

Chapter 14 - Our People of the Isle of Islay

The Genealogy Trail to Islay, the Search for John McLean

The story of the origins of John McLean is much more difficult than that of Mary McKinnon. Don Hensel's original pedigree chart only said that he was born about 1810 in County Argyll and his parents were Alex McLean and Sarah MacLean. When it comes to Scottish genealogy, County Argyll is a big place. Then in all the records he is found in Ontario, his age listings were inconsistent with one another and it was difficult to pinpoint an approximate birth year. My best estimate was about 1812. I examined a lot of records in Ontario and none of them revealed a birth location other than just "Scotland." I did find a major clue in that in Minto Township the neighboring farm was owned by an Archibald McLean. I did some research on Archibald and found a marriage record for him dated October 30, 1861 in which he married a Catherine Bell. Archibald's parents names were listed as Allan and Sarah. Recalling that Don's original pedigree chart showed John McLean's parents as Alex McLean and Sarah MacLean, I saw this as a clue but not positive proof that John and Archibald were brothers. As it is a Scottish practice of the time that children's names often reflect the names of grandparents, John's father's name was more likely Allan as he had a son named Allan, but did not have a son named Alex.

Then came the challenge of finding clues as to whereabouts of John McLean's origins. In this search I attempted to find a Scottish census record that might have both a John and Archibald of similar ages living in the same household. Such a matching record was not found. However, there are numerous John McLeans and Archibald McLeans of similar age scattered throughout the County Argyll census pages. So I then began looking for clues as to the origins of the other original residents of Minto Township because often Scottish families migrated together to the same places in Ontario. The most often found origin is the Isle of Islay in County Argyll. I also found that John McLean had a granddaughter named Annie "Islay" McLeod born in 1894, which just happened to be the possible year after John McLean's death in 1893. Could she have been given that middle name in tribute to John's origins? It seemed very likely to me. So around that time I had to decide how I would present John's origins in my *Island Roots* book, so I picked Islay.

Sometimes a DNA match might not point to your surname, but it may point to related surnames and a place. I had an autosomal DNA match that had a range of 4th to 6th cousin with good confidence. The matched person's great grandparents were an Alex McDonald and Catherine Gillespie. As I know that have confirmed ancestors with the surname McDonald I tried to evaluate that person first. Unfortunately there was very little information other than this person was born in North Dakota in about 1882. An attached reference to the 1910 U.S. Census showed him to be living in Duluth, MN, which didn't seem likely. While the match's family tree indicated that her Grandmother Charlotte Mae McDonald was the daughter of this Alex McDonald, the 1900 U.S. Census did not reflect this. That census showed that her mother

Traces Through World History

Catherine Gillespie had married a William R. Flint and while her sister Eda was shown with the surname McDonald, Charlotte's surname was shown as Smalley and the birthplace of her father was shown as New York. As actual records are to be preferred over descendant created family trees, the name "Smalley" and the location of New York absolutely eliminates any DNA connection of me to the match through her grandmother's father named in the tree as "Alex McDonald."

The more promising link was to her mother Catherine Gillespie who supposed had Charlotte on April 24, 1893 in Park River, ND. This matches with a birthdate of April 1893 for Charlotte Smalley in the 1900 U.S. Census. Park River just happens to be a town associated with our McLean relatives. This Catherine Gillespie just happened to be the sister of Margaret Gillespie who was married to Duncan McLean, brother of our Great Grandfather Charles McLean. Duncan McLean and Margaret Gillespie married on July 12, 1899 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. By 1900 they were living in Park River, ND.

Catherine and Margaret Gillespie were the daughters of Duncan Gillespie and Mary Catherine Bell who were married on April 2, 1858 at Minto Township, Wellington County, Ontario. Duncan Gillespie's parents were John Gillespie and Catherine Bell. This couple was married in Kilchoman Parish on the Isle of Islay. In 1831, 1841, and 1851 they lived in Port Charlotte on Islay. They emigrated to Minto Township in about 1852. Mary Catherine Bell was born in 1837 in the Parish of Kilchoman on Islay.

There were two more DNA matches (ID: Gail Eyelyn and Lynn Labahn) to the Gillespie family. Both matches were descendants of Duncan McEachern and Mary Gillespie. Mary Gillespie was the daughter of John Gillespie and Catherine Bell.

So even though the matched family trees did not directly link to the McLean surname, it did link to either the surname "Gillespie" or maybe "Bell." These families were known to me as having lived in Minto Township and vicinity. These families trace back the Kilchoman Parish on the Isle of Islay. So that was partial confirmation of John McLean's origins on Islay.

Study of the Glenlee Community

The Scottish origins of our Great Great Grandfather John McLean were indeed sketchy and based upon a few clues at first, but the DNA matches at least pointed to the Gillespie family and the location of the Isle of Islay. After many years of diligent searching I never was able to find a marriage record for John McLean and Mary McKinnon which may have had some information at least about his parentage. Further, although I was able to narrow down the time of his death by finding an estate related record, I never found a death record for him that might give a clue as to his parentage and birthplace. Neither was I ever able to locate a gravestone in a cemetery for him that might have the word "Islay" on it. The very first record found for him in Canada was his September 13, 1854 "Application for Crown Land" for lot 24, Concession 5 of Minto Township in Wellington County.

There is a genealogy technique that is often utilized when you are not quite sure where your ancestor came from. If you can find out where most of their neighbors, associates, and related families came from, it is very probable that place is where your ancestor came from. So I

Traces Through World History

set about on a study of this community of people. My first task is to determine who might fit into this community.

Identifying the families and their surnames was the first step. So I actually started by examining the Scottish settlers who took up farms in Walsh County, ND near the farms of the McLeans. The Scottish settlers had brought to North Dakota with them several place names that reference their former places of residence. For example the place names of Harriston and Minto stand out. So I consulted my volumes of *Walsh Heritage* and perused through the family narratives looking for Scottish surnames and references to Harriston and Minto. In addition to our ancestral families of Charles McLean, Allan McLean, James McLean, and Duncan McLean, I found nine other families that traced back to Minto Township in Wellington County, Ontario. These families are: Angus Bell, John Bruce, Peter Campbell, Angus Gillespie, Duncan Gillespie, John Gillespie, John D. Gillespie, Donald McCannel, John McCannell, and Duncan White.

I then turned to *The Way It Was, A History of Minto Township*. It is from this book that I determined that our ancestor John McLean lived among other related Scottish families in a community that became known as Glenlee. Excerpts was that book resulted in the following findings:

- The census of 1861 showed that of a total population of 2,341, about 540 were of Scottish birth.
- During the years 1850 and 1851 six Sinclair brothers and their wives pushed into Minto bush from the Arthur settlement road. The first generation of Sinclairs in Minto preferred the Gaelic, like their neighbors the McEacherns and Campbells, McDougalls and McLeods. They spoke it at home, and they heard it at church. Note: Our Great Great Grandmother Mary McKinnon McLean owned a bible that was published in Canada in the Gaelic language.
- The community of Glenlee was centered on where a school had been established at Robert Sinclair's farm at lot 5 Concession 7. Glenlee's Scottish settlers came mostly from Argyllshire and the western islands. There they had been known as cotters or crofters engaged as laborers on large estates and able to afford a little cottage and a small patch of land. In Minto these settlers, many of them Gaelic speaking and some not able to read and write, moved instantly into the farmer class. Most became members of the Presbyterian Church in Harriston and helped to build it. The first wave of Glenlee settlers included: six Sinclairs, five McDougalls, Four McDermids and McEacherns, two McLeods, two Morrisons and a McKenzie, a Ferguson, a McIntyre and a McLellan.
- Angus Gillespie, an Argyll Scot, pioneered in Minto on Concession C at the Glenlee corner. There were eight Gillespie sons and two daughters and in 1879. Angus and his wife packed up most of the family and headed for North Dakota. The Gillespies were joined by friends and relatives that included: Peter Campbell/Mary White; William Bruce/Betsy White; Florence Gillespie; the Donald McCannels and Duncan White.
- Duncan Campbell came from the Western Isles of Scotland. Alexander Ferguson came from the same part of Scotland as the Campbells.
- The Bell families bought six hundred acres on the 16th and 17th Concessions.
- The Kean brothers located farms in Minto – James on the 7th, and Peter on the 6th. The Keans had come from Scotland and so had Alex Wilkinson on Lot 26.
- At Beehive corner were the Scottish born Fyfe brothers. Peter settled on the 4th in 1854 (He obtained lot 23 on the 4th and 5th and was a neighbor to our ancestor John McLean).
- Beehive was the address of other solid Minto citizens including the Ovens, Pattersons, McConnells, McLellans and Gillespies. Malcolm Ferguson was among them.
- Hector Campbell signed for lot 20 in the 4th. This was next to the farm of Thomas McLellan.

Traces Through World History

The story that emerged gave me a healthy list of surnames to search through. I then began to examine the 1861 Canada census for Minto Township to search for these families. I first focused on the census pages that started about four pages before the entry for the John McLean family and then for about four pages after the John McLean family to make certain I had captured most of his immediate neighbors. Of course, I immediately identified the single person Archibald McLean who lived on the next farm over who I believe was John's brother. In addition I looked for some of the families with the specific surnames identified in both Minto and Arthur Townships in the 1851, 1861, and 1871 census. My selection criteria was that it had to be one of the specific surnames and at least both the husband and wife had identified their birthplace as Scotland. I ended up surveying a total of 86 families and I did my best to trace them to their place of origin in Scotland. I confirmed that 50 (58%) of these families came from the Isle of Islay. What emerged from this survey was the story of an entire Scottish community that had more or less migrated in mass from the Isle of Islay in Scotland to the vicinity of Minto Township in Wellington County, Ontario. This was a community with inter-related marriages that tended to center on the Gillespie family. The following is a list of the Islay to Minto emigrants that I identified:

List of Islay to Minto Emigrants

Names	Related Family	Remarks
Angus Bell/Martha Johnston		Angus b. 1849, Islay. Angus is son of Neil Bell/Mary Turner.
Angus Bell/Catherine McCormick (mCcarraig)	X	Angus b. 1795 Gearach, Kilchoman; Catherine b. 1800 Gruilininmore, Kilchoman; m. 24 Jul 1832 at Kilchoman, confirmed w/ Islay Genealogy page.
Duncan Bell/Ann (Nancy) McDonald		Son of Angus Bell/Catherine McCormick, bapt. 26 May 1833 at Olista, Kilchoman.
Neil Bell/Mary Turner	X	Neil b. 1806 Kilchoman, son of Duncan Bell/Mary Sinclair, m. 24 Mar 1835 in Kilchoman confirmed in Islay Genealogy page. Children born at Gearach. Found in 1841 and 1851 Scotland census.
Catherine Bell/Archibald McLean	X	Catherine born:31 Jan 1836; confirmed in Islay Genealogy page; daughter of Neil Bell/Mary Turner.
Alexander Bruce/Flora Gillespie	X	Flora b. 29 Sep 1842 at Port Charlotte, Islay, daughter of John Gillespie/Catherine Bell.
William Bruce/Betsy White		Betsy b. 22 Dec 1844 at Portnahaven, confirmed in Islay Genealogy page; daughter of John White/Ann McGillvray.
Duncan Campbell/Catherine Campbell		Duncan Campbell's gravestone in Bethel Cemetery, Wellington County says b. Islay 1778.

