

# The Chiefs of Clan MacLean

– a selected history from the 1200s up to the present time

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[www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com](http://www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com)

## How to use these notes

- Too much detail?: Read the summary first, to get the gist of what this is all about - rather than getting lost in the details in the body of these notes.
- Research: The notes are not in a narrative style because it is not intended for the general public. It is for serious researchers. There are standardized headings and dot-points which are a framework into which new details can be placed.
- Sources: This research has been limited to what can be found on the internet and quoting from various sources, rather than physically accessing contemporary documents.
- Searching: You can search this PDF document via Control/F and then relevant key word.
- Our other docs: This is one of a series of research notes which are interconnected. These can be found in the Small Print directory on the left of the homepage. The notes that are most relevant to the chiefs are:-
  - 'C10 - Setting the scene'**: Essential reading.
  - 'F15 - Time line'**: Duart chiefs, lairds of Ardgour and Blaich, events of 'our' family, and general events in the region
  - 'F20 - Chiefs of Clan MacLean'**: A selected history (this document)
  - 'F25 - Jump where the wall is lowest'**: How the McLeans took over Ardgour
  - 'F30 - The McLeans in Ardgour'**:
  - 'F35 - The Lairds of Blaich'**:
  - 'F40 - The Macleans in the Jacobite Uprisings'**:
  - 'E45 - Places of our McLeans in Scotland'**: Brief descriptions of most of the places mentioned in these present notes.
- Feedback: This is a draft. Your corrections and comments will be welcomed - via 'Contact us' on the homepage.
- Author: These notes were compiled by Don Gordon, with support from Lorna McLean. Don and Lorna are Donald's and Christina's GGG-grandchildren.

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## Summary

Donald McLean was born in 1779 in Blaich in the northern part of Ardgour in the Western Highlands. He leased Duiskey estate which is next to Blaich. In 1837, he migrated to South Australia with his wife, Christina nee McPhee, and their 10 children.

In this present document, which focuses on the Duart line, we have been gathering material about the 28 chiefs. This may assist in identifying any connections between the whole MacLean clan and 'our' branch in Ardgour and Blaich. Here, we are not trying to compile a comprehensive history of the whole clan, but rather to discover any impacts which the main line engendered upon our branch and consequently upon the lives of Donald's family.

Unfortunately, it has been an unproductive exercise. There are no specific links of our Donald to the chiefs. The Duart line and the Ardgour line have not been directly connected for six centuries and in fact there are only a few notable links between the two lines over these centuries:-

- Lachlan Bronneach, the 7<sup>th</sup> Chief of the Clan, was the father of Donald ('The Hunter') who became the 1<sup>st</sup> Laird of the Ardgour branch in 1420.
- Allan, the 10<sup>th</sup> Laird of Ardgour, was the grandfather of Allan who became the 22<sup>nd</sup> Chief in 1751.
- Some other interconnections are in our **'F20 - The MacLeans of Ardgour'**.

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# Overview

Clan MacLean is one of the oldest clans in the Highlands and they owned large tracts of land in Argyll as well as the Inner Hebrides.

From the thirteenth century to the eighteenth century there was an immense story of the struggles for the possession and good management of the Scottish Highlands and Islands. The protagonists were:-

- It affected all the people of the Isles off the western coast and the Western Highlands.
- Clans – about eight major clans – notably the Maclean, Macdonald, Cameron and Campbell - with their many branches
- The chiefs, lairds, warriors, statesmen and notable individuals
- The sequence of Lords of the Isles, and subsequently the Kings and Queens of Scotland (Stuarts) - including Bonnie Prince Charlie
- The Kings and Queens of England
- Religious divides between Catholics and Protestants
- At times, various clans and branches were allied with each other and at other times these same clans were bitter enemies and fought many battles.
- And at times the various clans were loyal to the monarchs of England and at other times, loyal to the Lords of the Isles and then the Stuarts.

These struggles took the form of:-

- Alliances, sometimes affirmed in strategic marriages
- Agreements and grants of land – and broken agreements, indebtedness and forfeiture of land.
- Physical conflict – raids, hostages, assassinations, skirmishes, major battles and conquests.
- We note that many of the clan histories have focused on the many battles rather than cultural, social, agricultural and economic factors which have shaped people's lives.
- The conflicts retarded the development of the region. *"The miseries that arose from the clanship and the heritable jurisdictions which obtained in the Highlands of Scotland, as well as the advancement which the people of the regions had made when the Lowlands and the Southrons were taking rapid steps in the march of civilization and the art of government"* (Monthly Review p544).
- It was all part of a painful process, over five centuries, in the erratic transition away from feudal war lords, the force of the sword, and poverty – towards eventual good governance, rule of law, democracy, nationhood and prosperity.

The MacLeans *"were for many ages a principal family in the Isles, second only to the Macdonalds; until, in consequence of their attachment and fidelity to the House of Stuart, and the persecuting enmity of the chiefs of Argyle – the remnant of the old feudal animosities, heightened probably by covetousness – a material portion of their estates was confiscated, and transferred to the Campbells ... The general history of the Clan consists in early times of the usual series of alliances and warfare – a calm one year produced by a marriage, a storm the next by treachery or murder; a perpetual succession of feuds and confederations, battles, skirmishes and stratagems, and occasionally mixing in the general history of Scotland, as in the fields of Inverlochy and of Flodden, at the latter of which the chief of Maclean was slain. Afterwards, in the time of Charles the First, the island chiefs begin to play a more prominent part, and so throughout the struggles of the Stuarts, down to the battle of Culloden, where the clan suffered a tremendous loss of life"* (The Gentleman's Magazine p505 & 506).

Gregory (p419&420), writing in 1836: *"The family of Maclean of Dowart, which, in the reign of James VI (1488 to 1513), was the most powerful in the Hebrides, had before the end of the seventeenth century lost nearly all its great possessions, and was almost deprived of influence. The seeds of the decay of this important family were sown in the reign of Queen Mary (1543 to 1567), when the great feud between the Macleans and Macdonalds first broke out. In the reigns of James VI (1567 to 1625) and Charles I (1625 to 1649), many debts had accumulated against the barony of Dowart, which enabled the Marquis of Argyle and his successors to establish a claim to that estate; and this claim the Macleans, owing to their exertions in favour of the Stewarts, never had an opportunity of shaking off. .... During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Macleans of Lochbuy, Coll, and Ardgour, more fortunate than those of Dowart, contrived to preserve their estates nearly entire as regarded the property; although compelled, by the power and policy of the Marquis of Argyle, to renounce their holdings from the Crown, and to become vassals of that powerful nobleman and his successors. There were numerous flourishing cadets of all the principal families of the Macleans. .... All the Macleans were zealous partisans of the Stewarts, in whose cause they suffered severely; more particularly at the battle of Inverkeithing, in 1652, when this clan lost several hundred men, and a large proportion of officers."*

## Branches

There are various depictions of how groups of MacLeans have spread to diverse locations in different eras from the earliest years of the development of the clan.

Our interest is in the McLeans of Blaich which were a sub-branch (cadet) of Ardgour which, in turn, was a branch of Duart. On the website [christinaanddonaldmclean.com](http://christinaanddonaldmclean.com) there are separate documents focusing on Blaich ('[F35 - Lairds of Blaich](#)'), Ardgour ([F30 - 'The McLeans in Ardgour'](#)) and of course, this document about the chiefs.

7 branches: In Ffamily, the following branches are identified:-

- Lether
- Ardgour
- Ross
- Coll
- Kinlochalin
- Torloisk
- Broloss

Notably, it does not include the Lochbuie branch. Lochbuie, is near to Duart, on the Isle of Mull. This should not be confused with Lochaber which is near Ardgour, on the mainland.

8 branches: Eight houses were identified by Seneachie in 1838:-

- Duart and Morvern to which the branch of Brolas has succeeded
- Lochbuy with its cadets of Scallasdale Urquhart, Dochgarroch Kingerlochi and Capparnuch
- Ardgour with its cadets of Borreray, Treshnish, Inverscadell and Blaich
- Lehire and Ross
- Coll with its branches of Muke, Drimnacross, Crosspool and Gallanach
- Morvern with its cadets of Kinlochaline, Drimnin and Pennycross
- Torloisk
- Sweden

6 branches: A source quoted by Electric Scotland A listed areas granted by McDonald, Lord of the Isles, to the McLeans in the late 1400s in:-

- Mull
- Tiree
- Coll
- Morvern
- Kingerloch
- Ardgour.

4 branches: Gregory stated that there were 4 branches and 8 cadets in 1493, at the time of the forfeiture of the Lordship of the Isles (Gregory p69 & 429):-

- Dowart (Duart) – cadets are Kinlochaline, Ardtornish and Drimin
- Lochbuy (Lochbuie) – cadets are Tapul, and Scallasdale
- Coll – cadet is Isle of Muck
- Ardgour – cadet Barrera in North Uist, and Tressinish”

3 branches: The McLeans of Coll ([www.mcleanofcoll](http://www.mcleanofcoll)) state that there are 3 branches and 15 cadets (with Ardgour being a cadet of Duart, rather than a separate branch):-

- Maclean of Duart: cadets - Ardgour, Gigha, Morvern, Torloisk & Brolos
- MacLaine of Lochbuie: cadets – Scallasdale, Urchart, Kingerloch, Dochgarroch & Knock
- McLean of Coll: cadets – Achnasaul, Grishipol, Isle of Muck, Drimnacross & Totoaronald

[research: A map showing the relative locations of all these places is needed]

# Lands

Most of the branches were established in the early 1300s and 1400s and the following three centuries saw the high points of the MacLean clan.

*"The year 1493, at the forfeiture of the Lordship of the Isles, marks the rise in the fortunes of Clan MacLean"* (Gregory p70). Gregory states that at this time, MacLean lands extended to the inner Hebrides and western highlands including a great part of Mull, Tiree, Jura, Scarba, Morvern, Lochiel, Knapdale, Duror and Glenco in Lorn. (Gregory p69, 70 & 429). Surprisingly, Gregory does not include Ardgour in this list even though he includes areas on each side – Morvern and Locheil.

In the late 1600s Duart castle was taken over by the Campbells. The clan did not regain control of Duart castle until 1912.

The McLeans of Coll lost their lands in 1856.

The Lochbuie properties passed from their hereditary ownership during the 1900s.

Thus, Ardgour was the largest possession still in the hands of the McLeans. And Ardgour is still probably the largest acreage in Maclean hands even though half of it (including Blaich & Duiskey) was sold in 1858 and then Ardgour House was sold in the 1990s (still leaving the Ardgour estate in MacLean hands).

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## Superiority

Although there are disagreements about the specifics of the branches/cadets/houses, most agree about the dominance of the Duart as the main line. However, the relationship between the branches has been tense at times.

