illegitimate son of Charles Maclean, 1st of Ardnacross, who was the great grandfather of Donald Maclean in Ruaig. He was the first of his line to settle in Tiree, where he obtained the tack of Salum sometime in the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, probably through the influence of his father. There is some evidence to indicate that his son, Lachlan Bàn, succeeded to the tack of Salum, but it is not conclusive. It is believed that

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Ewen, the son of Lachlan Bàn and the father of Donald of Ruaig, was the first of his line to come to live in Ruaig, but how this came about is unclear.

### **Lachlan Bàn MacLean (1660 - )**

Lachlan Bàn MacLean was born about 1660 on Tiree. He was the son of John McCharles Maclean, the first of his line to settle on Tiree. John McCharles MacLean was the tacksman of Salum from 1662 to 1675 and probably beyond those dates, and his son. Lachlan Bàn, may have succeeded him in this location. This premise is based on an entry in the List of Men Capable of Bearing Arms in 1716, which shows a Lachlan MacLean of Salum turning a large number of weapons; an indication he was of the tacksman class. There is no way to determine how long Lachlan Bàn may have held Salum, if he ever did so. It is known that the Duke of Argyll instructed his agent on Tiree about 1720 to replace the MacLean tacksmen of the island.

It is not known who Lachlan Bàn MacLean was married to, but he had a son named Ewen MacLean.

Descendants of Lachlan Bàn Maclean put forth a fanciful tale of his death, which appeared in the newspaper article, *Some Historic Macleans of Tiree*, but there is conclusive evidence that this account is not correct. Lachlan MacLean of Grishipol in Coll was bailie of Tiree, not Lachlan Bàn, grandfather of Donald MacLean of Ruaig. Nevertheless an excerpt from this article is shown below:

This story of the lost title deeds has become a tradition in one branch of the family. Lachlan Maclean, baron bailee, or factor, of Tiree, towards the end of the seventeenth century, was informed that his master, Maclean of Duart, had forfeited his estate, and was warned that government officials were on their way to take possession of the papers pertaining to the ownership of the island. Lachlan decided to try to escape with the papers in an open boat to Mull. The storm in which he set out increased. The boat never reached land and Lachlan and the documents were never seen again. It is presumed they lie in the depths between Tiree and Mull. A grandson of the Bailee Lachlan, Donald by name, was Prince Charles Edward's pilot in 1746.

### **Ewen MacLean (1690 - )**

Ewen MacLean was born about 1690 in Tiree. Not much is known of Ewen MacLean. It is not known if Ewen inherited the tack of Salum from his father. If he did, he may have lost it with the reorganization of the Argyll Estate in 1737, because the MacFadyens were firmly in place in Salum in 1743, and probably earlier in 1737.

It is probable that Ewen MacLean was the first of our line to settle in Ruaig. If that is correct he came to it as a subtenant, but the timing of this is not known, nor is it clear who the tackman might have been at that time.

There were two Ewen MacLeans in the 1716 Tiree List, which named those men capable of bearing arms in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1716. These were: Ewen McLachlan of Vault and Ewen McLachlan of Heylipol. The name of Ewen MacLean's wife is not known, but he was the father of Donald MacLean.

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### Donald MacLean (1721 - 1791)

Donald MacLean was born about 1721 in Ruaig, Tiree. He was the son of Ewen MacLean, who lived in Ruaig. He married Effie Chrosbie/McNeill. She was born about 1734. Donald MacLean and Effie Chrosbie/McNeill were known to have had at least 10 children: Mary, Lachlan, Janet, Christy, Mary, Charles, Catherine, Margaret, Ann, and John. We descend from Janet.

Donald MacLean and his family occupied four mail-lands in Ruaig in Tiree during the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. At the time of the 1776 Census he was listed as a sub-tenant and the owner of five cows and six horses. In 1776-1779 Donald was one of the four sub-tenants of Ruaig.

A romantic tale appeared in the Daily Express in February 3, 1930, which told of Donald in Ruaig aiding Bonnie Prince Charlie to escape capture after the Battle of Culloden. An excerpt from this article entitled, *Some Historic Macleans of Tiree*, is as follows:

KIDNAPPED BY THE FRENCH (1746): The Battle of Culloden was not long past when the French brig Bellisle anchored in Gott Bay, Tiree. A boat went ashore and the sailors seized the first man they met. They requested him, forcibly, to pilot their ship to Lochnanuagh, some twenty miles north to Ardnamurchan Point. The man, whose name was Neil MacFadyen, confessed his lack of knowledge of the coast, but suggested a substitute in Donald Maclean who lived nearby. Donald offered to go with the ship if he was brought back to Tiree on the return journey.

