

McLean Genealogy

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The name of our ancestors as a clan, trace their origin to Gillean, who flourished about the year 1250. The name Gillean underwent several changes before it became McLean. Scotch history even traces their origin with precision back to the year 1100, but they were not as the "clan McLean" until about 1250.

To the same Gillean was prefixed "Mac". Mac, in Scotch dialect, meaning son, showing that the clan was composed of the sons of Gillean. The "G" in the name was first left off, thus leaving the name "McIllean". Then finally the "Il", was left off, leaving the name McLean or rather Maclean.

Gillean was succeeded by his son, Gille-Isoa, of MacGillian, who died in the year 1300. His successor, Malcolm, third chief of McLean, fought at the head of his clan at the Battle of Bannochburn, June 24, 1314. Malcolm died during the reign of King David Bruce and was succeeded by his son, John, fourth chief. He was called Ian Dubh or Black John. He had very large possessions. He was the father of Lachlan Lubanach from whom descended the McLeans of Duart. On July 12, 1390 dated at Ardtioniash Donald, Second Lord of the Isles, granted to Lachan McLean fifth chief the custody of Duart. He took precautions to have his lands confirmed by charter. Lachlan McLean of Duart, married Mary, daughter of John, Lord of the Isles, by his wife Margaret, who was a daughter of King Robert II of Scotland.

The ancient stronghold of the clan was Duart Castle located upon the northeastern point of the island at the eastern entrance of the Sound of Mull. The castle is one of great note and around it cluster many tales of warfare and piracy. During a period of four hundred years Duart Castle remained in possession of the chiefs of the McLeans. Its last owner was Sir John McLean, 20th chief of his clan and 4th baronet. After being out of the family for over 200 years on September 11, 1911, it was purchased by the present chief of the McLean, Sir Fitzroy Donald McLean, 26 chief of McLean and 10th Baronet of Morven. The gathering of the clan McLean at Duart Castle on August 24, 1912, was a notable event in Highland History, and one which in all probability will never be repeated.

Ephraim McLean was born about 1730 in Ulster or Scotland and came to America in 1748-50, with his brother, Charles, and settled in Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. He was the son of John McLean, of Scotland, whose wife was a stepdaughter of Ephraim Moore, apparently an Ulsterman. He migrated to North Carolina in 1758-60, married in 1760 in Irdell County to Elizabeth Davidson, daughter of George Davidson and Polly Brevard, and sister of General William Lee Davidson [ed. note: should read.. "Elizabeth Davidson, daughter of John Davidson

and the widow Morrison, and first cousin of Gen. William Lee Davidson", son of George Davidson and ___ Simmeral, John and George Davidson were brothers].

He was commissioned in 1770 as Captain of a regiment of Tyron County foot soldiers and in the same year was a member of the commission appointed for location of a county seat and building Tyron County Courthouse. In Tyron County and York District, South Carolina his entries of lands comprised more than 3000 acres. They were members of Old Centre Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the Rowan Committee of Sayet in 1775, and in 1776 was a justice of the peace. When Burke County was cut off in 1777, he represented that county in the General Assembly, and also in the Senate in 1770 (? 1780). He and his brother, Charles, participated in the Battle of the Kings Mountain. In Burke County he entered some 2700 acres of land and was active in furnishing subsistence and transportation to American troops.

Eleven of his twelve children were born along the Catawba River. About 1782, he moved to Harrodsburg Ky., where his youngest son was born, thence in 1783, he removed to the vicinity where Nashville, Tenn., now stands and was commissioned as one of its founders and, represented that (Davidson) County in the North Carolina General Assembly in 1784. He was trustee and treasurer of Davidson Academy, first institution of higher learning in that western country. He entered several thousand acres of land near Nashville and south of that town. Later he returned to Kentucky and spent a period of time there, but returned to his Tennessee lands about 1800. In 1820, at the age of 90, he and his wife went to Greenville, Ky., where he died in 1823 at the home of his eminent son, Judge and Congressman Alney McLean, for whom McLean County, Ky., was named.

Ephraim McLean and Elizabeth Davidson had the following children:

1. John, little is known of him. Killed by Indians.
2. George, settled in Logan County, Ky., about 12 miles west of Russellville, in 1785. Married Pamela Davidson, his cousin, daughter of Gen. Davidson, of Cowans Ford, and sister of Mrs. Finis Ewing.
3. Ephraim, Jr., lived and died in Tennessee. Buried on Snow Creek, Maury County.
4. Jane, born 1769, married Gen. Robert Ewing.
5. Mrs. Robert Brank, born in 1770, was the mother of Houston and Ephraim Brank.
6. Samuel, born 1772, lived and died near Lawrenceburg, Tenn.
7. Alney, born 1774, was a lawyer and Jurist, represented Mecklinberg [should be Muhlenberg] County [Ky.] in legislature 1812. Comd. Co. Ky. Vol. in Battle of New Orleans January, 1813, Representative in 14th and 16th Congress. Appointed by President Monroe, U.S.. Circuit for Kentucky 1821. Elector on Clay ticket. Died in Greenville, Ky., December 20., 1841.

He married Tabitha Russell Campbell (born January 29, 1785, died February 17, 1850), a daughter of Col. William Campbell and Tabitha Adams Russell Campbell. They had eleven children.

8. Charles, born in 1776, lived in Maury County until 1811, died in Rutherford County in 1825, leaving his wife and 10 children. He married Sallie Vance, daughter of David Vance, of Asheville, North Carolina, who was the grandfather of Senator Zebulon V. Vance, of North Carolina. His wife died in 1849, age 69 years. They had 6 sons and 4 daughters. Six sons: a. David Vance. b. Ephraim Baxter. c. Charles Grandison. d. William (M.D.). e. Robert Brank. f. Alney H. Four daughters: g. Susan Howard Davidson. h. Priscilla Brank McCutcheson. i. Sarah Jane Baird. j. Cynthia Wadley. All lived and died, in Tennessee except Dr. William who lived and died in Tyler County, Tex., and Mrs. McCutcheson lived and died in Arkansas.