Traces Through World History

Peter Campbell/Mary Jane White		Peter b. 16 Sep 1833, sibling births confirmed in Islay Genealogy page. Son of William Campbell/Effie McArthur. Mary Jane is daughter of John White/Ann McGillvray.
William Campbell/Effie McArthur		Parents of above. m. 28 Jan 1828 Kilchoman, provided in a Ancestry.com Public Member Tree (PMT).
Alexander John Ferguson/ Margaret Catherine McLean	X	Alexander b.26 Mar 1828 Kilchoman; confirmed in Islay Genealogy page. Son of Peter Ferguson/Margaret McEachern.
Alexander Ferguson/Catherine McLean		Alexander was born about 1801 in Kilchoman; Catherine McLean was born about 1811 at Portnahaven; her father was Dugald McLean, b. 1781; found in 1851 census.
Donald Ferguson/Rachel McLean or McLergan	X	Donald b. 1819 Kilchoman; Rachel b. 1803, Kilchoman; married at Kilchoman 7 Feb 1826 confirmed in IslayGenealogy page.
Donald Ferguson/Mary Ferguson		Donald born 29 Jan 1826 Kilchoman, confirmed in Islay Genealogy page; son of Malcolm Ferguson/Ann McNiven; found in 1841 Scotland census.
John Ferguson/Christine Ferguson		John born 1811, son of Neil Ferguson/Margaret McEachern; found in 1841 Scotland census.
Malcolm Ferguson/Ann McNiven		m. 16 May 1825 Kilchoman, confirmed in Islay Genealogy page, found in 1841 Scotland census.
Angus Gillespie/Sarah McClellan	X	Angus b. 29 Sep 1831 at Port Charlotte in Kilchoman confirmed in Islay Genealogy page; Sarah born 9 Oct 1827 at Gearach, Kilchoman; Angus parents were John Gillespie/Katherine Bell.
Duncan Gillespie/Mary Catherine Bell	X	Duncan b. 9 Oct 1827 at Gearach, Kilchoman confirmed in Islay Genealogy page. Son of John Gillespie/Katherine Bell. Mary Catherine born 26 May 1837 confirmed in Islay genealogy page; daughter of Angus Bell/Catherine McCarmaig.
John Gillespie/Katherine Bell	X	m. 28 Nov 1826 Kilchoman, confirmed in Islay genealogy page. Found in 1841 Scotland census and 1851 Scotland census.
Archibald McAllister/Betsy McLeod		Archibald born 24 Apr 1831,Portnahaven, confirmed in Islay Genealogy page, son of Gilbert Mcallister/Effie Ferguson. Betsy b. 1839 in Islay per PMT. Found in 1841 Scotland census.
Gilbert McAllister/Euphemia (Effie) Ferguson		Gilbert born 1806 in Islay per PMT. Effie born 1796 at Kilchoman per PMT to Angus Ferguson /MaryMcClellan.

Traces Through World History

		Found in Portnahaven in 1841 Scotland census and 1851 Scotland census.
Donald McCannel/Ann Gillespie		m. 11 Dec 1851 at Kilchoman. Donald is son of Donald McCannel/Ann McNeill. Ann born 13 Apr 1831 at Kilnave, Kilchoman, confirmed in Islay Genealogy page, daughter of Archibald Gillespie/Janet McDermid. 1841 Scotland census.
Archibald McClellan/Catherine MacAlpine		Archibald McClellan born 31 Jan 1790 at Kilmartin, Argyll. Birth of one child confirmed in Kilchoman in the Islay Genealogy page.
Charles McClellan/Isabella McClellan		Charles was born 1816 at Islay; his parents were Archibald McClellan/Catherine MacAlpine.per PMT. Isabella was born 24 Apr 1825 at Kilchoman confirmed in Islay Genealogy page. Her parents were Alexander McClellan/Catherine McDermid. Her father died ar Torronich, Kilchoman.
John McClellan/Mary McClellan		John born 1811 at Kilnave, Kilchoman, son of Peter McClellan/Euphemia McMillan per PMT.
Malcolm McClellan/Christina McLean		Malcolm born 1811 Kilchoman. M. 1 Jan 1828 confirmed in Islay Genealogy page. Children born in Portnahaven.
Archibald McDermaid/Margaret Campbell		Archibald born 1823 at Islay to John McDermaid/Catherine per PMT.
Donald McDermaid/Elizabeth Sinclair		m. at Skibba (Port Charlotte) Kilchoman. Found in 1841 Scotland census with Sinclairs at Port Charlotte.
Alexander McDougall/Grace McDougall		Children James(1820) and Margaret (1835) confirmed births at Kildalton in Islay Genealogy page.
Hugh McDougall		Born 1831 at Kildalton/Oa per PMT. Son of Alexander McDougall/Grace McDougall
Archibald McEachern/Ann Gilchrist		Archibald b. 1800 at Nerebols, Kilchoman. He was son of Duncan McEachern/Mary Campbell. Found in 1841 Scotland census.
Donald McEachern/Mary Campbell		m. 31 Oct 1811 at Kilarrow confirmed in Islay Genealogy page. Donald b. 1776 st Islay; Mary b. 1787 at Kilarrow.
Donald McEachern/Mary Cameron		Donald b. 1804 at Nerebus, Kilchoman, son of John McEachern/Mary Currie McVerich, his parents married at Kildalton 19 Dec 1762. Donald's gravestone says born at Islay.
Duncan McEachern/Mary Gillespie	X	Mary b. 14 May 1829 at Port Charlotte, Kilchoman confirmed in Islay Genealogy page. She was daughter of John

Traces Through World History

	Gillespie/Catherine Bell.
Alexander McIntye/Nancy McIntyre	Alexander b. 1831 at Kilchoman, found in 1841 Scotland census as son of Neil and Ann Mcintyre.
AlexanderMcKenzie/Mary McEachern	Alexander b. 1790 at Portnahaven; Mary b. 1802 in Portnahaven. Confirmed in 1851 Scotland census.
John McLeod/Sarah Maria Anderson	John b. 1804 at Islay per PMT.
Angus McMillan/Flora McIntyre	Angus b. 1816 Kilchoman per PMT, Flora b. 1817 Kilchoman per PMT, M. 24 Jul 1838 at Kilchoman per PMT, births of two children: Isabella (1839) and Marrison (1842) confirmed in Islay Genealogy page.
Duncan McMillan/Catherine Cameron	Duncan b. 1784 at Islay per PMT.
Duncan McMillan/Ann Brown	Duncan b. 1814 at Islay per PMT. Son of Duncan McMillan/Catherine Cameron; Ann b. 1814 at Islay per PMT. Daughter of Peter Brown/Effie Currie per PMT, M. 31 Aug 1808 at Killarrow confirmed in Islay Genealogy page.
John Shaw/Christina McEachern	John b. 1801, Christina b. 1801, Christina b. 1801, m. 13 Dec 1824 at Kilarrow per PMT. Confirmed in 1841 Scotland census. Seven of their children confirmed in births at Kilchoman in Islay Genealogy page.
Alexander Sinclair/Annie McClellan	Alexander b. 5 Sep 1817 at Bowmore, Killarrow, son of Donald Sinclair/Christian Sinclair confirmed in Islay Genealogy page. Alexander Sinclair found in 1841 Scotland census. Annie b. 30 Apr 1824 at Kilchoman. Daughter of Archibald McClellan/Catherine MacAlpine.
Archibald Sinclair/Mary Sinclair	Archibald b. 20 Jan 1813, son of John Sinclair/Sarah Jamieson per PMT.
Donald Sinclair/Mary McClellan	Donald b. 4 Nov 1816 at Bowmore, Kilarrow to John Sinclair/Sarah Jamieson confirmed in Islay Genealogy page. Mary b. 1830 at Kilchoman to Peter McClellan/Euphemia McClellan confirmed in Islay Genealogy page.
Donald Sinclair/Alice McClellan	Alice b. 23 Aug 1836 Kilnave, Kilchoman, daughter of Peter McClellan/Euphemia McMillan. Alice found with parents in 1841 Scotland census.
Duncan Sinclair/Alice McDougall	Found in 1841 Scotland census. M. 15 Dec 1838 at Kildalton.
John A. Sinclair/Sarah Jamieson	Found in 1841 Scotland census.
Robert Sinclair/Isabella McDougall	Robert b. 20 Aug 1827 Killarrow, Islay to John Sinclair and

Traces Through World History

		Sarah Jamieson. Confirmed in Islay Genealogy page. Found in 1841 Scotland census.
John White/Ann Jane McGillvray	X	M. 3 May 1830 Kilchoman, confirmed in Islay Genealogy page. Found in 1841 Scotland census.
Neil White/Margaret Gillespie	X	Neil b. 18 Jul 1838 at Portnahaven, son of John White and Ann Nancy McGillvray confirmed in Islay Genealogy page. Margaret b. 1 Aug 1833 at Port Charlotte to John Gillelsapie/Catherine Bell. Her parents marriage on 28 Nov 1826 and her birth confirmed in Islay Genealogy page

Needless to say, this study of Islay to Minto emigrants had made me all the more confident that John McLean and his brother Archibald McLean were born on Islay and lived there prior to their emigration to Canada. There have been some public member trees on Ancestry.com that have linked these two brothers to parents with origins in other parts (other than Islay) of Scotland. However, the DNA matches appear to tell a story of our connection to the Gillespie family of Islay. Further, the Ancestry.DNA estimates of kinship would imply that John McLean had a Gillespie female in his ancestry at least one or two generations above him. This means that his McLean ancestry may go back to about 1750 on Islay. That being said, any public member trees that show our John McLean and his parents as living elsewhere (other than Islay) in Scotland are somewhat questionable.