Gregory stated that in 1493, *"this great clan was divided into four branches, independent of each other; by which is meant that each held of the Lord of the Isles, and that no one of them was feudal superior of the others"* (Gregory p69).

Lochbuie Vs Duart: The BRB (p 3) stated that *"the Lochbuie MacLaines dispute the chiefship with the Duarts, asserting that Eachin Reganach was the elder of Gillimore's two sons, although the Duarts have always taken the foremost place in clan history."*

Colls Vs Duart: According to their website (mcleanofcoll), the Macleans in Coll did not acknowledge the dominance of Duart. There was major conflict in the mid 1500s, at the time of the 13<sup>th</sup> Duart Chief. Over the centuries they assert that *"each has maintained their own independence throughout their history. None had or could demand feudal superiority over the other. Each received their estate firstly from The Lord of the Isles and then by Royal charter directly from the Crown. There is no doubt that Lochbuie and Coll were wholly independent Chiefs of independent clans, as we only need to refer to the surviving records of the Privy Council, where it states the names of those attending the compulsory "Annual Appearance of the Chiefs" during the early 17th century."* However, the Colls go on to clarify that *"There is also no doubt that MacLean of Duart is the superior Chief of Clan Gillean due to his large estate. The Crown always considered this so. Duart often signed documents 'MACLEAN' or was described as 'Maclean of that ilk'. He was the Commander-in-Chief if Clan Gillean joined together for battle, part from that he had no other authority over the other clans."*

Feudal superior: The chief of the clan can, through a court, become the feudal superior of a barony if the next branch laird apparent is not legally 'entered' to the estate. For example, after the death of John, the 4<sup>th</sup> laird of Ardgour, he *"was presumably succeeded by his second cousin Allan, who failed to be legally 'entered' to the estate. As a result, the barony of Ardgour was for many years held from Duart as feudal superior. The Ardgour family remained in occupation but it was not until 1685 that they were to hold their barony again directly from the Crown"* (Bristol p144)

OUR ALLEGIANCE: Although a formal decision has not been made, it seems appropriate, in the absence of a continuing Blaich line, that we, as descendants of Donald McLean (born 1779) should maintain our direct loyalty to the Laird of Ardgour (at present Robin, the 18<sup>th</sup> Laird or Chieftain) who in turn acknowledges the Chief of the whole Clan MacLean as Sir Lachlan of Duart, the 28<sup>th</sup> Chief. ..ooOoo..

# Seat

The chief did not always reside in the Duart Castle in Mull.

These chiefs are often referred to as the Duart line although the MacLeans did not initially gain possession of the castle until the 5<sup>th</sup> chief in 1366, and were divested of the castle from the 20<sup>th</sup> chief in 1692 until the 26<sup>th</sup> chief re-took possession in 1912. Thus the MacLeans have been in the possession of the castle for 440 years of the seven centuries, and it was held by 21 of the 28 chiefs.

*"The Stuart cause cost the Macleans heavily in life, land, and influence. Having lost Duart and most of their lands to the Argyll, the Maclean chiefs found themselves in exile. Six generations of Chiefs would make their home abroad in France and England"* (www.maclean.us.org).

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## Chiefs of Clan MacLean

Titles: Many of the chiefs can be designated in several ways – for example, Allan, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Chief of Clan Maclean could also be referred to as Sir Allan, the baronet of Morvern and Duart, or the 18<sup>th</sup> Duart Chief, or the 4<sup>th</sup> of Broloss.

### List of chiefs

1. Gilleathain na Tuaidh, 'Gillean of the Battle Axe', born 1211, died xx - chief around 1250s
2. Malise mac Gilleain, born 1245, died 1300 – chief from c.1260 to 1300, for more than 30 years
3. Maolcalium MacGilosia Malcolm Maclean, born 1271, died xx - chief from 1300 to c.1350s, more than 40 yrs
4. John Iain Dubh Macgillimore Maclean, 'Black John', born 1297, died xx – chief from 1350s to xx
5. Lachlan Lubanach Maclean, 'Lachlan the Cunning', born 1325, died c1405 – chief who flourished in 1390s
6. Eachuinn Ruahd nan cath Hector Maclean, 'Red Hector of the Battles', born 1354, died 1411 – chief from c1405 to 1411, for about 6 years
7. Lachlan Bronneach Maclean, 'Lachlan the Fat-Bellied', born 1379, died xx - flourished in 1470
8. Lachlan Og Maclean, 'Lachlan the Younger', born 1405, died 1484 - flourished in 1480s
9. Eachuinn Hector Odhar Maclean, 'Hector the Sallow', born 1428, died 1513 - flourished in 1490s
10. Lachlan Maclean, born 1450, died xx - chief flourished in 1510's
11. Lachlan Cattanach Maclean, 'Lachlan the Hairy', born 1465, died 1523 - chief from 1515 to 1523, for 8 years
12. Eachuinn Hector Mor Maclean 'Hector the Great', born 1497, died 1568 - flourished in 1530s
13. Eachuinn Hector Og Maclean, 'Hector the Younger', born 1529, died xx - flourished in 1540s
14. Sir Lachlan Mor Maclean – born 1558, died 5th Aug 1598 - chief from c1573 to 1598, for 25 years
15. Sir Hector (Eachann) Og Maclean, 'Young Hector', born 1583, died 1618 - chief from 1598 to 1618, for 20 yrs
16. Hector Mor Maclean, born c1600, died 1626 - chief from 1618 to 1626, for 8 years
17. Sir Lachlan Maclean, 1st Baronet, born 1626, died 1649 - chief from 1626 to 1649, for xx years
18. Sir Hector Maclean, 2nd Baronet, born ??, died 1651 - chief from 1649 to 1651, for 3 years
19. Sir Allan Maclean, 3rd Baronet, born 1645, died 1674) - chief from 1651 to 1674, for 23 years
20. Sir John Maclean, 4th Baronet, born 1670, died 1716 - chief from 1674 to 1716, for 32 years
21. Sir Hector Maclean, 5th Baronet, born c1700, died 1750 - chief from 1716 to 1750, for 34 years
22. Sir Allan Maclean, 6th Baronet, born 1710, died 10th Dec 1783) - chief from 1751 to 1783, for 32 years
23. Sir Hector Maclean, 7th Baronet, born c1750, died 1818 - chief from 1783 to 1818, for 35 years
24. Sir Fitzroy Jeffreys Grafton Maclean, 8th Baronet of Morvern, born c1770, died 5th July 1847 - chief from 1818 to 1847, for 29 years
25. Sir Charles Fitzroy Grafton Maclean, 9th Baronet, born 1798, died 883) - chief from 1847 to 1883, for 36 years
26. Sir Fitzroy Maclean, 10th Baronet, born 1835, died 1936 - chief from 1883 to 1936, for 47 years
27. Sir Charles Hector Fitzroy Maclean, 11th Baronet, born 1916, died 1990 - chief from 1936 to 1990, for 54 yrs
28. Sir Lachlan Maclean, 12th Baronet, born 1942, still living - chief from 1990 to present, for 27 years so far

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## Before the first chief

*“Traditionally, the clan descended from a member of the great Irish Geraldine family who was brother to the progenitor of Clan McKenzie, but Mr Skene in his Highlanders of Scotland takes the view that they were one of the old tribes transplanted from Moray by Malcolm IV. This could well be true without refuting their descent from a Geraldine. It is too often lost sight of that the early Picts of Moray and those of the North and West of Ireland were one and the same race, with close family ties, as their names prove. It is even possible that some of the great Irish families were descended from savage progenitors in Albyn.” (BRB p2)*

*“Probably no clan is richer in historical anecdote, folk-lore and legends than the McLeans ..... like Murrachaidh Gearr (Dumpy Murdoch), Eoghainn a’ Chinn Bhig (Small headed Hector) or Ailen nan Sop (Alan of the Straws) - these can all be found in books such as The Island of Mull by John McCormick, and are well worth reading.” (BRB p3)*

The forebears of the first chief, Gilleain, were, according to Hardy (p8):-

- Old Dougall of Scone who must have flourished about the year 1100
- Raingee was the son of Old Dougall
- Conduilig (clan Conduilig is clan McLean) in the Island of Mull was the son of Raingee.
- Niall was the son of Conduilig – he became lay abbot of the Monastery of Lismore in Argyshire.
- Rath (or MacRath) was the son of Niall.
- Gillian, designated as the 1<sup>st</sup> Chief of the clan – he was the son of Rath who married a sister of Sommerlad.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Chief – Gillian

- Name: Gillian or ‘Gilleain of the Battle Axe’ or Gilleain or Gilleathain na Tuaidh. Gilleain means ‘Servant of St John’.
- Birth: 1211
- Father: Rath or MacRath (Hardy p8)
- Mother: Sister of Sommerlad (Hardy p8)
- Spouse: Unknown
- Children: Malise, who became the 2nd Chief
- Residence: Unknown
- Titles: 1st Chief of Clan MacLean (Comment: He might not have been known by this title in his lifetime because it might have been conferred by historians in retrospect as the clan hierarchy took shape.)
- Reign: Around the 1250s
- Events:
  - 1263: Gillian fought for Alexander III against Haco at Largs (Hardy p8). His son was with him in this battle. See more details in notes on his son, Malise, 2nd Chief.
  - Lost while hunting deer – and found when his battle axe was seen by searchers
- Notes:
  - *“He flourished about the year 1250. Gilleain means ‘Servant of St John’” (Hardy p8).*
  - *“Gilleain—the First chief and founder of the Clan MacLean, or Clan Gilleain. He is often called Gilleain of the Battle-ax, from his habit of carrying that implement as his ordinary weapon and constant companion.”*
  - *“The clan’s earliest-known ancestor was Gilleathain na Tuaidh (Gillian of the Battleaxe) who fought for Alexander III against Haco at Largs. Most modern writers fall into the trap of assuming that Gillian of the Battleaxe was so named because of his prowess with that weapon, but the ‘Historical Account’ of the McLeans by a ‘Clan Seannachie’ gives a different reason. He relates that this ancestor after losing his way while hunting deer, wandered about in the hills for days until completely exhausted, hung his axe on the branch of a laurel to mark his last resting-place, then lay down under a cypress bush to die. The axe was noticed by a search-party and the chief rescued. One only needs to glance at the McLean crests to see how this incident has been perpetuated.” (BRB p2)*
  - *“The following anecdote is related of him, which probably accounts for the origin of the MacLean crest, which consists of a battle-ax between a laurel and cypress branch, symbols of death and victory, and is still used on the coat-of-arms. He was on one occasion engaged in a stag-hunt upon a mountain, and having wandered from the rest of the party, the mountain suddenly becoming covered with mist, he lost his way. After three days wandering, he entered a cranberry bush, where, fixing the battle-ax in the ground, he laid down to rest. His friends discovered him by seeing the head of the battle-ax above the bush.” (Hardy p8)*
- Death: c1260 – about 50 years old