The brig with the two Tiree men on board - MacFadyen was taken too, lest he should raise the alarm- reached Lochnanuagh, where the Prince (Bonnie Prince Charlie) and his retainers were taken on board. On the return journey the Bellisle instead of approaching Tiree headed for Barra via the north of Coll. The prospect of a visit to Barra, or even France, did not appeal to the pilot and his friend. When all was dark and quiet, and only the steersman and the lookout were on deck, the islanders lowered a boat over the stern of the brig and rowed away. The dark night favoured the fugitives who landed at Port na Lunge on the south of Coll, whence they later crossed to Tiree.

On their secret arrival home Donald was warned that he was liable to be arrested for helping the Pretender and took refuge in a cave in Vaul, in the north of Tiree, from September 1746 to June 1747. A few friends visited him and brought him supplies on the darkest nights. Government official paid frequent visits to his father's house in Ruaig, sometimes making two visits in one night, in the hope of surprising the wanted man. The privations were too much for Donald's health. His father suggested that he should give himself up to the authorities and together they crossed to Tobermory. On the way, unknown to them, the passing mail packet carried a free pardon to all under the rank of captain.

Donald Maclean was conscripted into one of the Highland regiments, but through the intervention of an officer of the regiment, Maclean of Drimnin, he was released after two years' service and returned to his native isle.

The article also stated the Donald's grandfather, Lachlan Bàn MacLean, was the bailie of Tiree in 1674 and died at sea in that year. This has proved to be untrue in all details, since the bailie of Tiree in 1674 was a Lachlan MacLean of Grishipol in Coll and lived until at least 1681. He certainly was not Donald's grandfather, who was a descendant of the MacLeans of Morvern. This inaccuracy casts some doubts that Donald was ever the pilot of Bonnie Prince Charlie, but it is a tale that his widely accepted on Tiree.

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There are 8 generations between this family and our mother Enid McLean through her grandmother Elizabeth McDonald.

### **A Word About Religion in Regards to Clan MacLean**

At this point in the history of Clan MacLean, a discussion of Celtic culture and religion is required. The four primary things that define a certain culture are: (1) ethnic origins; (2) language; (3) customs and practices; and (4) religion. The highland clans, including the MacLeans were clearly of the Celtic culture. Even geography plays a part here in the separation of the Highland Scots to the rest of Scotland in the Lowlands. Clan MacLean clearly descended from the male line from the ancient Celtic Kingdom of Dal Riada. The language that most of the clan used was Gaelic (even our Great Great Grandfather John McLean's bible was published in Gaelic). Further it appears that the preponderance of the clan were still followers of the Roman Catholic Church for many years after the start of the Protestant Reformation. However, the requirement for the clan chief's children to be educated in the Lowlands may have indoctrinated them to Protestantism and use of the English language. In history, this has often been referred to as Anglicisation!

The religion of the Highland and Western Isles clans had been little affected by the early Protestant Reformation. The English King Henry VIII made his famous separation from the Catholic Church in 1534. The new religion spread from England north into the Lowlands, but its influence was not all that great in the Highlands and Western Isles.

A famous preacher named John Knox led the Protestant Reformation in Scotland, in partnership with the Scottish Protestant nobility. Knox was a religious colleague of John Calvin. Knox had preached throughout Scotland in the 1540s and 1550s and had a rather fervent anti-Catholic viewpoint.

The Covenanters were a Scottish Presbyterian movement that played an important part in the history of Scotland, and to a lesser extent that of England and of Ireland, during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Presbyterian denominations trace their history to the Covenanters. John Knox was so bold as to even express his anti-Catholic rhetoric to the Catholic royalty of Scotland.

In December 1557, John Craig drew up a document called the "National Covenant" in reaction to the strenuous efforts Roman Catholics were making to regain their hold upon Scotland. This document denounced the Pope and the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. The "Covenanters" are so named for the series of bonds or covenants by which the adherents bound themselves to maintain the Presbyterian doctrine and policy as the sole form of religion of their country.

King Charles I came to the Scottish throne in 1612. Some thought his religious policies, coupled with his marriage to a Roman Catholic, generated the antipathy and mistrust of reformed groups such as the English Puritans and Scottish Covenanters, who thought his views were too Catholic. Wishing to impose their religious view points upon all of Scotland, the Covenanters began to gather their forces. The crisis that this caused to the Stuart monarchy helped bring about the Wars of the Three Kingdoms, which included the English Civil War, the Scottish Civil War and Irish Confederate Wars.

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Sir Lachlan MacLean became clan chief in 1626. Sir Lachlan decided to side with the Royalists against the Covenanters. This may imply that he was either a Catholic or certainly a Catholic sympathizer, He fought as a Royalist under James Graham, 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Montrose at the Battle of Inverlochy. However the Covenanters cause would eventually overcome the opposition and the “Church of Scotland” (Presbyterian) would become the “established” church of the land.

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