In further narrowing the possible origins of John McLean, I was able to find about 39 records in the 1841 Scotland census and other records that illustrate where some of the Islay to Minto emigrants had lived on Islay around 1841. The locations in the Parish of Kilchoman with the number of households found there are as follows: Port Charlotte (8), Kilchoman (4), Portnahaven (4), Garrich (2), Kilnave (2), Claddah (1), Cornisby (1), Corsapool (1), Grulinbeg (1), Grunart (1), Gorlacher (1), Olista (1), Smaull (1), Foreland (1), Coull (1), Ocotomore (1), Neribolls (1), and Greamsay (1). There were two households in Kildalton parish at Kildalton and Port Ellen. There were three households in Kilarrow parish with two at Kilarrow and one at Milindry. I have plotted these locations on a map of Islay to see where the greatest concentration is. It can clearly be seen that for the most part, they were in Kilchoman parish with large clusters in an around the town of Port Charlotte in an area known as the Rhinns of Islay. So I believe with a high degree of confidence that John McLean and his brother Archibald McLean came from Kilchoman parish.

Traces Through World History

Households of Islay to Minto Emigrants in about 1841



Traces Through World History

History of Islay

Islay is the southernmost island of the Inner Hebrides of Scotland. Known as "The Queen of the Hebrides," it lies in County Argyll just south west of Jura and around 25 miles north of the Northern Irish coast. The island's capital is Bowmore where the distinctive round Kilarrow Parish Church and a distillery are located. Port Ellen is the main port. The Rhinns of Islay region is the southern parts of the Parish of Kilchoman with Port Charlotte and Portnahaven as the primary villages.

Islay is the fifth-largest Scottish island and the eighth-largest island of the British Isles, with a total area of almost 240 sq mi. There is ample evidence of the prehistoric settlement of Islay and the first written reference may have come in the 1st century A.D. The island had become part of the Gaelic Kingdom of Dál Riada during the Early Middle Ages before being absorbed into the Norse Kingdom of the Isles.

By the 6th century, Islay, along with much of the nearby mainland and adjacent islands lay within the Gaelic kingdom of Dál Riada with strong links to Ireland. The widely accepted view is that Dál Riada was established by Gaelic migrants from Ulster, displacing a former Brythonic culture (such as the Picts). Nevertheless, it has been claimed that the Gaels in this part of Scotland were indigenous to the area. However, conventional wisdom has it that the Gaels migrated from Ireland.

There is evidence of another kin group on Islay – the Cenél Conchride, supposedly descended from a brother of the legendary founder of Dál Riada, king Fergus Mór, but the existence of the Cenél Conchride seems to have been brief and the 430 households of the island are later said to have been comprised from the families of just three great-grandsons of the eponymous founder of Cenél nÓengus: Lugaid, Connal and Galán.

The 9th century arrival of Scandinavian settlers on the western seaboard of the mainland had a long-lasting effect, beginning with the destruction of Dál Riada. Consolidating their gains, the Norse settlers established the Kingdom of the Isles, which became part of the crown of Norway following Norwegian unification. To Norway, the islands became known as Suðreyjar, meaning southern isles. For the next four centuries and more this Kingdom was under the control of rulers of mostly Norse origin.

Godred Crovan was one of the most significant of the rulers of this sea kingdom. Though his origins are obscure, it is known that Godred was a Norse-Gael, with a connection to Islay. The Chronicles of Mann call Godred the son of Harald the Black of Ysland, (his place or origin variously interpreted as Islay, Ireland or Iceland).

Godred also became King of Dublin at an unknown date, although in 1094 he was driven out of the city by Muirheartach Ua Briain, later known as High King of Ireland, according to the Annals of the Four Masters. He died on Islay "of pestilence", during the following year.

Following Godred's death, the local population resisted Norway's choice of replacement, causing Magnus Barefoot Olafsson (our 26th great grandfather), the Norwegian king, to launch a military campaign to assert his authority. In 1098, under pressure from Magnus, King of Scotland Edgar quitclaimed to Magnus all sovereign authority over the isles.

Traces Through World History

In the mid 12th century, a granddaughter of Godred Crovan's married the ambitious Somerled (our 24th great grandfather), a Norse-Gaelic Argyle nobleman. Godred Olafsson, grandson of Godred Crovan, was an increasingly unpopular King of the Isles at the time, spurring Somerled into action. The two fought the Battle of Epiphany in the seas off Islay in January 1156. The result was a bloody stalemate, and the island kingdom was temporarily divided, with Somerled taking control of the southern Hebrides. Two years later Somerled completely ousted Godred Olafsson and re-united the kingdom. Somerled then founded a rival kingdom.

Somerled built the sea fortress of Claig Castle on an island between Islay and Jura, to establish control of the Sound of Islay. On account of the Corryvreckan whirlpool to the north of Jura, the Sound was the main safe sea route between the mainland and the rest of the Hebrides; Claig Castle essentially gave Somerled control of sea traffic.

After his death in 1164, Somerled's lands were split between his sons Dugald, Ranald, and Angus. Ranald would be the more successful of the three as he had been given or acquired Islay and other lands in the Southern Isles. Ranald or Reginald (our 23rd great grandfather) adopted the title of King of the Isles and Lord of Argyll. Ranald left two sons who founded powerful clans, Donald (Domhnall mac Raghnaill)(our 22nd great grandfather), the eponym of Clan Donald, and Ruari, the originator of the MacRuaris. Donald received Islay, along with Claig Castle, and the adjacent part of Jura as far north as Loch Tarbert. Somerled's sons and descendants continued to describe themselves as King of the Sudreys until the 13th century.

Parishes were established on Islay sometime in the 12th century with churches to serve the spiritual needs of local communities. Islay had three original parishes – Kilarrow, Kilchoman and Kildalton.

Nominal Norwegian authority had been re-established after Somerled's death, but by the mid 13th century, increased tension between Norway and Scotland led to a series of battles, culminating in the Battle of Largs, shortly after which the Norwegian king died. In 1266, his more peaceable successor ceded his nominal authority over Suðreyjar to the Scottish king (Alexander III) by the Treaty of Perth, in return for a very large sum of money. Alexander generally acknowledged the semi-independent authority of Somerled's heirs; the former Suðreyjar had become a Scottish crown dependency, rather than part of Scotland.

Donald was succeeded by his son Aonghus Mór MacDonald (our 21st great grandfather) who was a leading figure in the 13th century kingdoms of the Isles and Scotland. He would be the first of his family to specifically call himself “Lord of Islay.” He would be succeeded by his son Aonghas Óg MacDonald (our 20th great grandfather).

By this point, Somerled's descendants had formed into three families – the heirs of Donald (the MacDonalds, led by Aonghas Óg MacDonald, those of Donald's brother (the Macruari, led by Ruaidhri mac Ailein), and those of Donald's uncle (the MacDougalls, led by Alexander MacDougall). At the end of the 13th century, when King John Balliol was challenged for the throne by Robert the Bruce (our 21st great grandfather), the MacDougalls backed Balliol, while the Macruari and MacDonalds backed Robert. When Robert won, he declared the MacDougall lands forfeit, and distributed them between the MacDonalds and Macruari.

The Macruari territories were eventually inherited by Amy of Garmoran, who married her MacDonald cousin John of Islay (our 19th great grandfather) in the 1330s; having succeeded

Traces Through World History

Aonghus Óg as head of the MacDonalds, he now controlled significant stretches of the western seaboard of Scotland from Morvern to Loch Hourn, and the whole of the Hebrides save for Skye.

John MacDonald was the son of Angus Og, and became the first Lord of the Isles. From 1336 onwards John began to style himself Dominus Insularum—"Lord of the Isles", a title that implied a connection to the earlier Kings of the Isles and by extension a degree of independence from the Scottish crown; this would be claimed by his heirs for several generations. The MacDonalds had thus achieved command of a strong semi-independent maritime kingdom, and considered themselves equals of the kings of Scotland, Norway, and England.

In about 1350, John married (for a second time) Princess Margaret, daughter of King Robert II Stewart. Their daughter Mary married Lachlan Lubanach MacGilean (our 21st great grandfather), 5th Chief of Clan MacLean, in about 1367.

Initially, their power base was on the shores of Loch Finlaggan in northeastern Islay, near the present-day village of Caol Ila. Successive chiefs of Clan Donald were proclaimed Lord of the Isles there, upon an ancient seven-foot-square coronation stone bearing footprint impressions in which the new ruler stood barefoot and was anointed by the Bishop of Argyll and seven priests. The Lord's advisory "Council of the Isles" met on Eilean na Comhairle (Council Island), in Loch Finlaggan on Islay, within a timber framed crannog that had originally been constructed in the 1st century B.C.

The Islay Charter, a record of lands granted to an Islay resident in 1408, Brian Vicar MacKay, by Domhnall of Islay, Lord of the Isles, is one of the earliest records of Gaelic in public use, and is a significant historical document. In 1437, the Lordship was substantially expanded when Alexander, the Lord of the Isles, inherited the rule of Ross maternally; this included Skye. The expansion of MacDonald control caused the "heart of the Lordship" to move to the twin castles of Aros and Ardtornish, in the Sound of Mull.

In 1462, the last and most ambitious of the Lords, John MacDonald (John of Islay, Earl of Ross), struck an alliance with Edward IV of England under terms of the Treaty of Ardtornish-Westminster with the goal of conquering Scotland. The onset of the Wars of the Roses prevented the treaty from being discovered by Scottish agents, and Edward from fulfilling his obligations as an ally. A decade later, in 1475, it had come to the attention of the Scottish court, but calls for forfeiture of the Lordship were calmed when John quitclaimed his mainland territories, and Skye. However, ambition wasn't given up so easily, and John's nephew launched a severe raid on Ross, but it ultimately failed. Within 2 years of the raid, in 1493, MacDonald was compelled to forfeit his estates and titles to James IV of Scotland; by this forfeiture, the lands became part of Scotland, rather than a crown dependency.

James IV ordered Finlaggan demolished, its buildings razed, and the coronation stone destroyed, to discourage any attempts at restoration of the Lordship. When Martin Martin (author of *A Description of Western Islands of Scotland*) visited Islay in the late 15th century he recorded a description of the coronations Finlaggan had once seen. John MacDonald was exiled from his former lands, and his former subjects now considered themselves to have no superior except the king. A charter was soon sent from the Scottish King confirming this state of affairs; it declared that Skye and the Outer Hebrides are to be considered independent from the rest of the former Lordship, leaving only Islay and Jura remaining in the comital unit.

Traces Through World History

The main base of the MacLeans was on Mull, but MacLean of Duart acquired extensive lands on Islay as well. It has been suggested that they were given to him by John MacDonald II late in the 15th century in compensation for those he lost in Ross when the earldom was forfeited in 1475. They included some of the best arable land on the island and the island settlement in Loch Ballygrant, which was presumably MacLean's Islay residence. This grant was to cause much trouble in future years with the main MacDonald kindred on Islay.