- Heir: Malise, son of Gillian

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## 2nd Chief – Malise

- Name: Gillimore McLean or Malise mac Gilleain or Gille-Losa ('Servant of Jesus')
- Birth: 1245
- Father: Gilleain, the 1st Chief (Hardy p9)
- Mother: Sister of Sommerlad (Hardy p8)
- Spouse: Unknown
- Children:
  - Lachlan Lubhnach
    - 'The Wily' (Hardy p9)
    - Did he become 3rd Chief of clan MacLean (BRB p2), or did he become the 5th Chief (Hardy p9)?
    - Lachlan married the daughter of the Lord of the Isles (BRB p2)
  - Hector or Eachin Regenach
    - 'The Stern' (Hardy p9)
    - Progenitor of the McLaines of Lochbuie (BRB p2) and Urquhart (Hardy)
    - Acted as Lieutenant-General of the army of McDonald Lord of the Isles at the Battle of Harlaw where he was killed (BRB p2)
  - These brothers lived in the reign of Robert II. They quarreled with their overlord, McDougall of Lorne, and thereafter became followers of the McDonald Lords of the Isles who thought highly of them and rewarded them with ample grants of land in Mull – ie Duart & Lochbuie. (BRB p2)
  - The brothers lived in the reign of Robert II and Robert III (Hardy p9)
  - *"Lachlan, the Wily, and Hector, the Stern, to the former was given the lands of Duart; to the latter, those of Lochbuie. These two brothers made a considerable figure during the reigns of Robert II. and III. They were affectionate brothers — faithful in their friendships but fearful in their resentments. They engaged in desperate feuds with the clan MacDougall and the clan Cameron. Hector was the founder of the house of Lochbuie and that of Urquhart in Inverness, which for several centuries was one of great power."* (Hardy)
- Residence: Lorne (BRB p2)
- Titles: 2nd Chief of Clan MacLean
- Reign: From c1260 to 1300 - more than 30 years
- Events:
  - 1263: It is thought that, with his father, he fought in the Battle of Largs. This was an indecisive engagement between the kingdoms of Norway and Scotland on the Firth of Clyde near Largs, Scotland. The forces of Norway were led by Haakon Haakonsson, King of Norway. The principal commander of the Scots was led by Alexander Stewart of Dundonald (4th High Steward of Scotland) on behalf of King Alexander III (Wikipedia).
- Notes:
  - The BRB (p 2) states: *"Gillian's son, Gillimore McLean, settled in Lorne, and his two sons, Lachlan Lubhnach and Eachin Regenach were the progenitors of the McLeans of Duart and Lochbuie, respectively. The two brothers who lived during the reign of Robert II quarrelled with their overlord, McDougall of Lorne, and thereafter became followers of the McDonald Lords of the Isles who thought highly of them and rewarded them with ample grants of land in Mull. Lachlan married the daughter of the Lord of the Isles, and Hector acted as Lieutenant-General of the latter's army at the Battle of Harlaw where he was killed."*
  - [research: Regarding the two brothers, Lachlan Lubhnach and Eachin Hector Regenach – who was their father – was it the 2nd or 4th Chief?]
  - Lochbuie: Gregory (p70) states that *"Lauchlan Lubanach's brother was Hector Reganach who established the MacLaine branch in Lochbuie (Lochbuie) – the second branch of the MacLeans"*. Their seat, Lochbuie House, is about 12 miles from Duart Castle.
  - Coll: Gregory (p71): *"The third branch of the Macleans was that of Coll, descended, like Dowart, from Lauchlan Lubenach, who was great-grandfather, it is said, of the fourth Laird of Dowart and the first Laird of Coll, they being brothers. John Mclean, surnamed Garve, the first of Coll, received that island and the lands of Quinish in Mull, from Alexander, Earl of Ross, who afterwards, on the forfeiture of Cameron, gave to John Garve a charter of the lands of Lochiel."*

- Glen Urquhart: The BRB (p 3) states: *“Charles (Tearlach), son of Eachin Reganach, settled in Glen Urquhart and was founder of the Clann Thearlich, or Dorgarroch McLeans, sometimes called the ‘McLeans of the North’. On being oppressed by the Chisholms this branch, although confederated to the Clan Chattan, appealed to Duart for help, which was readily granted. Thereafter the Chisholms treated them with great respect.”*
- *“Gille-losa (Servant of Jesus) was Second chief, and a distinguished warrior under Alexander III of Scotland. He performed prodigies of valor and in battle received honorable mention. He died in 1300 and was succeeded by his son, Malcolm”* (Hardy p9)
- [research: The BRB (p2) has Gilleathain na Tuaidh, the 1st chief, fighting for Alexander III against Haco at Largs, whereas Hardy (p9) has Gille-Losa, the 2nd chief, as fighting under Alexander III. Is there a mix-up or did father and son fight together, or were there several battles?]
- Death: 1300 – about 55 years old.
- Heir: Malcolm, son of Gille-losa

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### 3rd Chief - ~~Lachlan Lubnach~~ or Malcolm

- Name: Maolcalium MacGiliosa or Malcolm Maclean or Gille-Calum, meaning ‘Servant of Columba’
- Birth: 1271
- Father: Perhaps Malise (2<sup>nd</sup> Chief)
- Mother: Unknown
- Spouse: Unknown
- Children: (3 sons, per Hardy p9)
  - Donald
  - Niall
  - John who became the next chief (Hardy p9)
- Residence: Unknown
- Titles: 3rd Chief
- Reign: He became chief around 1300 when about 30 years old, and was chief for about 40 years, until to 1350s – more than 40 years. He flourished in 1310s
- Events:
  - 1314 - Fought at Bannockburn at the head of his clan, 24<sup>th</sup> June 1314 (Hardy p9).
- Notes:
  - Don’s note: In the normal succession, a Chief’s eldest son takes over from him. But these were the earliest days of the development of the clan and so the pattern of succession may not have settled. No sources have suggested that MacGiliosa was the son of Gillioemore – indeed no sources have specified who his father was.
  - *“Malcolm, called also Gille-Calum, meaning Servant of Columba, fought at Bannockburn at the head of his clan, June 24, 1314, and died in the reign of King David Bruce. He had three sons, Donald, Niall and John. He was succeeded by his son John.”* (Hardy p9)
- Death: In the reign of King David Bruce
- Heir: John, son of Malcolm

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### 4<sup>th</sup> Chief – John

- Name: John Iain Dubh Macgilliemore Maclean, known as ‘Black John’ (Dhu means dark)
- Birth: 1297
- Father: Malcolm
- Mother: Unknown
- Spouse: A daughter of Cumming Lord of the Braeslimes of Lochaber
- Children:
  - Lachlan Lubanach and Eachann (Hector Reganach) [research: Or were these the sons of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief rather than the 4<sup>th</sup> Chief?]
- Residence: Settled in Mull about 1330



- Titles: 4<sup>th</sup> Chief of clan MacLean
- Reign: 1350s
- Events:
- Notes:
  - *“John Gilliemore, surnamed Dhu from his dark complexion, appears to have settled in Mull about the year 1330. He died in the reign of Robert II, leaving two sons, Lachlan Lubanach, ancestor of the Macleans of Dowart, and Eachann or Hector Reganach, of the Macleans of Lochbuy. Lachlan was the elder son.”* (Electric Scotland A)
  - *“John, known as John Dubh, or Black John. He married a daughter of Cumming, Lord of the Braeslimes of Lochaber, and died during the reign of Robert II. He had two sons. John was succeeded by his son, Lachlan.”* (Hardy p9)
- Death: In the reign of Robert II
- Heir: Lachlan Lubanach, son of John

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## 5<sup>th</sup> Chief – Lachlan Lubanach

- Name: Lachlan Lubanach Maclean, ‘Lachlan the Cunning’
- Birth: 1325
- Father: The elder son on the 4<sup>th</sup> Chief. [research]: Some sources indicate his father was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief.]
- Mother: Possibly A daughter of Cumming Lord of the Braeslimes of Lochaber
- Spouse:
  - Lachlan married the daughter of the Lord of the Isles (BRB p2)
  - Electric Scotland A states that she was a daughter of the Earl of Douglas – or was she the spouse of Hector (6<sup>th</sup> Chief).
  - In 1366, Lauchlan married Margaret [research]: Or was this Mary?, daughter of the first marriage to John, first Lord of the Isles. Margaret’s mother was princess Margaret Stewart. (Gregory p69)
  - Mary – *“On 13<sup>th</sup> May 1367, Mary & Lachlan were granted papal dispensation to marry, they had already been married without banns and produced children”* (Bristol p28). She could have been 16 years old when they became legally married (ie she could have been born in February 1351 as her own parents received papal dispensation to marry in July 1350) (Bristol p28).
    - Mary’s father was MacDonald who was John de Yle, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord of the Isles
    - Mary’s mother was Margaret Stewart who was the daughter of Robert II who became King of Scots in 1371 (Bristol p31)
    - Thus, Mary’s father was the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord of the Isles and her grandfather was the 1<sup>st</sup> of the Stewart kings [research]: Is this correct?
- Children:
  - Hector – son of Lachlan Lubanach and Margaret. He became the next chief.
  - John, Lachlan, Neil & Somerle – 4 sons of Lachlan and Mary? (Hardy p9)
- Residence: Duart castle
- Titles: 5<sup>th</sup> Chief of clan McLean & 1st of Duard & Steward of the Lord of the Isles household (Bristol p 63). Progenitor of the McLeans of Duart
- Reign: After 1365 (Hardy p10). He flourished in the 1390s
- Events:
- Notes:
  - Both Lachlan and his son, Hector, received extensive grants of land from John, the father-in-law of the former, and his successor, Donald. Altogether, their possessions consisted of the isles of Mull, Tiree, and Coll, with Morvern on the mainland, Kingerloch and Ardgour; and the clan Gillean became one of the most important and powerful of the vassal tribes of the Lord of the Isles.
  - Duart Castle was part of his wife’s dowry. This is how the MacLeans acquired this castle and Lachlan Lubanach was the First Laird of Duart. Thus, Lachlan Lubanach can be referred to as the 1<sup>st</sup> Chief of Duart.
  - Gregory (p 69): *“Apart from Duart, from John, and his successor, Donald, as Lords of the Isles, Lauchlan, and his son, Hector, received extensive possessions, both in the Isles and on the mainland.”*
  - *“Lachlan Lubanach, first MacLean of Duard. His time probably antedates 1365. In 1366 he married Margaret, daughter of John, first Lord of the Isles, being forced to obtain a dispensation from the Pope*

*for the marriage. Lachlan took the precaution to have his lands confirmed by charter in 1390. He had five sons, Hector, John, Lachlan, Neil and Somerled. He lived to a great age and died before 1405. He was succeeded by his son, Hector.” (Hardy p10)*