9, William McLean married Margaret (Peggy) Miller at Paint Lick, Ky., July 30, 1800. He was drowned in Duck River, July 23, 1814. They had four sons and one daughter: a. Andrew (born 1800, died in 1885). b. Ephraim Harvie. c. William M. d. Samuel. and e. Nancy. Nancy married Samuel Campbell, of Kentucky, and they had four sons and four daughters.

10. James McLean, born 1780, married Margaret Sloss and lived near his father in the Valley of the Cumberland River until 1820 when he moved to Green County, Ala. In 1825 he moved to Carrilton, Madison County, Miss., where he remained until his death in 1826.

11. Dr. Robert McLean, Physician, married Miss Wilson and lived at Greenville, Ky., until 1823, then moved to Mississippi. Died in Clarksville, Tenn., age 90. They had 3 sons and 2 daughters. Eldest son was Dr. Robert, Jr., a Physician, in Muhlenberg County, Ky. Edward and Alney went to Mississippi with their father in 1823. Celia married Robert Russell and lived in Clarksville, Tenn. Eliza McLean never married. .

The children of William McLean and Margaret (Peggy) Miller:

a. Andrew McLean was twice married. He first married Elizabeth Denney. They had five daughters and three sons. The daughters were: Sallie Ann, Elizabeth, Margaret, Araminta and Martha Grazilla. The sons were: Williams, George and Rice. His second wife was Elizabeth Hill. They had no children.

b. Ephraim Harvie McLean was twice married. His first wife was Elizabeth Ogilvie. They had three sons and two daughters. The sons were: William, Richard and Andrew. The daughters were: Mary Ann McLean and Margaret Miller McLean. His second wife was Mrs. Frances Hardin Porter. They had three sons and four daughters. The sons were: Pleasant, Ephraim Harvie, Jr., and Sam. The daughters were: Tabitha, Hattie, Lou Bet, Nannie (Finney).

c. William Miller McLean was twice married. He first married Jane Lane. Their children were: (1) John Lane McLean, who married Gabriella (Dolly) Mayberry. Their children were:

Allen Harvie McLean and Pauline Jane McLean. (2) Sallie McLean married Britt Turpin. Their children were: Tom, Nell, Britt, Jr., Cyrene, Inman and Sula.

His second wife was Susan Campbell Gentry. Their children were: (3) William Watson McLean married Nannie Mae Ezell. Had one daughter, Virginia McLean.

(4) Margaret Virginia (Virgie) McLean married John F. Bryant. Their children were: William Pat Bryant, Watt Gentry Bryant, Sarah Susan Bryant, Mary Camilla Bryant and Elizabeth Bryant.

(5) Meredith Gentry McLean married Cora Spraggins Mayberry. Their children were: William Hardin McLean, Pallen Virginia McLean, Lucile McLean, deceased; Sam Gentry McLean; deceased; Watson Douglas McLean and Frances McLean.

Virginia McLean married Jones Orr. Their children were: Nancy Orr, Jack On, deceased; and Polly Orr. Nancy married Ray Anderson. Their children: Roger and Susan. Polly married George Terry.

William Pat Bryant married ? Swain. Their children are: Edwin, William Pat, Jr., Virginia and Margaret (twins). Edwin Bryant married Rosline Shannon and they have one son, John Shannon Bryant.

Watt Gentry Bryant married Kate Houston and they have one son, Watt Gentry Bryant, Jr.

Sarah Susan Bryant married Brents McBride.

Mary Camilla Bryant married Elgie Harris.

Elizabeth Bryant married Har_ Harris and they have two daughters, Mary Sue Harris and Patricia Harris.

William Hardin McLean married Eleanor Gabard. Their children are: Martha Montgomery McLean, William Watson McLean, Jack McLean and Jane McLean (twins), Cora McLean and Eleanor McLean.

Martha Montgomery McLean married Edwin O. Bredthauer and they have one son, Richard.

Pallen Virginia McLean married Carl Maxwell Hardison and they have one daughter, Patty McLean Hardison, and she married Capt. Theodore H. Gentz, a graduate of West Point.

Watson Douglas McLean married Mary McCrory. Their children are: Gene McLean, Nell Thompson McLean and Nancy McLean.

Frances McLean married Lewis Trigg and they have two daughters, Mary Liza Trigg and Patricia McLean Trigg.

d. Samuel McLean married Sarah Rainey and they had two sons and six daughters. The sons were: J__ McKinney and William Scott. The daughters were: Mary Thresa, Margaret Rainey, Nancy Campbell, Sarah Alice, Elizabeth Hill and Ella.

Ella McLean married Andrew Powell. Their children were: Lucy Powell Hopkins, Sadie Powell Butler, Sam Powell, Horace Powell, deceased, Douglas Powell, deceased, and Allen Powell, deceased.

Lucile Powll married Robert Hopkins. Their children are: Robert Preston, Jr., Clatie Jane and Mary.

Robert Preston, Jr., married A__ Wagon. Their children are: Mary Ann, Robert Preston, III, and Caroline Lucile.

Jane Hopkins first married Henry E. Foster, Jr., deceased. She later married Thad N. Collier, Jr. They have one son, Thad N. Collier, III.

e. Nancy McLean married Samuel Campbell, of Kentucky. They had four sons and four daughters.

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