Other Islay families included the MacGillespies (sons of the bishop) who were Crown tenants of Finlaggan after the demise of the Lordship. Dougal MacGillespie was one of the baillies of Islay in 1499.

The McDonald's loss of the Islay estates would be precipitated by a feud which broke out with the MacLeans of Duart over lands in the Rhinns of Islay. The MacLean's possession of parts of Islay probably goes back to the closing years of the lordship of the Isles, and it is possible that they were given their Islay holdings by John MacDonald II, Lord of Islay. However it may be that the MacLeans had taken more of the Rhinns than they were entitled to. The MacLean family had been granted land in Jura in 1390, by the MacDonalds, and in 1493 had thus been seen as the natural replacement for them, leading to a branch of the MacLeans being granted Dunyvaig Castle by King James, and expanding into Islay. Naturally, the restoration of the MacDonalds created some hostility with the MacLeans; in 1549, after observing that Islay was fertile, fruitful, and full of natural pastures, with good hunting and plentiful salmon and seals, Dean Monro describes Dunyvaig, and Loch Gorm Castle "now usurped be M'Gillayne of Doward" (MacLean of Duart).

James MacDonald of Dunyvaig was rewarded by the Scottish Government in 1545 with lands in Islay and Jura and the Island of Colonsay. However land entitlements by the MacLeans continued to complicate things. Euchuinn (Hector) Mor MacLean (our 14th great grandfather), the 12th Chief of Clan MacLean, married Mary MacDonald of Islay in about 1520. Euchuinn's brother Allan MacLean had an illegitimate son named Hector MacLean who was granted a charter by Queen Mary for certain lands in Islay and elsewhere in about 1552. But, a judgement was brought against the MacLeans at the Privy council in 1564. In 1578 the MacLeans had to be evicted from Loch Gorm Castle by the MacDonalds, backed by a force led by the Earl of Argyll.

The Isle of Islay had belonged to Clan MacDonald whose leader was Sir James MacDonald, of Dunnyveg. But Sir Lachlan Mor MacLean (our 13th great grandfather), 14th Chief of Clan MacLean, claimed that the island belonged to his clan and landed about 800 to 1,000 men at Loch Ghruinneart which would lead to the Battle of Traigh Ghruinneart on August 5, 1598. MacDonald offered his uncle half of the island for MacLean's lifetime only, but he refused unless he received the entire island. James MacDonald had fewer troops but they were well trained. Allies to the Clan MacDonald sent men from Kintyre and Arran, including Clan MacAlister, which were led by Angus MhicMhuirich of Arran. MacDonald's forces feigned retreat toward the setting sun then turned around to fight with the sun in the eyes of their enemy. The MacDonalds were victorious and the MacLeans were defeated. A dwarf named Dubh Sith (Black Fairy) was hidden in a tree and he killed Sir Lachlan Mor MacLean on August 5, 1598 with a shot through his eye after he had removed his helmet. With Sir Lachlan Mor MacLean and about 280 of his men killed in battle, the rest were chased to their boats and some sought refuge

Traces Through World History

in the chapel of Kilnave. The chapel was burnt down, killing all but one of the men inside. Sir James MacDonald was seriously wounded after being shot through the body with an arrow. He was found after the battle amongst the dead MacDonalds, which also included Angus MhicMhuirich of Arran. About 30 MacDonalds were slain and 60 wounded.

However, when Sorley Boy MacDonnell (of the Islay MacDonalds) had a clash with the Irish branch of the MacLeans, and the unpopularity of the MacDonalds in Edinburgh (where their use of Gaelic was regarded as barbaric), weakened their grip on their southern Hebridean possessions. In 1608, coupled with MacDonald hostility to the Scottish reformation, this led the Scottish-English Crown to mount an expedition to subdue them. In 1614 the crown handed Islay to Sir John Campbell of Cawdor, in return for an undertaking to pacify it; this the Campbells eventually achieved. Under Campbell influence, shrieval authority was established under the sheriff of Argyll. With inherited Campbell control of the sheriffdom, comital authority was relatively superfluous, and the provincial identity of Islay-Jura faded away.

Archibald Campbell, 5th Earl of Argyll was a strong supporter of the Reformation, but there is little evidence that his beliefs were greeted with much enthusiasm by the islanders initially. At first there were only two Protestant churches but in 1642 three parishes were created, based at Kilchoman, Kilarrow and a new church at Dunyvaig. By the end of the century there were seven churches including one on Nave Island. Kilarrow Parish Church, built in 1767 by Daniel Campbell when he was Laird of Islay, is round and such, as local folklore has it, has no corner in which the devil could hide. However, at that time, the people of Islay still adhered to Catholicism. Islay proved to be fertile territory for Irish Franciscan missionaries in the first half of the 17th century who claimed to have gained many converts and to have encouraged many existing Catholics. The converts included John Campbell of Cawdor, Laird of Islay, and other members of his family.

The situation was soon complicated by the Civil War, when Archibald, the head of the most powerful branch of the Campbells, was the de facto head of Covenanter government, while other branches (and even Archibald's son) were committed Royalists. A Covenanter army under Sir David Leslie arrived on Islay in 1647, and besieged the royalist garrison at Dunnyvaig, laying waste to the island. It was not until 1677 that the Campbells felt sufficiently at ease to construct Islay House at Bridgend to be their principal, and unfortified, island residence.

By the 17th century the power of Clan Donald on Islay had waned, and improvements to agriculture and transport would lead to a rising population. At the beginning of the 18th century much of the population of Argyll was to be found dispersed in small clachans of farming families and only two villages of any size, Killarow near Bridgend and Lagavulin, existed on Islay at the time. Killarow had a church and tollbooth and houses for merchants and craft workers but was razed in the 1760s to "improve" the grounds of Islay House. The agricultural economy was dependent on arable farming including staples such as barley and oats supplemented with stock-rearing. The carrying capacity of the island was recorded at over 6,600 cows and 2,200 horses in a 1722 rental listing.

John Campbell of Cawdor was suffering some financial difficulties in 1716 and sold his lands in Islay and Jura to Daniel Campbell of Shawfield in 1726. Following the Jacobite insurrections, the Heritable Jurisdictions Act abolished comital authority, and Campbell control

Traces Through World History

of the sheriffdom; they could now only assert influence as Landlords.

By the second decade of the 19th century, the need for further agricultural improvements still remained but it had ceased to be the primary problem. Prosperity had brought its own difficulties in the form of a population that was growing rapidly, in part at least because more children survived infancy than in the past.

Although the Kilchoman Parish kirk had existed for many decades, apparently no records of births and marriages appear to have been kept prior to 1821. So there is little record evidence available for the people of the parish prior to that time.

In 1826 there was a Select Committee formed to investigate the possibility of encouraging emigration as a means of alleviating overpopulation in the western Highlands and Islands. However, Walter Campbell preferred to solve land pressures by persuading the surplus population to move to villages.

The agricultural lands on the island had become too overpopulated. At first, this would trigger a trend to move some of the population into the villages. The villages of Port Ellen, Port Charlotte, Port Wemyss and Kiells were all designed to provide nonagricultural employment, in fishing, distilling, weaving and the provisions of services. A new village began in 1828 on the eastern side of Loch Indall, expanding the site of the earlier changehouse and malt mill at Skiba or Sgiba on Port-na-Dronnaig. It would be named for Walter Campbell's mother as Port Charlotte. It had a number of functions including distilling, fishing and the provision of services. In most of the villages, however, tenants had moved from the country into single or two-storey houses. At the time of the 1841 census, the villages accounted for an increasing proportion of the total island population.

The land owners took various steps to find alternative employment for the people in the villages, but it is apparent that their preferred solution was normally to encourage and assist them gradual emigration. But in a few cases on Islay the clearances were as sudden and revolutionary as it they elsewhere in the Highlands and Western Islands. Of the few sudden clearances that did take place, Kilchiaran is perhaps the best example. In 1825 there were only 17 direct tenants names in the rental. The rental for the following year however gives only the names of two brothers, Duncan and James Campbell. Eleven of the former tenants moved into the adjacent townships of Gearach, Olistadh and Consiby, or to the new village of Port Charlotte. The remainder presumably migrated further or left the island.

A defining aspect of 19th century Argyll was the gradual improvement of transport infrastructure. Roads were built, the Crinan canal shortened the sea distance to Glasgow and the numerous traditional ferry crossings were augmented by new quays. Rubble piers were built at several locations on Islay and a new harbor was constructed at Port Askaig. Initially, a sense of optimism in the fishing and cattle trades prevailed and the population expanded, partly as a result of the 18th century kelp boom and the introduction of the potato as a staple. The population of the island had been estimated at 5,344 in 1755 and grew to over 15,000 by 1841.

The staple human foods on Islay had for many decades been barely and oats. But in the early 19th century, as in Ireland, there was too heavy of reliance being placed on the potato, which had spread rapidly throughout the Western Highlands and Islands, and which tended to replace barley and oats as human foodstuff. For the tenants and the landlords, the effects of the potato

Traces Through World History

disease would be demonstrated in brutal fashion in the 1830s and 1840s. In 1835 the potato crop throughout the region had nearly failed. That should have served as a warning. Walter Campbell would then report in August 1845 that potato disease had been first observed on Islay at Port Ellen.

Walter Frederick Campbell was to lose control of Islay's affairs in 1848 and the island passed into different ownership a few years later. After thirty years with Walter Campbell as Laird, and after 120 years in Shawfield ownership, the Islay estate was sequestered, and from January 5, 1848 until the end of August 1853, it was administered by James Brown, an Edinburgh accountant. During this time, James Brown was responsible for several further clearances. The Islay estate was widely advertized, and put up for sale in November 1848.

The Islay estate was sold in 1853 to James Morrison of Berkshire, ancestor of the third Baron Margadale, who still owns a substantial portion of the island. The sundering of the relationship between the landowners and the island's residents proved consequential. When the estate owners realized they could make more money from sheep farming than from the indigenous small farmers, wholesale clearances became commonplace. Four hundred people emigrated from Islay in 1863 alone, some for purely economic reasons, but many others having been forced off the land their predecessors had farmed for centuries.

Islay folks were very clannish and they preferred to settle near one another for support in work, worship and their social life. This would prove true even in their emigration to Canada. They would find a new place in Canada and would settle on lands close to one another. They came together if help was needed to build barns, the first schools and churches. Often the 2nd and 3rd generation of these new Canadians married children of their Islay neighbors, and the wedding celebrations were great occasions to socialize. But the Isle of Islay was never far from their hearts, and they celebrated their heritage by using the name of "Islay" to name their children, roads and communities.