- Death: Before 1405 - at a great age.
- Heir: Hector, son of Lachlan Lubanach,

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Chief – Hector

- Name: Eachuinn Ruahd nan cath Hector Maclean, ‘Red Hector of the Battles’, Hector Roy
- Birth: 1354
- Father: 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief of Duart
- Mother: Margaret or Mary (see above)
- Spouse:-
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - Christina, daughter of MacLeod (Bristol p29). Or daughter of Earl of Douglas (Hardy p10)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Marion (Mor), daughter of Godfrey O Balbhan of the progenies of Fergus o’Balbhan (Bristol p 29)
- Children:-
  - Lachlan Bronneach – who became the 7<sup>th</sup> Chief.
  - John Dubh (Hardy p10)
- Residence:
- Titles: 6<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief of Duart, Constable of the castle of Cairnburg
- Reign: From about 1405, at the age of 51 years, he was chief for 6 years until his death in 1411.
- Events:
  - *An old Gaelic poem affirms that Hector led a great fleet to the coast of Ireland and there defeated some the ships of the King of England.*
  - *“Red Hector of the Battles, or Hector Roy, renowned as one of the best swordsmen of his time and of gigantic strength. Many knights came from distant parts to measure weapons with him, among them a knight from Norway who challenged him to mortal combat. They fought at Salem, in Mull, and the Norwegian fell.*
  - *In 1409 Hector received a charter from Donald, Lord of the Isles, for certain lands, and is there described as ‘Lord of Duard and Constable of the castle of Cairnburg’, a small island two miles from Mull, almost inaccessible by nature, and used as a royal garrison for more than a thousand years.*
  - *1411 – Battle of Harlaw: Electric Scotland A: “He commanded as lieutenant-general under his uncle, Donald of the Isles, at the battle of Harlaw in 1411, when he and Sir Alexander Irving of Drum, seeking out each other by their amorial bearings, encountered hand to hand and slew each other; in commemoration of which circumstance, we are told, the Dowart and Drum families were long accustomed to exchange swords. His eldest son (Lachlan Bronneach) was taken prisoner at the battle of Harlaw, and detained in captivity a long time by the Earl of Mar.”*
  - *“In the renowned Harlow, MacLean commanded the right wing and performed prodigies of valor. Near the close of the battle fought July 24, 1411, he and Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum engaged in single battle with such fury that they fell dead, foot to foot on the field e’er a friend could assist them.”*
  - *“Tradition represents him generous as well as brave. (Hardy p10)*
- Death: 1411 in the battle of Harlow, aged 57 years. His body was entombed in Iona.
- Heir: Lachlan Bronneach, son of Hector 6<sup>th</sup>

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## 7<sup>th</sup> Chief- Lachlan Bronneach

- Name: Lauchlan Bronach, Lachlan Bronneach Maclean, ‘Lachlan the Fat-Belly’ or ‘Big Bellied’, (Wikipedia & Gregory & Sinclair p305 & Bristol p194).
- Family tree: See diagram on page 170 of Nicholas MacLean-Bristol’s ‘Warriors and Priests’ (also appendix in our F30 – Maclean Lairds of Ardgour)
- Birth: 1379. In Bristol’s diagram his birth date is given as of 1427 but this must be questioned if his son, Donald, was born around 1411 (ie 16 years before his father) and if he was in the Battle of Harlow in 1411 (the year

Donald was born). This later birth date is out of kilter with Bristol's birth dates for his father Hector in 1393 and brother John Dubh in 1432.

- Father: Hector (6<sup>th</sup> Chief)
- Mother: Christina or Marion (see above)
- Spouse:
  - A: Margaret Stewart, daughter of Earl of Marr, Alexander Stewart – mother of Lachlan Ogg & Finuola
  - B: Daughter of William McLeod of Harries – mother of Niel and John Garbh
  - C: Margaret, daughter of Ferchar, son of Hector Reaganach (Bristol p 195) or daughter of MacEarchorn MacLean of Kingerloch/Morvern. She and Lachlan Bronneach did not marry, but had a child, Donald (the Hunter). See more details of Margaret's ancestry in Bristol (pp 41, 170 & 195) and our '**F30 – MacLean Lairds of Ardgour**'. Hardy does not mention Lachlan Bronneach's relationship with Margaret and fathering Donald the Hunter.
- Children
  - Lachlan Ogg (his mother was spouse A) – became the 8<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan Maclean
  - Finuola (her mother was spouse A) In 1454, there was a dispensation for her to marry Celestine of Lochalsh – he was the son of John de Yle (Lord of the Isles). Finuola and Celestine did not have any children. (Bristol p64).
  - Niel (his mother was spouse B) - of Ross (Hardy p10)
  - John Garbh (mother was spouse B) - founded the Coll branch of the family. (Hardy, p10)
  - Donald (his mother was spouse C) – the progenitor of the Ardgour line and hence became the 1<sup>st</sup> Laird of the MacLeans of Ardgour (see our '**F30 – MacLean Lairds of Ardgour**').
- Residence:
- Titles: 7th Chief of Clan Maclean and 3<sup>rd</sup> of Duart and one of chief councillors of John de Yle (Lord of the isles).
- Reign: From c1470. Flourished in 1470s
- Events:
  - 1411: Battle of Harlaw (1411), Lachlan was taken prisoner at the battle of Harlaw, and detained in captivity a long time by the Earl of Mar.
- Notes:
  - Lachlan Bronneach is a significant figure in the genealogy of the MacLean chiefs because his four sons each made their marks – as the progenitors of the branches in Ross, Coll and Ardgour, and of course the next chief.
  - After considering differing views about the spouse and offspring of Lauchlan Bronach (as he spells it), Ffamily concludes, *“that Lauchlan Bronach was first married to the Earl of Marr's daughter, by whom he had Lauchlan Ogg his first son and heir. This is still the more probable, as it was likely he was but a young man when his father went to the Battle of Harlaw, and that during his confinement in Marr's House, he made up his acquaintance with the daughter whom he afterwards married, and that upon her death he took McLeod of Harries Daughter for his second wife. This I look upon as the most likely state of the case.”* (Ffamily)
  - *“Lachlan Bronneach was the father of Donald who became the first Laird of Ardgour. Donald's mother was a daughter of MacEarchorn Maclean of Kingerloch in Morvern but it appears that she was not married to Lachlan and that Donald was born out of wedlock. Thus, Donald was brought up among his mother's people”* (Ffamily and JPM p265).
  - *“Lachlan Bronnach was evidently one of chief councillors of John de Yle (Lord of the isles). “This came about probably first and foremost through his position as steward of the Lord of the Isles household, although there is no documentary evidence that he held the post. However, as his grandfather, son and grandson all did, it would be surprising if he did not do so to”* (Bristol p 63).
  - *“Lachlan Bronnach accompanied his father in the battle of Harlow and was made prisoner by Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, whose daughter he afterward married. He had one son, Lachlan Og, his heir and successor. By his second wife, who was a daughter of William MacLeod of Harris, he had two sons, Niel of Ross and John Garbh of Coll, who founded the Coll branch of the family.”* (Hardy, p10)
- Death: date unknown
- Heir: Lachlan Ogg, son of Lachlan Bronneach

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## 8<sup>th</sup> Chief – Lachlan Ogg

- Name: Lachlan Og Maclean, 'Lachlan the Younger' or 'Young Lachlan'
- Birth: 1405
- Father: Lachlan Bronneach
- Mother: Daughter of the Earl of Mar.
- Spouse: Catherine, daughter of Colin Campbell, first Earl of Argyle. Born in Inverary Castle. Her father was Earl Colin I Campbell of Argyll (born about 1433 in Inverary Castle and her mother was Isabel Stewart of Lennox who died on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 1510. Colin and Isabel were married in 1465 (Cameron p42),
- Children: Hector
- Residence:
- Titles: 8<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean & 4<sup>th</sup> Chief of Duart & Steward of the Lord of the Isles household
- Reign: He flourished in 1480s. It is not known when his father died so it is not known how old Lachlan Ogg was when he became the chief but it might have been late in his life. Thus it is known how long he held the position of Chief.
- Events:
- Notes:
  - Steward of the Lord of the Isles household – this was after Ewen, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Ardgour (Bristol p 64).
  - *"Lachlan Og, or Young Lachlan, so called to distinguish him from his father, was Lord of Duart and chief of MacLean during a period when great political changes were about to take place in the Western Isles. The western chiefs had thought themselves practically independent of the King, and obedient only to the Lord of the Isles who ruled in princely style. In the rebellion that resulted the MacLeans adhered to John MacDonald, Fourth Lord of the Isles. Lachlan Og was beset both within and without in these troublous times. The genealogists declare him 'to have been a good and pious man'. He possessed rare judgment and maintained a peaceful demeanor. He married Catherine, daughter of Colin Campbell, first Earl of Argyle, and although his father-in-law sought to involve him in difficulties, his judgment and skill warded off every blow. He was living in 1478. His son Hector succeeded him."* (Hardy p11)
- Death: 1484 – aged 70 years (Cameron p42 has the death as 1472)
- Heir: Hector, son of Lachlan Ogg

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## 9<sup>th</sup> Chief - Eachuinn Hector Odhar

- Name: Eachuinn Hector Odhar Maclean, 'Hector the Sallow', 'The Swarthy', 'The Brave'
- Birth: 1428
- Father: Lachlan Ogg
- Mother: Catherine, daughter of Colin Campbell, first Earl of Argyle,
- Spouse: Unknown
- Children: Lachlan Catanach
- Titles: 9<sup>th</sup> chief of Clan MacLean, Lieut-General of the Lord of the Isles, and keeper of five castles (Dewart, Carneburg, Dunconnell, Dunkerd & Isleborg) (Bristol p69)
- Residence:
- Reign: Flourished in 1490s. He became chief at the age of 56 years (if we take it that he became the chief when his father died). He was chief from 1484 to 1513 – for 29 years.
- Events
  - 1482 - Battle of Bloody Bay: Gregory (p69): *"This Hector commanded the fleet at the Battle of Bloody Bay near Tobermory - on the side of the Lord of the Isles, chief of Clan Donald. He was taken prisoner by the Clandonald"*.
  - 1488 to 1513 - James VI reigned (Gregory p419).
  - 1493 - This is a pivotal date that marks a rise in the fortunes of Clan MacLean. Gregory (p70) states that at this time, MacLean lands extended to the inner Hebrides and western highlands including a great part of Mull, Tiree, Jura, Scarba, Morvern, Lochiel, Knapdale, Duror and Glenco in Lorn [research: a map is needed here]. Gregory makes a point of identifying the key figures of the four branches at the time of the forfeiture of the Lordship of the Isles in 1493:-
    - This Hector Maclean of Dewart (Duart) has generally been considered as the chief of all the Macleans (Gregory p69).

