

Chapter 1 – Introduction

I published *Island Roots, A McLane Family History* in 2001, 18 years ago. Back in those days, genealogical research was much more difficult. I had an urgency then to get the basic story done. While I ended the research I had intended for that book back then, I have continued to learn more and more about our family heritage as those 18 years went by. Programs like Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org continue to digitize additional record sources and indices for those records. In the past five years, there has been a flurry of new sources being posted on-line making it so much easier to get new information about our ancestors. Also in the past decade, the science of DNA has flourished into an untapped source of genealogical information. I have had my autosomal DNA, Mt-DNA and my Y-Chromosome DNA tested. So I thought I would take the opportunity here to share some of what I have learned since then. I will present this material by working forwards from DNA and “ancient history” to the most recent ancient history.

Rather than just publishing a “hard copy” of this addendum, I am also making available a set of PDF document available through a website for those that wish to download and print copies of their own. Genealogy doesn’t become real unless it is shared! So I am sharing it in a way that is of least expense to me in both time and money. I have no pride in authorship and I freely grant you permission to forward this document to others in your family or make hard copies at your own expense. I just wanted you to have the information.

As I worked my way back in research of our ancestors I was able to prove our family lines back several hundred years. This was especially true for our mother’s line. In my first book, *Island Roots*, I speculated that we must have descended from Clan McLean in County Argyll, Scotland since that is where our surname had originated. Since both our father and mother were McLeans, seems like the chances were good. In the end I discovered that the trail to Clan McLean quickly wore out when following that surname specifically. However, I did discover that we indeed may descend from Clan McLean, but it was through the trail that led through our mother’s McDonald ancestors on the Isle of Tiree in County Argyll, Scotland. This ultimately led to our descent from what I call the “Ancient Scottish Pedigree” that is composed of family trees found on the LDS Family Search website.

Our connection to these trees or pedigrees is somewhat nebulous. But it starts with proven ancestors who lived on the Island of Tiree in County Argyll, Scotland. The genealogy paper trail and in some cases DNA matches have shown us to descend from the following families that lived on Tiree in the 1700s: Hugh McDonald/Catherine McNeill (12 generations to Clan McLean); John MacKinnon/Catherine MacKinnon (6 generations to Clan McLean); Allan McLean/Isabel McLean (12 generations to Clan McLean); Neil Lamont/Janet MacLean (8 generations to Clan McLean); Charles Lamont/Mary McDonald; and John Clarke/Mary Lamont.

It was easier to make connections to what I call the “Ancient Icelandic Pedigree.” At first I found the trees for this on the LDS Family Search website. But later I discovered a much more refined version on what is called the Icelandic Roots Database. This database proved to be very accurate and reliable. It takes us back to the year 650 and connects with numerous historical

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“Viking” ancestors.

What I discovered in my research is how our family history is connected to and intertwined with major events in the history of the world. That in and amongst our numerous family trees, I found the trails or traces of world history spreading out before me. Hence the title *Traces Through World History, A Family Saga*. This book contains the life narratives of many historical figures that happen to be our ancestors. These historical figures include kings, queens, jarls (earls), dukes, counts, knights, bishops, priests, governors, chieftains, clan chiefs, law speakers, sheriffs, lawmen, and even a few saints.

What is remarkable is throughout world history our Celtic ,Viking and Norman (descendants of Vikings) ancestors often overlapped creating an admixture of our DNA. Further, this world history is full of wars, battles, rebellions, The Crusades, epidemics, imprisonments, executions, murders, exiling, concubinage, non-paternal events, adultery, illegitimacy, famines, crop failures, volcanic eruptions, ship wrecks, and other events that caused sometimes the early deaths of our ancestors. Yet somehow they lived long enough to pass their DNA to their descendants. It is amazing that our DNA has navigated all these world history events to come down to us this very day.

This book supplements my first book, *Island Roots*, so it therefore serves as *An Addendum to Island Roots* or *Island Roots II*. So this books enhances and expands (and in a few cases corrects some information) in the stories in *Island Roots*.

I couldn't help but write and publish this book for my family members since there is so much I have learned that I hadn't yet shared with others.