John McLean's Y-DNA Roots

My mother's brother Ron McLean was kind enough to volunteer to get the Y-DNA test for himself. This is important because it reveals the ancient DNA of our Islay ancestor John McLean. Ron's results reveals an absence of any matches with the surname McLean. This means two things: (1) John McLean's male line does not descend from Clan McLean; and (2) it probably means there is a Non-Paternal Event (NPE) in this male line also.

The source of John McLean's ancient DNA is Haplogroup I-M253. Generally this is not a haplogroup associated with Celtic (Scottish/Irish) lines of descent. This Haplogroup is the most common type of haplogroup in northern Europe. It is found mostly in Scandinavia and Finland, where it typically represent over 35% of the Y chromosomes. Today it reaches its peak frequencies in Sweden. It is generally associated with the Norse ethnicity. This means that John McLean's line of descent possibly comes from Viking invaders of the Western Isles. According to geneticist Bryan Sykes, in his book, *Saxons, Vikings, and Celts, The Generic Roots of Britain and Ireland*, it can also mean that John McLean descends from the indigenous people of Scotland that were known as the Picts. Like the Irish Gaels, the Picts were of Celtic ethnicity. This

Traces Through World History

haplogroup is not at all unusual in Scotland as Robert I of Scotland, commonly known as Robert the Bruce, belonged to this haplogroup.

The surname McLean may have entered into John McLean's male line simply by a male ancestor taking the name for himself. This may have been because: (1) he supported the political and cultural causes of Clan McLean; (2) he might have served as a "fighting man" in a Clan McLean military campaign; and (3) he may have been a tenant farmer on estate lands in which the landowner was member of Clan McLean. Also in Scottish tradition if a wife was of noble birth or an inheritor of estate lands and title and her husband was of lowly birth, the children were often given the wife's surname.

In Ron's Y-DNA results, there is a distinct absence in the surnames of matches of persons with Scottish/Celtic names. The only exception to this was one matched to a "Campbell" and one match to a "Gillespie." Both of these surnames are readily associated with the Isle of Islay. But the closest match in the results was to a Campbell. It is my theory that John McLean may actually descend from the Campbells or Gillespies of Islay. However, far more persons would have to get Y-DNA tests so that further matches can be evaluated to make this anything beyond speculation.

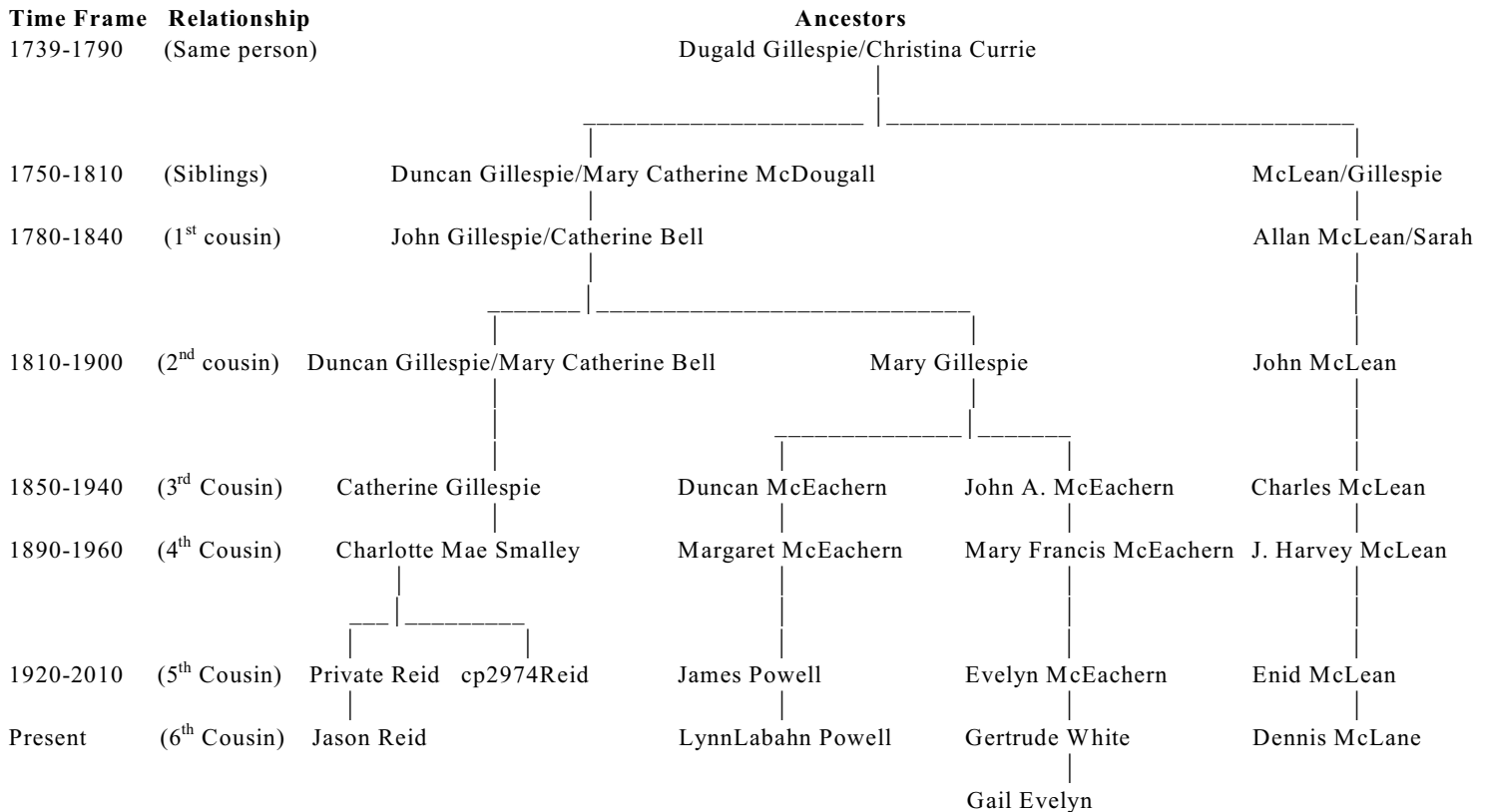
Relationship Between the Gillespies and McLeans according to estimated DNA matches

The Ancestry/DNA Matches to me (Dennis McLane) are as follows:

<u>Ancestry Match ID</u>	<u>Ancestry Estimated Relationship</u>
Jason Reid	5 th to 8 th cousin
cp2974Reid	4 th to 6 th cousin
James Powell	5 th to 8 th cousin
LynnLabahn Powell	5 th to 8 th cousin
Gail Evelyn	4 th to 6 th cousin

Traces Through World History

Chart Showing Potential Relationships



Our Related Islay People

McLeans

From the history of Islay it can be seen that the surname McLean has been present on Islay for several centuries. Dr. David H. Caldwell provides the following in his work *The Ilich – People of Islay* in regards to the early presence of the MacLeans of Duart on Islay:

The MacDonalds of Dunyvaig also had to contend on Islay with the MacLeans of Duart (Mull). MacLean land-holding on the island extended back to the period of the Lords of the Isles when they had been granted the land of Torlissay (unidentified, but probably in the Rhinns). In 1542, however, Hector MacLean of Duart received a grant of substantial lands in Islay from King James V. It was alleged that these lands were his by right of inheritance, but that the writs had been destroyed by Angus Og, the heir of John II Lord of the Isles (died 1490). Included amongst them were lands around Loch Gorm in the Rhinns where there was a castle on an island. It was described in 1549 by Donald Monro, Dean of the Isles, as a MacDonald Castle which had been usurped by the MacLeans.

It is impossible now to assess fairly the strength or legitimacy of the MacLeans' claim, one which they may have first raised in 1506 when John MacIan and a committee of royal commissioners were making up a rental for Islay and other lands in the Lordship of the Isles. It does seem astonishing that after a lapse

Traces Through World History

of over fifty years they should have had their version of events so readily accepted. The consequence was a long running and bitter feud with the MacDonalds of Islay. The MacDonalds succeeded in pushing the MacLeans out but in so doing they gained the opprobrium of King James VI and irrevocably lost their Scottish estates in the early years of the seventeenth century.

As with the lands held by the MacLans' so with the MacLeans' – there is little evidence of an influx of MacLeans and their supporters from elsewhere. The rental of 1541 only notes two Macleans, a John MacLean who was given the tenancy of the land of Clagenoch, then bordered on both sides by lands described as 'waste', and a Marion MacLean, tenant of Nosebridge and Roskern. On the other hand, the account of the MacLean-MacDonald feud given in Sir Robert Gordon's History of the Earldom of Sutherland does suggest there was a body of MacLean supporters on the island in the late sixteenth century prepared to mediate in solving the dispute without bloodshed. Perhaps there was a larger influx of MacLean supporters into Islay than can be verified from surviving documents.

The potential relationship with the Gillespies implies that the more recent history of the McLeans on Islay is estimated to go back at least until about 1750. Further, the evidence all points to the McLeans origins on Islay to be in the Parish of Kilchoman. Unfortunately because the Old Parish Register for Kilchoman does not start until about 1821, there is not much of a paper trail to record their history. However, a few websites and other sources have included "rental lists" for Islay that tell a somewhat anecdotal history of the McLeans. However, it should be understood that the rental lists include only a small portion of the names of persons who lived on Islay. They represent those who were in the "tenant class." They were those who actually paid the rent to the landlord for use of a particular piece of farmland. The larger part of the population were in the "Crofter" or "Cottar" class. These were people who performed as agricultural laborers who exchanged their laborer for a place to live (the cottage). They tended to serve at the pleasure of the tenant. So the rental lists provide only a small glimpse of the movements of families of a certain surname through the years.

There are a few sources of information about the location of McLean families at various times starting with the *Stent Book of Islay for 1718 - 1843*. This source lists the names of persons who constituted the Hebridean Agricultural Society of Islay that was also known as "The Islay Parliament." In this source there is a John McLean found in the farmland Coultorsay (Octomore) in the parish of Kilchoman in about 1840 with a term of 1788-1832. There is also Allan McLean with term of service noted as 1798. Then there is a Captain Colin McLean of Laggan in Kilarrow Parish listed as a grazier with a term of service 1830-1842.

In the Islay rent roll for the parish of Kilchoman for 1733 is found an Archibald McLean who was the tenant at Koningsbay, Octomore, changehouse & malt kiln, malt kiln at Glassens, miln of Skiba and Gartahar. Octomore and these other place names are just north of the area of Skiba that would later become the Village of Port Charlotte.

In the Islay rent roll for the parish of Kilchoman for 1741 is found an Alan McLean who was the tenant at Carnglassansy (Glasassans) and Olista; a Hector McLean who was the tenant at Gerrich; a Donald McLean who was the tenant at Koningbay (Conisby); and a John McLean who was a tenant at Leekgrunart.