- The Lochbuy branch was led by John MacLaine, the 5<sup>th</sup> Laird of Lochbuie.
- Abrach MacLean of Coll (ref: Gregory p71)
- The Laird of Ardgour in 1493 was Lauchlan MacEwin Maclean (ref: Gregory p71).
- 1513 – Battle of Fodden. Hector was killed in this battle – as a very old man. [research: His part in this battle needs to be checked.]
- Notes:
  - Gregory (p69): Hector was heritable keeper of the following castles - Dowart in Mull; Carneburg in the Treshinish Isles off the north-west coast of Mull; Dunconnell in Scarba; Dunkerd in the Garveloch Isles near Scarha; and Isleborg the locality of which is uncertain.
  - Electric Scotland A states: *"In the dissensions which arose between John, the last Lord of the Isles, and his turbulent son, Angus, who, with the island chiefs descended from the original family, complained that his father had made improvident grants of lands to the Macleans and other tribes."*
  - *"Hector Odhar, the Swarthy, was also called the Brave, because of his warlike disposition which he displayed in encounters with Angus MacDonald, son of the Lord of the Isles. As chief of his clan and Lieut-General of the Lord of the Isles, he fought under John, Fourth Lord, at the battle of Bloody Bay in 1482, and was killed at Flodden Field August 22, 1513. Before the time of Hector Odhar the chiefs of MacLean and those of other clans had been in feudal subjugation for several generations to the Lords of the Isles—the chiefs of the clan MacDonald, then the most powerful in Western Scotland. From them they received a great portion of their lands confirmed by charter to them and their heirs, in time considering themselves practically independent of the King Very important trusts were committed to them, and in battle the post assigned the chief of MacLean was in the van, at the right of the Lord of the Isles. The MacDonalds were in frequent conflict with the reigning sovereign. The chief of MacLean was one of the prominent leaders, and the valor of the MacLeans has been celebrated in story and song. John the Fourth Lord of the Isles was treacherous, and in a naval battle, fought in 1482, was subdued by his son Angus, referred to above. In 1493 the MacDonalds were conquered, and at a parliament held in Edinburgh, the possessions of the Lord of the Isles were declared to be irrevocably forfeited to the crown. It was during the chieftainship of Hector Odhar that the clan thus became independent of the Lords of the Isles and subject only to the King. By him the charters to their lands were confirmed. Several branches of the clan had already sprung from the parent stock, the most important of which were the families of Lochbuy, Coll and Ardgour, and to each of them, as well as to that of Duard (whose chief, according to an ancient writer, was 'called Great McLean') separate charters were given. From henceforth "the clan rapidly grew in influence and power until it reached its zenith, near the close of the sixteenth century, at which time it was accounted the most powerful of any in the Hebrides" (Gregory p419).*
  - *"The MacLeans were an independent clan from 1493 to 1598. He was succeeded by his son, Lachlan Catanach." (Hardy p11)*
- Death:
  - 1496 (Cameron p42)
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1513 – killed in the Battle of Fodden (Gregory p419) - at the age of 85 years. There might be some doubt about this – he seems very old to be placed in a position in the battle where he could be killed. Also, Electric Scotland has his son becoming the chief in 1502.
- Heir: Lachlan Catanach, son of Hector 9<sup>th</sup>.

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## 10<sup>th</sup> Chief - Lachlan

- Name: Lachlan Maclean
- Birth: 1450
- Father: Hector 9<sup>th</sup>
- Mother: Unknown
- Spouse:
- Children:
- Residence:
- Titles: 10<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean
- Reign: Flourished in 1510s. Gregory has Lachlan's father dying in 1513 whereas Electric Scotland has Lachlan becoming the chief in 1502.
- Events:

- 1513 – Battle of Flodden. Was Lachlan involved in the battle?
- Notes:
  - 1502-1505 - *“Lachlan Maclean was chief of Dowart (Duart) in 1502, and he and his kinsman, Maclean of Lochbuy, were among the leading men of the Western Isles whom that energetic monarch, James IV, entered into correspondence with, for the purpose of breaking up the confederacy of the Islanders. Nevertheless, on the breaking out of the insurrection under Donald Dubh, in 1503, they were both implicated in it. Lachlan Maclean was forfeited with Cameron of Lochiel, while Maclean of Lochbuy and several others were summoned before parliament, to answer for their treasonable support given to the rebels. In 1505 Maclean of Dowart abandoned the cause of Donald Dubh and submitted to the government; his example was followed by Maclean of Lochbuy and other chiefs; and this had the effect, soon after, of putting an end to the rebellion.”* (Electric Scotland A)
  - *“Towards the end of James IV’s reign, the old quarrel between the Macleans and the Clanchameron, regarding the lands of Lochiel, which had once more broken out, and another feud, carried on with much bitterness, between the Macleans of Dowart and Lochbuy, regarding their conterminous lands in Morvern and the Isle of Tiree, were checked or extinguished by the attentive care of the Sovereign.”* (Gregory p111)
- Death: Unknown
- Heir:

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## 11<sup>th</sup> Chief - Lachlan Cattanach

- Name: Lachlan Cattanach Maclean, ‘Lachlan the Hairy’, ‘The Shaggy’
- Birth: 1465
- Father:
- Mother:
- Spouses:-
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - Lady Elizabeth Campbell, daughter of Archibald, the second Earl of Argyll, chief of Clan Campbell (Gregory p128)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Margaret, daughter of Sir Dugald Campbell.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> - Marion, daughter of John (Donald Duhb) who was 1<sup>st</sup> MacLean of Treshnish (capt of Cairnburg) who was the son of Ewen who was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Laird of Ardgour. (Hardy p12 & Bristol p194 & 196).
  - These marriages were before he became chief (Hardy p12)
- Children of Marion and Lachlan Cattanach
  - Hector Mor - who became the 12<sup>th</sup> Chief
  - Ailean na Sop
- Residence: Cairnburg
- Titles: 11<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean
- Reign: He became Chief at the age of 50 years. 1515-1527 - for 12 years.
- Notes:
  - *“This Lachlan was one of the principle supporters of Sir Donald Macdonald of Lochalsh, when, in November 1513, he brought forward his claims to the lordship of the Isles.”* (Electric Scotland A)
  - Gregory p 128: *“Lachlan married Lady Elizabeth Campbell, daughter of Archibald, the second Earl of Argyll, chief of Clan Campbell. The match was not a happy one. Either from the circumstance of their union being unfruitful, or more probably owing to some domestic quarrels, he determined to get rid of his wife. Some accounts say that she had twice attempted her husband's life; but, whatever the cause may have been, Maclean, following the advice of two of his vassals, who exercised a considerable influence over him from the tie of fosterage, caused his lady to be exposed on a rock in the sea, which was only visible at low water, intending that she should be marooned or swept away by the return of the tide, and drowned. This rock lies between the island of Lismore and the coast of Mull, and is still known by the name of the “Lady’s Rock”. From this perilous situation, the intended victim was rescued by a fishing boat accidentally passing, and conveyed to her brother’s house. Her relations, although much exasperated against Maclean, smothered their resentment for a time, but only to break out afterwards with greater violence in 1523; for the Laird of Dowart being in Edinburgh, was surprised, when in bed, and assassinated by Sir John Campbell of Calder, the Lady’s brother. The Macleans instantly took arms to revenge the death of their chief, and the Campbells were not slow in preparing to follow up the feud; but the Government interfered, and, for the present, an appeal to arms was avoided.”*

- *“Lachlan Catanach, or the Shaggy, who was involved with the chiefs of other clans in an insurrection of the MacDonalds by which it was hoped to restore to the Lords of the Isles their former supremacy. Argyle, as usual, was deputed by the King to suppress them. The conflict was long and the success of the King’s party only partial, but becoming disgusted with the selfishness and recklessness of MacDonald and the deceit he had practised upon them, Lachlan and the chief of MacLeod abandoned his cause and offered their submission to the regent, then in the place of the King who had fallen at Flodden. Some years later Lachlan was on terms of friendship with the new king, James V, and having letters of protection from him, went to Edinburgh where he was treacherously stabbed to death in bed and unprotected, by Sir John Campbell of Calder, brother of Sir Colin, Earl of Argyle, who probably instigated the deed. This was in 1527. Lachlan’s first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Archibald Campbell, second Earl of Argyle. He afterward married Margaret, daughter of Sir Dugald Campbell. His third wife was Marian, daughter of John MacLean of Treshnish, Capt. of Cairnburg, by whom he had two sons, Hector Mor, his successor, and Ailean na Sop. His marriages took place before he became chieftain, and he resided for many years in the stronghold of Cairnburg. The reason of his murder was that the Argyles wished to get possession of his lands.” (Hardy p12)*

- Death: 1527 - Assassinated by Campbell of Achallander (Burke vol 3 p648) – aged 62 years
- Heir: Hector Mor, son of Lachlan Cattanach.

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## 12<sup>th</sup> Chief - Eachuinn Hector Mor

- Name: Eachuinn Hector Mor Maclean, ‘Hector the Great’
- Birth: 1497
- Father: Lachlan Cattanach
- Mother: Marion Maclean (Maclean-Bristol p194&196).
- Spouse: Mary, daughter of Alexander Macdonald of Isla and the Glens (Burke’s Peerage and Landed Gentry – v3 p 648). Mary was born in Dunnyveg Castle, Islay, Argyllshire (Cameron, p2)
- Children: (per Burke’s Peerage and Landed Gentry – v3 p 648)
  - Hector Oio (Og) Maclean – heir
  - John-Dubh – ancestor of the Macleans of Kinlochaline, Drimnin and Pennycross
  - 7 daughters – all married leading men of the kingdom (Hardy p13). Catherine, the second youngest daughter, became the third wife of 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Argyle (Hardy p13).
- Residence: Duard Castle
- Titles: 12<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean,
- Reign: As a 30 year old, he became the chief 1527, for 41 years until he died in 1568. He flourished in 1530s
- Events:
  - 1529 - *“In 1529, the Macleans joined the Clandonald of Isla against the Earl of Argyll, and ravaged with fire and sword the lands of Roseneath, Craignish, and others belonging to the Campbells, killing many of the inhabitants. The Campbells, on their part, retaliated by laying waste great portion of the isles of Mull and Tiree and the lands of Morvern, belonging to the Macleans.” (Electric Scotland A)*
  - 1530 - *“In May 1530, Mclean of Dowart and Alexander of Isla made their personal submission to the sovereign at Stirling, and, with the other rebel island chiefs who followed their example, were pardoned, upon giving security for their after obedience.” (Electric Scotland A)*
  - 1546 - *“On 29 September 1546 Hector Maclean of Duart received the gift of the ward and marriage of Johne McJohnne M’Carlie m’Ewin M” (Bristol p195).*
  - 1546 - *“Hector Mor’s position changed dramatically in the years that followed Donald Duhb’s rebellion. As we have seen, he was probably in possession of English gold. He was also the earl of Argyll’s father-in-law, and a member of his Council. Maclean made full use of his new importance. On 29<sup>th</sup> September 1546, he received the royal gift of the ward of the 22 merklands and barony of Ardgour, which had belonged to the late John Maclean of Ardgour” (Bristol p144)*
  - *“After the death of John [4<sup>th</sup> Laird of Ardgour], Hector Mor of Duart is said by A Maclean Sinclair to have conveyed ‘the lands and barony of Ardgour’ to Allan son of John son of Allan third son of Ewen of Ardgour. He quotes a charter of March 1549 (Clan Gillean, 307) but I have found no evidence to support this claim. Dr Hector Maclean evidently thought this Allan was Ewen of Ardgour’s eldest son” (Bristol p196).*
  - *On 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1546/7, Hector Mor and John, the 4<sup>th</sup> Laird of Ardgour, were pardoned for their involvement in Donald Duhb’s rebellion (Bristol p144).*

