

Rachel's birth

Criteria for searching:-

- Name: Rachel or Rachael and Rankine or Rankin
- Years: If we assume, in the mid 1700s, that a mother's childbearing years were from her late teens to her mid forties, and taking into account that Donald was born in 1779, Rachel must have been born between 1727 and 1764.
- Place: Anywhere in the western Highlands – the closer to Blaich the better.

OPR found

- We have found only one OPR for a birth of Rachel Ranken between 1727 and 1754:-
 - Rachel Rankine, baptised 16th Dec 1744 in Campie, Stirling – with mother Margaret Mains and father John Rankine - "*Margt Mains held up her child begotten in fornication with John Rankine younger to be bapt called Rachel with James Burman and William Colquhorrage*". This OPR is attached to Rachel's profile on the McLean website.
- Family Search (& WikiTree) has an entry for Rachel with the same parents as the OPR (John Rankine & Margaret Mains) but different year (1751) and different place (Blaich). It would be good news if it was Blaich, but we cannot have any confidence in this entry because it has not specified any sources..

Siblings

- No other births have been found for children of John Rankine and Margaret Mains

Pros & cons:

- Reasons for discounting the 1744 birth in Campsie:-
 - Year: If Rachel was born in 1744, she would have been 35 when she gave birth to Donald. This is possible, but older than would be common in those times. It indicates that she might have several children before Donald, but we have not found any records of such possibilities.
 - Place: If Rachel was born in Campsie (near Glasgow, a 150 km walk north to Blaich), she could have met Allan, but this is less likely than if she had been born nearer to Blaich.
- Reasons for accepting the 1744 birth in Campsie:-
 - Alternatives: This is the only OPR that matches any of the criteria. So either it is the right one, or the OPR is missing – lost or never registered.
- Conclusion: Rachel Rankine was baptised on 16th Dec 1744 in Campie, Stirling. Her parents were Margaret Mains and John Rankine – they were not married at the time = ACCEPTED

(This note by Don Gordon, Oct 2021)