The Rentals on Islay for 1798-1799 indicates there was a Archibald McLean at Uiskinturie; a John McLean at Octofad (Ochtafad), Gortantord, Dunielbeg; and a Mrs. McLean at Gearach who later moved to Ellister.

Traces Through World History

The 1811 tenants record for Islay is unique as it shows the location of McLean families just prior to our ancestor John McLean's estimated birth in 1812. This shows a Charles McLean at Gortantoid/Dudilbeg (Ochtafad) and a Mrs. McLean at Gearach.

The 1817 Rental List shows a Hugh and Samuel McLean at Uistantuie (Uiskintuie)(a point of land just north of Port Charlotte); a Charles McLean at Gortantoid (Ochtafad); a Alexander McLean at Esknish (this place name is associated with the Parish of Kilmeny, but it is clearly listed in later lists as being in Kilchoman); and a John McLean at Gearach.

In 1822, there was an Alex McLean/Christian Gillespie living at Cultorsa (Octomore).

The rental list called the "1828 Black Book" shows Colin McLean at Laggan in Kilarrow; John and Malcolm McLean at Esknish; Hugh and Samuel McLean at Uiskintuie; and John McLean at Coulabus (Cullabolls).

The 1836 Islay Tenants rental list for Kilchoman provides a picture of family locations just prior to the 1841 Scotland census. In this source a Hugh McLean and "Widow" S. McLean are found at Uiskintuie and a John and Malcolm McLean are found at Esknish.

The book *Islay People* has a section that lists name of persons found in other sources. It identifies a Hugh McLean who was born in 1836 and died in 1911. His wife is identified as Rachel Gillespie and they were married in about 1868. There is also listed a Catherine McLean who married an Alexander Ferguson in about 1833, went to Canada in 1855, and died in 1863.

Again these are all somewhat anecdotal, but they do illustrate some McLean family movements. In review, believing that the parents of John McLean and Archibald McLean were an Allan McLean and a Sarah McLean did not in anyway directly match up to any of these anecdotal records. In fact, the presence of the name Allan McLean was somewhat scarce. However, it is possible that the "Widow S. McLean" in the 1836 rental list could have been a Sarah McLean, but then again that person might be the widow of "Samuel McLean" who was the tenant at the same place in 1825.

It is my belief that our Great Great Grandfather John McLean had a brother named Archibald who was his neighbor in Minto Township, Wellington County, Ontario. In Archibald's Ontario marriage record his parents were identified as Alan McLean and Sarah McLean. From records in Ontario, I estimated that John was born about 1812 and Archibald was born about 1814. After my study of Islay to Minto emigrants, I am now confident that John and Archibald were from the Parish of Kilchoman on Islay. Looking through the anecdotal records for Kilchoman shows that there is a focus on the farmlands that are near or adjacent to the Village of Port Charlotte. It is my belief that John and Archibald had most likely emigrated to Canada in the 1840s and were probably in Wellington County, Ontario by the 1851 Canada census. However, a definitive record has not been found in that census for them.

The most definitive record on Islay would not occur until the 1841 Scotland census. It is my belief that John and Archibald were still present in Kilchoman in 1841. There are about 39 households that include persons with the surname McLean in the Kilchoman Parish in the 1841 census. So my search through those records was to hopefully find a household headed by an Allan and Sarah McLean that had children named John, born in about 1812, and Archibald born about 1816. After perusing all 39 households, I found only one household headed up by an Allan McLean with a wife named Mary. This Allan was born about 1814 which was too young to have

Traces Through World History

been a father to John and Archibald. I therefore assumed that their potential parents Allan and Sarah were most likely deceased by the time the 1841 census was taken.

So I continued the search for a household that included some single persons named John, born about 1812, and an Archibald, born about 1814. Out of the 39 households, only one fit the search parameters. It was the household of a John McLean (age 55) and Margaret McLean (age 50). It was not a typical household. The typical household would be a husband and wife followed by their non-adult children listed in birth order not more than 2 to 3 years apart. Further, this household was in a house in the Village of Port Charlotte rather than on a farm location. Besides John and Margaret, there was listed: a John (age 30, estimate birth year 1811); a Donald (age 25); an Archibald (age 25, estimated birth year 1816); a Janet (age 20); a Margaret (age 10); and a Marrion (age 8). With an age spread of about 22 years from the oldest to the youngest, this was most unusual for a household. It is my opinion that the younger persons, Janet, Margaret, and Marrion were most likely the children of the heads of household John and Margaret. Although this John and Margaret were old enough to be the parents of John, Donald, and Archibald, I have doubts that they were. As a village household, John and Margaret may have taken in these older single males into their household. John and Margaret may actually be relatives, perhaps uncle and aunt. The head of household John was shown to be a blacksmith. The Donald in the household was also a blacksmith. However, John was a preacher and Archibald was a shoemaker.

Being a “preacher” would imply that this John McLean had the ability to read and write. You can hardly be a preacher without the ability to read Bible scriptures and be able to write to formulate your sermons. Our Great Great Grandmother, Mary McKinnon was in possession of a Bible published in Canada in the Gaelic language at the time of her death in 1904. This Bible may have originally belonged to John McLean. While some Minto Township sources revealed that much of the Scottish immigrants could not read or write, our John McLean must have had these abilities since he purchased a Bible sometime after his arrival in Canada. So the idea of him being a preacher makes some sense.

The other factor that makes this 1841 census household all the more likely to be the correct one, is that this same household can be found in the 1851 census, still in Port Charlotte, except the names of John McLean and Archibald McLean were then conspicuously absent, which would coincide with the possibility that they had left Port Charlotte for Canada between the 1841 Census and the 1851 Census.

In my perusal of various Islay records, I never came across a combination of an Allan McLean and a Sarah McLean. However, I did find a death record for a Mary McLean who was born about 1810, married to a Donald McAulay and died August 1, 1869 at Portnahaven (near Port Charlotte). In that record her parents were identified as Allan McLean and Marrion McLellan. Note that the Scottish name “Marrion” is often found to be equivalent to the English name “Sarah.” Her birth year would place her in the same generation as John and Archibald McLean. But that connection is at best, sketchy.

Traces Through World History

Gillespies

From the history of Islay it can be seen that the surname Gillespie, like McLean, has been present on Islay for several centuries. Dr. David H. Caldwell provides the following in his work *The Ilich – People of Islay* in regards to the early presence of the MacGillespies on Islay:

One such tenant was Donald MacGillespie who held Finlaggan and two other nearby lands. His grave-slab is still at the ruined chapel at Finlaggan and demonstrates his status. He is dressed in armour and has a representation of a galley beneath his feet. It was with such galleys that Clan Donald maintained their dominance in the seas around Islay and across the North Channel to Ireland.

Donald MacGillespie's father is given on his grave-slab as Patrick, otherwise unrecorded. He may have been descended from Dougald MacGillespie who witnessed a charter of the Lord of the Isles on Islay in 1479 and was one of the temporary sheriffs appointed in 1499 to give sasine of Islay lands to MacIain of Ardnamurchan. His son Malcolm was parson of Kilchoman and chaplain of Finlaggan.

It is tempting to speculate that the MacGillespies might have been keepers of Finlaggan in the days of the Lordship. It is probable that Donald MacGillespie lived in a small two storey house rebuilt from the ruins of the residence of the Lords, and surrounded by the barns and houses of a farming township. There were still MacGillespies at Finlaggan in the 1630s, but then reduced to the rank of joint tenants.

The Islay rentals for the 1630s included the surname MacGillespie.

DNA matches indicate that our Great Great Grandfather John McLean is a descendant of the Gillespies on Islay. It is estimated that his mother Sarah could have possibly been a Gillespie, or he may have had a Gillespie grandmother or great grandmother. Courtesy of a public member tree posted on Ancestry.com, our oldest known Gillespie ancestors may have been Dugald Gillespie and Christine Currie. They were born about 1740 and 1735 respectively.

In the Islay rent roll for the parish of Kilchoman for 1741 is found an Archibald and Dugald Gillespie at Kongsbay (Conisby). This would have been within the life span of our possible ancestor Dugald Gillespie. According to the above "Chart Showing Potential Relationships," it may have been a Gillespie daughter of Dugald Gillespie and Christina Currie that may have married a McLean. Dugald Gillespie and Christina Currie were known to have had two sons: Duncan and Archibald. So the daughter which may have married a McLean would have been the sister of these persons. So it is my belief that our ancestral Gillespie family had their origins at the farmland called Conisby in the Parish of Kilchoman on the Isle of Islay. There is a gravestone recorded for a Dugald Gillespie in the Kilchoman cemetery with a death year of about 1820.

Our possible ancestor, Duncan Gillespie, was born about 1745. He married Mary Catherine McDougall in about 1764. They would have seven children between 1765 and 1801. His brother Archibald Gillespie was born about 1772. He married a Catherine Gillespie in about 1800. They had at least five children between 1801 and 1811.

The 1811 Tenants Records show a Malcolm and Dugald Gillespie at Conisby; a John Gillespie and the heirs of Archibald Gillespie at Kilnave; a John and Archibald Gillespie at Lower Lorgbaw (later Port Charlotte); and an A. Gillespie at Gruinart. This "A. Gillespie" is thought to be the Archibald Gillespie/Catherine Gillespie family who were long term residents at Conisby. Their son Archibald was born about 1810 and married Janet McDermaid. They would

Traces Through World History

have eight children from 1822 to 1836 while living at Gruinart.

Our possible ancestors Duncan Gillespie/Mary Catherine McDougall probably resided at Conisby in the earlier part of their lives. Their son Archibald was born about 1765 and he married Margaret McConnel.

Duncan Gillespie and Mary Catherine McDougall's son Donald Gillespie (the elder) was born about 1783 and he married Isabella McVicar in 1818 at Kilarrow. They would have eleven children from 1821 to 1840 and reside at Conisby. They are found in the 1841 and 1851 Census at Conisby.

Duncan Gillespie and Mary Catherine McDougall's son Dugald Gillespie was born about 1791 and married Mary McEachern in 1813 at the Kilchiaran Chapel in Kilchoman. They were known to have four children between 1822 and 1831. They resided at Conisby.

The 1817 Rental List shows a Dugald and Archibald Gillespie at Kilchiaran; an Alexander Gillespie, Senior and Alexander Gillespie, Junior at Conisby; an Archibald Gillespie at Lower Lorgbaw (later Port Charlotte); a John Gillespie at Octomore; the widow of Archibald Gillespie, John Gillespie, Senior and John Gillespie, Junior, Duncan Gillespie, Donald Gillespie and Donald's mother all at Kilnave; and a Duncan Gillespie at Coulibuss.