- 1557 – A contemplated invasion by Archibald Campbell 4th Earl of Argyle) became, instead, a double wedding – Hector Mor’s daughter (Catherine) married the Earl, and the Earl’s daughter married Hector Mor’s son (Hector Og) (Hardy p13).
- Notes:
  - “Hector Mor’s death marks the end of an era in the history of the Macleans. He was perhaps born before the forfeiture of lordship. He certainly lived in its shadow for most of his life. He guided and expanded his family through shifting sands of much of the sixteenth century.” (Bristol p 156).
  - “Hector Mor, or Hector the Great, succeeded his father in 1527. He was a noble chieftain—good, kind, affectionate and brave - an accomplished politician and an approved warrior. He granted extended leases to his vassals to encourage the improvement of lands and the building of more comfortable dwellings. He lived more like a modern noble than a feudal baron. He founded that noble addition to Duard Castle, called the Great Tower. (Duard, meaning Black Promontory, from the high rock on which the castle stands to this day in ruins.) The King called him to his councils, and he took a seat in parliament as one of the lords of the kingdom. He married Mary, daughter of Alexander MacDonald of Islay and the Glens, by whom he had two sons and seven daughters. He provided handsomely for his daughters, who were all married to leading men in the kingdom, and he left to his oldest son and heir an unburdened estate with a considerable amount of money. He sought to avenge the murder of his father by taking part in burning the house of Roseneath, Lennox and Craignish, for which he received a royal remission in 1531. In 1557 an invasion of his lands was contemplated by Archibald Campbell, fourth Earl of Argyle. When he found Hector was ready to receive him, whether he came as friend or foe, the invasion was given up, changed into a nuptial gathering at Duard Castle, where a double marriage took place, Argyle receiving Catherine, second youngest daughter of Hector Mor, for his third wife, and giving his own daughter Janet to the heir of the chief of Duard. Hector Mor died about 1568 and was succeeded by Hector Og”. (Hardy p13)
- Death: 1568 aged 71 years
- Heir: Hector Og, son of Hector 12th

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## 13<sup>th</sup> Chief - Eachuinn Hector Og

- Name: Eachuinn Hector Og Maclean, ‘Hector the Younger’
- Birth: 1529 (or about 1540 according to Cameron p2)
- Father: Hector Mor (12<sup>th</sup> Chief)
- Mother: Mary Macdonald
- Spouse: Lady Jennette (Janet), daughter of Archibald, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Argyll. (Burke v3 p648 & Hardy p13). Janet Campbell of Argyll who was born about 1545 in Inverary Castle Argyllshire (Cameron p2)
- Children:
  - Lachlan-Mor Maclean - his heir (Burke v3 p648)
  - Sibella MacLean: In 1754 Sibella married Captain Allan Cameron III of Glendessary (Loch Arkaig) who was born about 1720. Allan and Sibella had a son Donald Mor Cameron of Glendessary born 1766 in Moy and married Ann (Nancy) MacLean who was born about 1765 in Glendessary and Ann died 7<sup>th</sup> July 1832 in Pointe Fortune Vaudreuil County Quebec. Sibella died in Glendessary and Allan died in Glendessary before 1800 (Cameron p2). All this should be discarded (or relocated to a later generation) as Sibella could not be Lachlan Mor’s sister because she could not have been married over 200 years after her father was born.
  - Was there another sister? Did she marry Charles, brother of Allan (5<sup>th</sup> Laird of Ardgour)? “Charles married the sister of Sir Lachlan Mor, who was relict of Hector MacLean, second laird of Coll” (JPM).
- Residence:
- Titles: 13<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean
- Reign: He became the chief in 1568, when he was 39 years old, and was chief for xxx years until he died in xxxxxx. He flourished in the 1540s.
- Events:
  - 1545 - “In 1545, Maclean of Dowart acted a very prominent part in the intrigues with England, in furtherance of the project of Henry VIII, to force the Scottish nation to consent to a marriage between Prince Edward and the young Queen Mary. He and Maclean of Lochbuy were among the barons of the Isles who accompanied Donald Dubh to Ireland, and at the command of the Earl of Lennox, claiming to be regent of Scotland, swore allegiance to the king of England.” (Electric Scotland A)



- 1561 - *“Feuds between the Dowart Macleans and the Macleans of Coll. The dispute arose from Dowart, who was generally recognised as the head of the ClanLean, insisting on being followed as chief by Maclean of Coll, and the latter, who held his lands direct from the crown, declining to acknowledge him as such, on the ground that being a free baron, he owed no service but to his sovereign as his feudal superior. In consequence of this refusal, Dowart, in the year 1561, caused Coll's lands to be ravaged, and his tenants to be imprisoned. With some difficulty, and after the lapse of several years, Coll succeeded in bringing his case before the privy council, who order Dowart to make reparation to him for the injury done to his property and tenants, and likewise to refrain from molesting him in future. But on a renewal of the feud some years after, Macleans of Coll were expelled from that island by the young laird of Dowart.” (Electric Scotland A)*
- Notes:
  - *“The seeds of the decay of this important family, the Macleans, were sown in the reign of Queen Mary (1543 to 1567), when the great feud between the Macleans and Macdonalds first broke out.” (Gregory p419)*
  - *“The quarrel between the MacLeans and the Macdonalds of Islay and Kintyre was, at the outset, merely a dispute as to the right of occupancy of the crown lands called the Rinns of Islay, but it soon involved these tribes in a long and bloody feud, and eventually led to the near destruction of them both. The Macleans, who were in possession, claimed to hold the lands in dispute as tenants of the crown, but the privy council decided that Macdonald of Islay was really the crown tenant.” (Wikipedia)*
  - *“Hector Og, or the Younger, was a spendthrift, who burdened the estate with debt. He inherited none of his father's noble qualities and was the only worthless chief of MacLean. He built a residence on Iona, the ruins of which are still shown as ‘Garden of Young Hector’. He had one son and three daughters. Survived his father but five years, dying in 1573. His son was Lachlan Mor.” (Hardy p14)*
- Death:
  - Died in the time of James VI
  - He died before 1571 (Bristol p156)
  - 1573 (Cameron p2)
- Heir: Hector Og was succeeded by his son, Lachlan Mor

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## 14<sup>th</sup> Chief – Sir Lachlan Mor

- Name: Sir Lachlan Mor Maclean, ‘Big Lachlan’
- Birth: 1558
- Father: Hector Ogg (13<sup>th</sup> Chief)
- Mother: Lady Jeanette (as above)
- Spouse: Lady Margaret Cunningham, daughter of Earl of Glencairn (Burke v3 p648).
- Children: Hector Maclean of Dowart - heir
- Residence:
- Titles: 14<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, Baronet
- Reign: He became chief in when 1773 he was 18 years old and was chief for 25 years until he died in 1598.
- Events:
  - 1588 – *“The war about the Rinns of Islay between the MacDonalds and the MacLeans, which had been going on for so long, broke out again. MacLean was in favour with the King James VI, and the latter wanted to help him, but he had no forces at his disposal. .... James issued a letter of fire and sword to MacLeod of Dunvegan, ordering him to support MacLean. .... He may have issued several such letters to other chiefs.” (Electric Scotland A)*
  - 1589 - *“In 1589, James induced the Chiefs of Dowart, Dunnyveg, and Sleat to come to Edinburgh under a safe conduct, that he might discuss with them the terms on which this war might be brought to an end. The moment they were in his power, he seized their persons, and kept them prisoners in Edinburgh Castle until they had each of them paid heavy fines.” (Electric Scotland B)*
  - During the next nine years one or two ill-planned and futile expeditions were sent to the Islands, but these accomplished nothing. (Electric Scotland B)
  - 1597 – *“In 1597 the Chiefs were ordered to produce the title-deeds of their estates before May 1598 on pain of forfeiture. This was a singularly ill-advised measure. Many of the title-deeds had been lost during the long period of internal trouble through which the Highlands had passed, and some loyal and*

*well-disposed Chiefs were goaded into rebellion by the order to produce documents which could not be found.” (Electric Scotland B)*

- Notes:
  - Lachlan had a southern and continental education, and was fully literate in Scots. ( MacGregory p146)
  - *“By his education on the continent he had learned civility and good manners and lived accordingly”. (Spottiswoode’s History of Church of Scotland, Vol III. p. 344)*
  - *“Lachlan Mor, 14th Chief, was slain at Traigh Ghruinneirt in Islay when fighting against his nephew James McDonald of Islay. The lofty mind and great heart of this chief endeared him to everyone who knew him and when he was killed an elegy was composed in his memory entitled ‘Gavir nan Ban Muileach’ (The wail of -the Mull women); a most moving piece of Gaelic poetry.” (BRB p3)*
  - Burke described him as *“a gallant and distinguished chieftain” (Burke v3 p648)*
  - *“Sir Lachlan Mor MacLean, Knight, called also ‘Big Lachlan’ both on account of his stature and the greatness of his mind, was the most accomplished and warlike chief that ever held sway in Duart. Historians say “he was one of the most remarkable men connected with the Highlanders of Scotland in his day” (Book of Scottish History, p638)*
  - *“It is good for the MacLeans to cherish in their heart of hearts Lachlan Mor and Hector Mor”. “He was the most talented and conspicuous among all chiefs, and in war and personal prowess had no equal”. King James VI became very much interested in him and had him sent to Edinburgh and brought up in his court. His military genius fitted him to meet the emergency upon which the future of his clan seemed to depend. In 1576, at the age of eighteen, he took possession of the estates, and during his twenty-two years rule the clan was almost continually involved in strife either for the King, its allies or itself. He was an important personage in the cause of England during the reign of Elizabeth. In Aug 1598 he was slain in Islay through the base treachery of his nephew, Sir James MacDonald, who had persuaded him to visit the island on pretext of an amicable settlement of their differences (Clan History p91-137). His death, in the 41st year of his age, was deeply lamented, not only by his own people but by the Highland clans generally. His affable and kind bearing toward his vassals and friends, his cool behavior on the field of battle, and his commanding presence, always made him an ideal chieftain, while his early education biased him in favor of the Reformed religion, which he ardently embraced from a conviction of its truth, and thus became the first Protestant of his name. By example as well as precept he demonstrated to his people that he had no faith in the teachings of the Romish church. He married Margaret, daughter of William Cunningham, Earl of Glencairn, and had four sons and one daughter. He lies buried in the churchyard of Kilchoman, Islay. His son, Hector Og, succeeded him” (Hardy p14)*
- Death: 5<sup>th</sup> August 1598 (Burke v3 p648) - *Slain at Traigh Ghruinneirt in Islay (BRB p3) – aged 40 years.*
- Heir: Hector Og, son of Lochlan Mor.