Duncan Gillespie and Mary Catherine McDougall's son Donald Gillespie (the younger) was born about 1801 and married Catherine McMillan in 1823 at Kilarrow. They had eight children between 1823 and 1839 and resided at Coullabus (Culabolls). They are found in the 1841 and Census at Coullabus.

Duncan Gillespie and Mary Catherine McDougall's daughter Catherine Gillespie was born about 1801 and she married Angus Cameron in 1822 at Kilarrow. They would have six children from 1822 to 1832 while living in the Parish of Kilchoman. They would be early emigrants to McNab Township in Ontario, Canada in about 1834 where they would have two more children.

Duncan Gillespie and Mary Catherine McDougall's son John Gillespie was born about 1778 and he would marry Catherine Bell at Kilchoman in 1826. John Gillespie and Catherine Bell were living at Kindrachat (Ballynaby) at the time of their marriage. They would have one child while living at Gearrach, but the next ten children would be born from 1829 to 1852 while they were living in Port Charlotte. They are found in the 1841 and 1851 census at Port Charlotte.

The rental list called the "1828 Black Book" shows: Alexander Gillespie, Senior and Alexander Gillespie, Junior and Archibald Gillespie at Conisby; Duncan, John, and Donald Gillespie at Kilnave; Archibald Gillespie at Lower Lorgbaw (later Port Charlotte); the heirs of John Gillespie and the Widow A. Gillespie at Octomore; Archibald Gillespie at Gruinart; and Duncan Gillespie at Coulabus.

The 1836 Islay Tenants rental list for Kilchoman shows: Archibald Gillespie at Lower Lorgbaw (Port Charlotte); Donald, Alexander and Niel Gillespie at Conisby; Duncan, John, and Donald Gillespie at Kilnave; Duncan Gillespie at Coulabus; Archibald Gillespie at Gruinart; Archibald Gillespie at Corsapool; and Duncan Gillespie at Lyrabus.

There were other Gillespies found throughout Kilchoman in miscellaneous sources. In 1821 there was a John Gillespie/Janet McNiven with their daughter Mary at Bunanuilt. From about 1821 to 1836, Archibald Gillespie/Mary McNiven with children Malcolm, Mary, and

Traces Through World History

Alexander were at Corsapool. An Archibald Gillespie was at Corsapool in 1838; and a Donald Gillespie was at Conisby from 1838-42. There was an Alexander Gillespie/Catherine McLean in Conisby in 1840.

Specifically, in the 1841 Census are found the following families with their ages in parentheses:

- Donald Gillespie (the elder)(50)/Isabella McVicar (40) and children: Robert (20), Archibald (10); Duncan (8), Angus (6), Donald (5), Margaret (15), Christy (12), Bell (8), Betsy (5), and Catherine (1) at Conisby. Donald's occupation was a farmer.
- Donald Gillespie (the younger)(40)/Catherine McMillan (35) and children: Catherine (15), Mary (13), Margaret (11), Duncan (9), Flora (7), Janet (5), and Isabella (2) at Coullabus (Culabolls). Donald's occupation was a farmer.
- John Gillespie (50) /Catherine Bell (30) and children: Alexander (20), Duncan (14), Mary (10), Angus (9), Margaret (7), Christian (5), and Jean (3) at Port Charlotte. John's occupation was a joiner (building carpenter).
- Archibald Gillespie (40)/Mary Kennedy (30) and their children: Alexander (13), Robert (16), Mary (8), Donald (5), John (3), Donald (1) at Gartacharra. Archibald's occupation was a wright (meaning worker or shaper of wood).
- Archibald (found as John in census) Gillespie(50)/Janet (found as Margaret in census) McDermaid (50) and their children: Alexander (15), Anne (10), Margaret (10), John (5), and Malcolm (5) in Conisby. Archibald's occupation was an agricultural laborer.
- Donald Gillespie (55)/Mary McLellan (45) and their children: John (15), Margaret (15), and Nancy (10), at Kilnave. Donald's occupation was a tacksman. (Meaning a tenant or lease-holder of the land.) So this most definitely was the Donald Gillespie shown as a tenant at Kilnave in the 1836 Islay Tenants rental list for Kilchoman.

Specifically, in the 1851 Census are found the following families with their ages in parentheses:

- Donald Gillespie (50)/Catherine McMillan (49) and their children: Margaret (20), Duncan (18), and Flora (16) at Coullabus. Donald's occupation was as a farmer of 27 acres.
- John Gillespie (60)/Catherine Bell (44) and their children: Duncan (23), Margaret (16), Jean (13) at Port Charlotte. John's occupation was a cartwright and farmer of 4 acres.
- Archibald Gillespie (50)/Mary Kennedy (42) and their children: Robert (19), Mary (17), Donald (15), John (12), and Piencien (10) at Port Charlotte. Archibald's occupation was a cartwright.
- Archibald (found as John in census) Gillespie (66)/Janet McDermaid (62) with their children: John (27), Mary (23), Ann (20) in Conisby. Archibald's occupation was a farmer of 5 acres.

In addition, the following are families found in the 1841/1851 census that are related to the Gillespies:

Traces Through World History

- Margaret Gillespie, daughter of John Gillespie and Catherine Bell would marry Neil White in Minto Township, Ontario in 1858. Neil White was the son of John White and Ann Jane McGillvray. John White (30)/Ann Jane McGillvray (30) are found in the 1841 Census with their children: Mary (10), James (6), Neil (2), and Duncan (1) at Portweemys in Portnahaven Parish on the Isle of Islay. John's occupation was a mason. Neil White/Margaret Gillespie are significant as they would later be living on a farm next door to our ancestor John McLean in Minto Township.
- Ann Gillespie, daughter of Archibald Gillespie and Janet McDermaid married Donald McCannell in December 1851 at Kilchoman. Donald McCannell was the son of Donald McCannell and Flora (surname unknown). Donald McCannell (65)/Flora (54) are found in the 1851 Census with their children: Flora (26), Alexander (18), Donald (16), and Lachlan (12) at Grinlinbeay. Donald McCannell, Senior, occupation was a farmer of 7 acres. Donald McCannell/Ann Gillespie are significant as they would occupy a farm in Minto Township in the same vicinity as the McLeans and Gillespies.

Bells

Members of the Bell family in Islay are inter-married with our related Gillespie family. For example, John Gillespie was married to a Catherine Bell in 1826 in Kilchoman, however the names of her parents are not known. Further, their son Duncan Bell was married to a Mary Catherine Bell in 1858 in Minto Township, Ontario. Her parents were Angus Bell and Catherine McCarmaig (McCormick). Angus Bell's parents were Duncan Bell and Mary Sinclair who were married at Kilarrow on Islay in 1800. Also, our ancestor John McLean's brother Archibald McLean married a Catherine Bell in Erin Township, Ontario in 1861. Her grandparents were this same Duncan Bell/Mary Sinclair.

The Rentals on Islay for 1798-1799 indicates there was an Archibald Bell at Conisby. The 1811 Tenants Records show Archibald and Duncan Bell at Conisby and a Murdoch Bell at Coulabus. This is probably the Duncan Bell who was married to Mary Sinclair.

The 1817 Rental List shows a Duncan Bell at Kilchearan, Archibald and his son Duncan Bell at Conisby, Murdoch and William Bell at Coulibus. This indicates that Duncan Bell's father could have indeed been an Archibald Bell.

The rental list called the "1828 Black Book" shows: Archibald Bell and Duncan Bell at Conisby, Duncan Bell at Gearach, and Murdoch and William Bell at Coulabus.

The 1836 Islay Tenants rental list for Kilchoman shows: Angus Bell at Olista, Duncan Bell at Gearach, Murdoch and William Bell at Coulabus/Gruniart, William, Murdoch, Donald and Archibald Bell at Lyrabolls.

It appears from these rental lists that Duncan Bell started out at Conisby and then moved on to Gearach. This is sort of proved by the Bell families found with ages shown in parentheses in the 1841 Census:

- Duncan Bell (79)/Mary Sinclair (80) and their children: Donald (23), Duncan (18), Alexander (17), Duncan (8), and Mary (4) at Gearach. Duncan's occupation was a tenant.

Traces Through World History

It is believed that Duncan (8) and Mary (4) are actually the children of Duncan's brother Angus.

- Neil Bell (son of the above)(34)/Mary Turner (28) and their children: Catherine (5), John (7), and Mary (3 months) at Gearach. Neil's occupation was a tenant.

The Bell families found with ages shown in parentheses in the 1851 Census:

- Duncan Bell(73)/Mary Sinclair (69) and their children: Donald,(32) Mary (20), Duncan (17) and Mary (12) at Gearach. The Mary (12) is believed to be the daughter of Duncan's brother Angus. Duncan's occupation is agricultural laborer.
- Neil Bell (45)/Mary Turner (38) and their children: John (12), Mary (10), Ann (8), and Angus (3 months) at Port Charlotte. Neil's occupation is agricultural laborer.

Fergusons

The Ferguson family is not directly related to our McLean ancestors. However, a few Ferguson families have histories that run parallel to the McLeans. For example, Margaret Ferguson married our Great Grandfather Charles McLean's brother James in North Dakota in about 1887. This Margaret Ferguson was the daughter of Alexander Ferguson and Catherine McLean. Alexander descends from Islay ancestors, while Catherine McLean may descend from McLeans on the Isle of Tiree. Alexander Ferguson and Catherine McLean were married in Grey County, Ontario in 1860. They are found in Proton Township of Grey County, Ontario in the 1861 Canada Census and in Bruce Township of Bruce County, Ontario in the 1881 Canada Census. Alexander Ferguson was born on March 26, 1828 in Kilchoman to Peter James Ferguson and Margaret McEachern.

The Islay rental lists show a scattering of Ferguson's in Kilchoman. The 1811 Tenants Records show a John Ferguson at Tormisdale. The 1817 Rental List shows a Dugald, Senior, Dugald, Junior, and Archibald Ferguson at Tormistle, Allan, Angus, and Neil Ferguson at Portnahaven. The rental list called the "1828 Black Book" shows: Donald, Dugald, and Archibald Ferguson at Tormisdale. The 1836 Islay Tenants rental list for Kilchoman shows: Dugald Ferguson at Conisby, Niel Ferguson at Cairndonachy, Donald, Dugald and Archibald Ferguson at Tormisdale.

Miscellaneous records found in *Islay People* provides that an Alexander Ferguson was married to a Catherine McLean at Kilchoman in 1833.

The following Ferguson families with their ages in parentheses are 1841 and 1851 Scotland Census:

- Peter Ferguson (45)/Margaret McEachern (45) and their children: John (15), Finlay (15), Alexander (9), and Margaret (7) are found in the 1841 census at Omaull (Smaul). Peter's occupation was an agricultural laborer. This family was not found in the 1851 Scotland Census.
- Malcolm Ferguson (40)/Ann McNiven (44) and their children: Donald (15), John (13),

Traces Through World History

Flora (11), Malcolm (8), and Archibald (4) are found in the 1841 census at Portweemys in Portnahaven. Malcolm's occupation was a mason. This family was not found in the 1851 Scotland Census.

- Neil Ferguson (53)/Margaret McEachern (54) and their children: John (30), Mary (15), Janet (13), Ann (11), and Peter (3) are found in the 1841 census at Cladach (Port Charlotte). Neil's occupation was a farmer. This family was not found in the 1851 Scotland Census.
- Donald Ferguson(32)/Rachel McLean (48) or McLergan and their children: Mary (19), Effy (16), John (13), Peggy (10), Rachel (7), and Marrion (3) at found in the 1851 Scotland Census at Foreland. Donald's occupation was an agricultural laborer.
- Alexander Ferguson (50)/Catherine McLean (1811) and their children: Charles, Catherine, Dugald, and Euphemia are found in the 1851 census at Port Weemys. Catherine's father Dugald McLean (70) is also in the household. Alexander's occupation was an agricultural laborer.

Emigration to Canada

It appears that the infamous "highland clearances" did not play a major part in emigration away from the Isle of Islay. Rather economic opportunity would be the enticement that would drive the common Scottish people away to seek their fortunes elsewhere. This pattern of population loss would be a result of adverse conditions, including crop failure, change of landlords, and the immigration of new tenants with new skills during much of the 19th century. Of course the process in the 19th century occasioned a drastic drop in population from 15,000 in about 1830 to 8,000 by the end of the century.

The Lairds of Islay (Campbells) did their best to accommodate the needs of their people. But as the population increased, the size of the common plot of ground would shrink to less than 12 acres and many families would find it difficult to subsist in agriculture. The Lairds created villages, like Port Charlotte in the late 1820s and encouraged the people to move there and develop non-agricultural skills. This can be seen in how some of our related Islay families would be found in Port Charlotte in the years leading up to their emigration.

The first wave of emigration apparently occurred from 1738 to 1740 when nearly five hundred left Islay for the New York Colony. But by the 1830s, Canada would become increasingly attractive for emigration.

Among some of the first to emigrate from Islay to Canada were those who bore the surname McLean. A Donald McLean who was born on Islay in about 1808 went to Canada in 1835 with his brother John McLean. After landing in Quebec, they proceeded to Caledon where they worked for a farmer and did two seasons of employment in a sawmill in Chippawa. In 1838, he and John were able to buy 200 acres in Erin Township of Wellington County, Ontario.

Another John McLean who reportedly was born on Islay came to Canada with his wife and children to Erin Township of Wellington County, Ontario where he bought 200 acres. An Archibald McLean, reportedly born on Islay in 1814 also went to Canada in 1834. He first worked at Caledon before proceeding to Erin Township. Another Donald McLean came to

Traces Through World History

Canada in about 1834 and purchased 100 acres in Erin Township in about 1840.

Angus Cameron and Catherine Gillespie were early emigrants to McNab Township in Ontario, Canada in about 1834.

The story of emigration from Islay to Minto Township is a story of “chain migration” where later emigrants would follow the paths through the same locations as the first emigrants that left Islay. So it appears that from the area of Toronto, the first place many of them lived was in the vicinity or Caledon of Peel County and Erin Township in Wellington County and then later advancing through Arthur Township and finally settling in Minto Township.

Neil White seems to have followed this path in the 1840s. Neil White who was born in 1838 in Portnahaven to John White and Ann McGillivray and went with his parents and family to Canada in about 1846. They first went to Erin Township and then on to Arthur Township of Wellington County in 1847. Neil would marry Margaret Gillespie in 1858 in Minto Township. Neil is found living next to his parents John White and Ann McGilvray in Minto Township in the 1861 Canada Census. Neil had a farm that was right next to the farms of our John McLean and his brother Archibald.

The Malcolm Ferguson and Ann McNiven family were found in Portnahaven in the 1841 Scotland Census. But they would be found in the 1851 Canada Census in the vicinity of Arthur and Minto Townships. So they emigrated to Canada between 1841 and 1851. A John Ferguson, born about 1811 to Neil Ferguson and Margaret McEachern and found in the 1841 Scotland Census in Port Charlotte is found in the 1851 Canada Census in the vicinity of Arthur and Minto Townships.

As our ancestor John McLean and his brother Archibald were found in a Port Charlotte household in the 1841 Scotland Census, but were missing from the 1851 Scotland Census, it seems that they probably emigrated to Canada in the 1840s. They would both be associated with women from Erin Township that they would later marry. So they most likely went to Erin Township first, maybe to join some McLean relatives. They would therefore most likely be found in the 1851 Canada Census somewhere in Erin Township. However the Erin township pages of the 1851 Canada Census are missing. Their first records found in Canada was their applications for Crown Land in Minto Township filed on September 3, 1854. They obviously had to be in Canada and positioned in such a way as to be immediately available for entry into these land claims. So they must have been in Canada at least by 1851.

Archibald McLean married Catherine Bell on October 30, 1861. This record is found in the Ontario County Marriage Registers, 1858-1869 in Peel County. This is the record that identifies Archibald’s parents as Allan McLean and Sarah and Catherine’s parents as Neil Bell and Mary. Archibald’s residence was shown as Minto and Catherine’s as Erin. Her parents, Neil Bell and Mary Turner, and family are found in the 1861 Canada Census in Erin Township. As this Bell family was found in Port Charlotte in the 1851 Scotland Census, they must have emigrated to Erin Township between 1851 and 1861.

Islay People has John Gillespie and Catherine Bell emigrating to Canada in 1853. They were still found in the 1851 Scotland census in Port Charlotte. Also, their son Archibald was born at Kilchoman on December 14, 1852. The first evidence of their arrival at Minto Township was John and Angus Gillespie’s purchase of Crown Land on September 10, 1854. Then next

Traces Through World History

would be the marriage records of their children: Jean to Alexander Campbell in 1855; Duncan to Mary Bell in 1858; Margaret to Neil White in 1858; and Christina to Robert Gillespie in 1859. In the 1861 Canada Census, the following three Gillespie households are found next to each other in Concession C and D of Minto Township: John Gillespie and Catherine Bell; Angus Gillespie and Sarah McClellan; and Duncan Gillespie and Mary Catherine Bell.

Donald McCannell married Ann Gillespie in 1851 in Kilchoman. Their daughter Christina was born at Kilchoman in about 1853. In *A History of Minto Township*, Donald McCannell is listed in the second wave list of Minto settlers who arrived after 1854 and before 1861. This family is found in the 1861 Canada Census in Minto Township and their next three children were reportedly born in Ontario. So they probably emigrated with the Gillespie family in 1853. Ann Gillespie's parents Archibald Gillespie and Janet McDermaid were known to have migrated to Simcoe County, Ontario where they reportedly died.

Islay People has Alexander Ferguson and Catherine McLean going to Canada in 1855. They and their family are found in the 1861 Canada census in Minto Township of Wellington County, Ontario.

A Dugald McDougall who was reportedly born on Islay in 1831 went to Canada in 1858 and settled in Waterloo County, Ontario.

Alexander John Ferguson married Catherine McLean (Tiree born) on October 4, 1860 in Grey County, Ontario. They were found in the 1861 Canada Census in Proton Township of Grey County, Ontario. They were found in the 1881 Canada Census in Bruce Township of Bruce County, Ontario.

Conclusion: When I first began research on our Great Great Grandfather John McLean, I could find very little about his parentage and origins in Scotland. When I published my family history book *Island Roots* in 2002 I could only speculate that he perhaps emigrated from the Isle of Islay in Scotland. This chapter shows the analysis that I did on the community of people he was a part of in Minto Township of Wellington County, Ontario. I identified numerous families that were allied to him (some related) or lived near him in Canada. After doing this, it became ever more clear that his origins were on the Isle of Islay and specifically the Parish of Kilchoman. Further, DNA matches indicated that John McLean was genetically related to the Gillespie family of Kilchoman.

Unfortunately, no direct evidence as to his origins has been located. There is a need for further research. One big missing ingredient is church records for John McLean and his family in Ontario. It would especially be great to be able to find the record of his marriage to Mary McKinnon. But many of the church records for Ontario are housed in two large Church owned archives in Toronto. Those records are not indexed and not available on-line. Research in the records would have to be made in person and in 2021 the Covid Pandemic had caused the border between the U.S. and Canada to be closed and certainly the archives are currently closed as well.

The other records that has never been found for John McLean is either a record for his death and/or a gravestone record. The closest document found for a death record was a March 1895 land transfer document which implied that John McLean was deceased, but it provided no death date. So he likely died between 1893 and 1895. Microfilms of local newspapers are

Traces Through World History

available, but only at the Bruce County Historical Museum in Ontario. So a search for a published obituary would be a recommended task. But that remains impossible as well due to the Pandemic closures.

Sources:

- *Islay, Jura, and Colonsay, A Historical Guide*, David H. Caldwell, Omnia Books Ltd., Glasgow, UK 2001.
- *The Way It Was, A History of Minto Township*, Clifford M. Harrison, Ontario Heritage Foundation, Minto, Ontario, 1978.
- *Islay People, 1650 – 1850*, Gordon Booth, Argyll Colony Plus, Dallas, TX, 1986. A digital version is available in the Family Search (www.familysearch.org) library catalog.
- *Walsh Heritage, A Story of Walsh County and its Pioneers*, Walsh County Historical Society, Grafton, ND, 1976.
- *The Ilich – People of Islay*, Internet Article, David H. Caldwell, at http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~steve/islay/rawdata/islayfamilies.htm#_ednref18
- Islay Genealogy, Vital Statistics for Islay, Argyll, Scotland for records up to 1875, at <http://web.archive.org/web/20080405035838/http://freepages.family.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tlarson/bdm/>.
- Isle of Islay Data Page at <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~steve/islay/data.htm>.
- Bits & Pieces of Raw Data (Islay) at <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~steve/islay/rawdata/index.htm>.
- *Biographical Sketches of Early Settlers of Wellington County*, on-line on Wellington County Genweb site.
- Various Wikipedia articles. A few of the narratives are extractions from Wikipedia articles which I have abridged and edited.
- DNA matches for Dennis McLane in Ancestry.DNA.
- Information on the above named persons can also be found in The Public Members Trees on Ancestry.com.