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## 15<sup>th</sup> Chief - Sir Hector Og

- Name: Hector (Eachann) Og Maclean, ‘Young Hector’
- Birth: 1583
- Father: Lachlan Mor
- Mother: Lady Margaret Cunningham
- Spouses
  - 1st: Jennette, 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter of Colin, 11<sup>th</sup> Lord of Kintail (Burke v3 p648) – more specifically, Janet, daughter of Cailean Cam, 11<sup>th</sup> MacKenzie of Kintail (Hardy, p16)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Isabelle, daughter of Achoaon of Gosford (Burke v3 p648) – more specifically, Isabella, daughter of Sir Archibald Acheson of Gosford (Hardy, p16)
- Children with 1<sup>st</sup> spouse (Jennette/Janet):-
  - Hector Mor, 16<sup>th</sup> Chief (Hardy, p16).
  - Lachlan (research: Burke designates him as the 1<sup>st</sup> Bart. (created Baronet by Charles I in 1632 and became the 17<sup>th</sup> Chief around the same time)
  - Florence - married John Garbh, 7<sup>th</sup> MacLean of Coll (‘A Brief History of Allan MacLean, 1715-1786’ by Mary McLean Hardy, 1905, p16) [research: Confusion – Was Florence the daughter of Hector & Janet, or the wife of Donald of Broloss?]
- Children with 2<sup>nd</sup> spouse (Isabelle):-
  - Donald of Broloss, who married Florence, 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter of John, 7<sup>th</sup> Laird of Coll and they had the following children:-

- Lauchlan of Broloss whose grandson, Allan, became the 22<sup>nd</sup> Chief
- Hector-Oig whose great-grandsons became the 23<sup>rd</sup> Chief and 24<sup>th</sup> Chiefs
- Janet married Allan Maclean (Fryer p8)
- John – ancestor of the Counts Maclean of Sweden
- Residence:
- Titles: 15<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, Baronet
- Reign: He became chief in 1598, when he was 15 (or 20?) years old and was chief for 20 years until he died to 1618.
- Events:
  - 1598 - *“The first act of Hector Og, or Young Hector, who became chief at twenty years of age, was to adopt retaliatory measures upon the MacDonalDs for the death of his father and kinsmen, and, being joined by the Camerons of Lochiel and other friendly clans, they descended on Islay, swept the MacDonalDs off the island, severely wounded their chief and burned their dwellings. The removal of King James VI from the court of Edinburgh to that of London was beneficial to the Isles as better laws were enacted for the government of the Isles. Hector Og married first, Janet, daughter of Cailean Cam, 11th MacKenzie of Kintail, by whom he had Hector Mor, his heir, Lachlan, and Florence who married John Garbh, 7th MacLean of Coll (Clan History p287). He married, second, Isabella, daughter of Sir Archibald Acheson of Gosford, by whom he had two sons, Donald, first MacLean of Brolass (Clan History p224) and one daughter. He died in 1618, in the fortieth year of his age.” (Hardy p15)*
  - *“After Sir Lachlan MacLean's death in 1598, his sons took revenge on his suspected murderers, the MacDonalDs, by carrying out a massacre of the people of Islay which lasted for three days. After obtaining ‘Letters of Fire and Sword’ he was assisted in this by the MacLeods, MacNeils, and Camerons.” (Wikipedia)*
  - 1604 - *“Hector Maclean of Dowart, who, among other offences, had failed to pay the Crown rents for his possessions, was obliged to give security to the Privy Council that his Castle of Dowart should be delivered up to the person whom the King and Council should authorise to receive it, on twenty days’ warning.” (Gregory p306)*
  - 1608 – Incarceration
    - *“Hector was kidnapped, with many other Chiefs, at a dinner on board ship off Aros Castle. They were taken south to Edinburgh, where they were forced to agree to the terms of the Statutes of Iona, under which they lost much of their sovereignty over the islands. Hector himself was only released when he agreed to the destruction of his ships.” (Wikipedia)*
    - Macgregor (p114): *“The refusal of the Estates to underwrite the costs of the ‘Book of Isles’, which was a major new initiative, resulted in Andrew Stewart, Lord Ochiltree, in August 1608, kidnapping certain members of the Hebridean elite, and their incarceration in southern Scotland. At the king’s command, negotiations with these individuals proceeded through the agency of a Commission for the Isles. ‘Overtures’, presumably embodying the fruits of these negotiations, were taken to the king in person by Andrew Knox, Bishop of the Isles, in the early summer of 1609.”*
    - Gregory (pxxx): *Some, including the ‘big five’ – Dunvegan, Sleat, Clanranald, Duart and Dunivaig, had all gone voluntarily to Aros in August 1608 to meet Ochiltree.*
    - Electric Scotland Y: *“In 1608 James sent an expedition under Lord Ochiltree to the Highlands, and, unlike his previous efforts, this did have some effect. The Castles of Dowart and Dunyveg were taken. The following Western Chiefs came to meet Lord Ochiltree at Aros (Mull) - MacDonald of Dunyveg, MacLean of Dowart, his brother Lauchlane, Donald Gorm of Sleat, Clan Ranald, Rory MacLeod of Dunvegan, and some other gentlemen. All these, Lord Ochiltree reported, placed themselves at his disposal unconditionally. It appears, however, from a contemporary author, that they were not so compliant as Lord Ochiltree tried to make out. Finding fair words of no avail, Ochiltree asked the Chiefs to come on board his ship, the Moon, to hear a sermon from the Bishop of the Isles, and to dine afterwards. All accepted the invitation except Rory MacLeod, who suspected some sinister design. The result showed his wisdom. Ochiltree, when dinner was done, announced to his guests that they were his prisoners, and sailed with them to Ayr, whence he took them to Edinburgh, and presented them to the Council. “*
  - 1609 – Out of incarceration
    - Gregory (pxx): *Eachann MacLean of Duart was ‘forfeited’ on 20 February 1609.*
    - MacGregor (p115): *“All those captured by Ochiltree were brought to Edinburgh in the case of those held at Blackness, Stirling and Dumbarton, and then released. In virtually all cases, it was explicitly stated that this was to help the king’s commissioners in their impending expedition, in various ways..... and to reappear before the council on specified dates in either early November or early February. “*

- Electric Scotland Y: *“The Bishop of the Isles was sent as Commissioner to the Highlands. The imprisoned Chiefs were liberated on finding security that they would concur with the bishop in his proposed plans, and the latter was empowered to grant the Chiefs still at liberty a safe conduct if they met him at Iona.”*
- Macgregor (p116): Lachlann, brother of Eachann MacLean of Duart, apparently one of those captured August 1608 was to be freed in order to accompany Knox and Hay, and return with them.
- 1609 – Statutes of Icolmkill (Iona):
  - Plan A: Gregory p329: *“That the Bishop of the Isles and the Comptroller should, in the present summer, visit and survey the Isles, being accompanied, both in their voyage thither and in their return, by Angus Macdonald of Dunyveg and Hector Maclean of Dowart, who were to be liberated for this purpose. The other chief and gentlemen already in prison were to remain in prison till the return of the Commissioners from their survey; and to procure the attendance of as many of the remaining chiefs as possible before the Privy Council, the Bishop and Comptroller were to be empowered to give letters of safe conduct to such as would promise to come to Edinburgh.”*
  - Plan B: Gregory p329: However *“the Bishop of the Isles was deputed to proceed as sole Commissioner on this service; and all the chiefs and gentlemen now in prison were liberated, on finding security to a large amount, not only for their return to Edinburgh by a certain fixed day, but for their active concurrence, in the meantime, with the Bishop in making the projected survey. Three thousand pounds were allowed to the latter for his expenses; and in case any of the Islanders should, after the offer of a safe conduct, still refuse to come before the Privy Council, the Bishop was armed with full power to compel their obedience by the assistance of the well-disposed chiefs and their followers”.*
  - Venue: Iona
  - Date: 23rd & 24<sup>th</sup> August 1609
  - Format: ‘Court’ according to Macgregor and ‘solemn enclave’ according to Electric Scotland.
  - Convenor: Bishop Andrew Knox of the Isles on behalf of Scottish King (James VI) - King of England, Ireland and Scotland. The Bishop was a man of rare tact and judgment, and he was gifted with very remarkable powers of persuasion. He reasoned with the chiefs, he pointed out to them the appalling condition of distress and misery to which the incessant wars of the last hundred years had reduced their country, and he found that they were not inaccessible to reason. (ref: Electric Scotland)
  - Attendees:
    - Gregory (p330): *“Almost all the principal Islesmen - they were Angus Macdonald of Dunyveg; Hector MacLean of Dowart; Donald Gorme of Sleat; Ruari Macleod of Harris; Donald MacAllan Vic Ian of Ilanteram (captain of the Clanranold); Lauchlan Maclean of Coll; Lauchan Mackinnon of that ilk; Hector Maclean of Lochbuy; Lauchan and Allan Maclean’s brothers-german of Dowart; Gillespick Macquarrie of Ulva; and Donald Macfie of Colonsay.”*
    - MacGregor: *“The Hebridean elite gathered in significant numbers to attend Bishop Knox’s court. ‘Outs’ were indeed present, most crucially Ruairi Mòr, but also MacQuarrie, MacDuffie, MacLean of Lochbuie, MacLean of Coll, and Ailean, another brother of Eachann Maclean of Duart, accompanied by ‘the maist pairt of thair hail speciall freindis, dependairis and tennentis’. The only notable absentee was MacNeill of Barra.”*
- Comments:
  - The 7<sup>th</sup> Laird of Ardgour, Allan, was not part of this because the court was about the Isles rather than the mainland.
  - The chiefs who had been incarcerated were expected to influence the others (the ‘outs’) to cooperate with Bishop Knox – they *“submitted themselves to him, as the Royal representative, in the most unreserved manner”* (Gregory p330).
- The 9 statutes (listed by Electric Scotland Y as follows) :-
  - Clan wars were to cease, and all future disputes were to be settled by the laws of the realm.
  - Churches were to be built, the number of the clergy increased, due respect shewn to them, and their stipends regularly paid.
  - The Chiefs, and all their tenants, who owned more than sixty cows, were to send their children to be educated in the South.
  - Handfasting (a form of wedding ceremony – for less-permanent marriages) was declared to be illegal.

- Sorning (pressing someone to provide food and lodging) was to be put down, and criminals among the sorners were to be tried and punished.
- The sale of wine and brandy was made illegal.
- It was made a crime to carry fire-arms.
- Disallowing the bards and other idlers of that class.
- The Chiefs, as before, were to send hostages for their good conduct South, and to appear before the Council themselves on July 16 in each year. Disobedience would be followed by forfeiture.
- *"For the observance of the Statutes, the Bishop took a strict bond from all the Chiefs present. This bond contained a sort of confession of faith on the part of the subscribers, and an unconditional acknowledgment of his Majesty's supreme authority in all matters both spiritual and temporal, according to his "most lovable act of supremacy".* (ref: Gregory p333)
- Impact: - all scholars, except Goodare, have seen this agreement as pivotal
  - Goodare, writing 389 years after the event, described the statutes as *"at worst, effectively 'cast into oblivion' and were not merely unimportant, but may not have represented official policy at all."* Goodare suggested that they were *'limited and short-lived'* and a *'temporary tidying-up operation'*. None-the-less he saw them as a *'useful beginning'*, which *'played a part in initiating dialogue, and were probably the first occasion on which government and chiefs talked to one another without arguing'* (MacGregor p 118).
  - Gregory (p333), writing 227 years after the event: *"The first traces of that overflowing loyalty to the house of Stewart for which the Highlanders have been so highly lauded, are to be found in that generation of their chiefs whose education was conducted on the high church and state principles of the British Solomon. There is no room in doubt that the chiefs who followed Montrose in the great civil war were actuated by a very different spirit from their fathers; and it is well worthy of notice that this difference was produced in the course of a single generation, by the operation of measures which first began to take effect after the year 1609."*
  - Electric Scotland B: *"With the signing of the Statutes of Iona a new era of peace and obedience to law opened in the Highlands. ... Most of the Chiefs who had agreed to the Statutes of Iona remained true to their engagements, and duly presented themselves before the Council each year. ... Henceforth the disputes of the Chiefs were settled, not by the sword, but by the laws of the realm. However, it could not be expected that a single stroke of the pen could at once change customs which had been practiced for centuries, and there were some troubles in the Highlands during the next few years."*
  - MacGregor, writing in 2006 (397 years after the event): Macgregor saw the statutes as *"part of changing strategies by the King and his advisors. It was moving away from trying to subjugate and colonize the Isles by military conquest and expropriation. Overtures were made to achieve reform by working through the Hebridean elite rather than eliminating it"* (MacGregor p 119). Force was not completely abandoned – it was a carrot and stick. It was an unfolding scenario where chiefs were not merely secure if they co-operated, but also enlisted to act on government's behalf. *"1609 began with a military expedition culminating in kidnap, and ended with the release of these self-same individuals to facilitate an expedition whose agenda was primarily economic and diplomatic, and whose minatory (menacing) dimension was measured"* (ref: MacGregor (p116). The Statutes were *"at the heart of the new deal. 'Dialogue' had been regular and constructive since at least the early summer of 1609. Payment of past and present rents may have commenced at any point after November 1609."* (ref: Macgregor p125). *"The statutes were a landmark statement advancing an intellectually coherent programme."* (p150)
  - Comments: The statutes were certainly a significant step along the crooked road (some steps forward, some backward, some sideways) from the warlords and fiefdoms to eventual rule of law, democracy and nationhood. That is, from times when for example:-
    - Our McLeans murdered the McMasters to take over Ardgour in 1420
    - Military conquests and armed feuding
    - The lairds such as Alexander 13<sup>th</sup> Laird of Ardgour had great influence on the daily lives of 'their' citizens in the 1700s.
    - Land is now bought and sold with title deeds such as when Robin, 18<sup>th</sup> Laird of Ardgour, sold part of the Ardgour estate in 1996.
    - In 2016 the citizens of Scotland decided by a referendum to remain part of the United Kingdom
- 1616: rent arrears
  - MacGregor (p130): Eachann MacLean of Duart, and his brother Lachlann, had rent arrears and failure to find caution. [research: What is 'caution'?]
- 1618 – died (Burke & 'A Brief History of Allan MacLean, 1715-1786' by Mary McLean Hardy, 1905, p16).
- Notes:

- Don's comment: It was tumultuous times in the isles while Sir Hector was Chief. In 1598, at the beginning of his time, there was a continuation of the long running chaos and armed conflicts which had characterized the dealings between the branches, between the clans, and between the royal houses of Scotland and England. There were intensified efforts by King James VI to pacify the isles and to assert his control. Maclean's lost Duart Castle and other properties. [research: Check this – Duart was under threat but not fully lost until 1693??]. Some influential chiefs, including Sir Hector, were imprisoned and then released on condition that they helped convince other chiefs to defer to the English king. This culminated in a crucial meeting at Iona where the chiefs agreed to accept James's authority over them. This was part of a process of dismantling the clan structures - a process which continued for more than another century with the climax at Culloden and the subsequent reprisals. We trace the following events of the early 1600s in detail because of the pivotal part they played in our clan history.
- *"In the reigns of James VI (1567 to 1625) and Charles I (1625 to 1649), many debts had accumulated against the barony of Dowart, which enabled the Marquis of Argyle and his successors to establish a claim to that estate, and this claim the Macleans, owing to their exertions in favour of the Stewarts, never had an opportunity of shaking off."* (Gregory p419)
- Death: 1618
- Heir: Hector Mor, son of Hector Og 15<sup>th</sup>

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## 16<sup>th</sup> Chief - Hector Mor

- Name: Hector Mor Maclean
- Birth: c1600
- Father: Hector Og (15<sup>th</sup> Chief)
- Mother: Isabella, daughter of Sir Archibald Acheson of Gosford (Hardy, p16) – or Jeanette (see above)
- Spouse:
- Children : None
- Titles: 16<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean
- Reign: From 1618 at about 23 years of age, for 8 years, until he died in 1626
- Residence:
- Events:
- Notes:
  - *"Hector Mor succeeded to an extensive and unencumbered estate, when the family had great influence. He died childless in 1626 – the first failure in direct succession in four hundred years. His brother Lachlan succeeded him."* (Hardy p16).
- Death: 1626 at about 26 years old.
- Heir: Lachlan, brother of Hector Mor 16<sup>th</sup> and son of Hector Og 15<sup>th</sup>.

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## 17<sup>th</sup> Chief - Lachlan

- Name: Sir Lachlan Maclean
- Birth: ???
- Father: Hector Og (15<sup>th</sup> Chief)
- Mother: Isabella, daughter of Sir Archibald Acheson of Gosford (Hardy p16)
- Siblings: Lachlan was the brother of Hector, the 16<sup>th</sup> Chief.
- Spouse: Mary, second daughter of Sir Roderick MacLeod of MacLeod (Hardy p16)
- Children:
  - Hector – his heir – the 18<sup>th</sup> chief
  - Allan - who was only 6 years old at the time his brother, Hector was killed, so Allan became the 19<sup>th</sup> chief.
  - Three daughters (Hardy p16)
  - There must have been at least 9 sons – with Hector and 7 brothers killed at Inverkeithing – and their younger brother, Allan

- Residence: Where did he reside? Even though Sir Lachlan became the Baronet of Nova Scotia, there are no indications that he was ever living in in Canada – for example, he was in Scotland in the battle of Inverlochy in 1645 and was at Duart Castle when it was attacked in 1647.
- Titles: 17<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet of Nova Scotia, Sir Lachlan MacLean of Morvern
- Reign: From 1626 to 1649 – for 23 years
- Events:
  - 1632 – On 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 1632 he was created Baronet by Charles I (BRB p3 & Burke vol iii p648). BRB has this as Baronet of Morvern whereas Burke has this as Baronet of Nova Scotia. However, Gregory (p419) has it that *“Sir Lauchlan Maclean of Morvern .....was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles I.” “Charles created him baronet of Nova Scotia, by the title of Sir Lachlan MacLean of Morvern.” (Hardy p16)*
  - Comment: Presumably, Charles 1 knighted Lachlan as a reward for his loyalty, but, in 1632, Lachlan was quite young [research: How old] so what were these acts of loyalty?
  - *“The Macleans joined the Marquis of Montrose in his memorable campaign, along with the other Highland clans under the command of Sir Lachlan Maclean of Morvern, and sustained the warlike character of the clan throughout that enterprise”.* (Skene p213). Burke v3 p648 states that *“Sir Lauchlan, who was zealously attached to Charles 1, participated in all the triumphs of the great Marquess of Montrose”*
    - Battle of Inverlochy in 1645:
      - The forces of James Graham (Lord Montrose) defeated the forces of Archibald Campbell (1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Argyll).
      - Skene (p213) confirms that Sir Lachlan Maclean, 17<sup>th</sup> Chief of Duarts), *“was present as a royalist at the Battle of Inverlochy when Montrose signally defeated Argyll.*
      - Inverlochy Castle is at Torlundy, near Fort William.
      - Note that there was another Battle of Inverlochy – two centuries previously in 1431.
    - Attack against Duart Castle in 1647:
      - Duart Castle was attacked and laid siege to by the Argyll government troops of Clan Campbell, but they were defeated and driven off by the Royalist troops of Clan McLean. (ref: Wikipedia)
  - *“After Charles was betrayed and executed the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Argyll, backed by the forces of General Leslie, invaded Mull and, although no resistance was offered, wrought disgraceful cruelties and outrages. Sir Lachlan gave himself up to Argyll to prevent further blood-shed, and was imprisoned in Carrick Castle” (BRB p3)*
  - *“Sir Lachlan Mor, 17th Chief created Baronet by Charles I, was present at the Battle of Inverlochy when Argyll was so signally defeated. After Charles was betrayed and executed the 8th Earl of Argyll, backed by the forces of General Leslie, invaded Mull and, although no resistance was offered. wrought disgraceful cruelties and outrages. Sir Lachlan gave himself up to Argyll to prevent further blood-shed, and was imprisoned in Carrick Castle.” (BRB p3)*
- Notes:
  - *“Sir Lachlan MacLean, Bart., the first baronet, came into possession under the most favorable circumstances. He had power and influence sufficient to guard him against any open attack, possessing the favor of the King (Charles I) as some security against treachery, although his irreconcilable foe, Archibald Campbell, 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Argyle, made many attempts to entrap him. The first visit of Lachlan to court after the death of his brother was in 1631, and while there Charles created him baronet of Nova Scotia, by the title of Sir Lachlan MacLean of Morvern. The reception tendered him by the King made a lasting impression on his generous nature and confirmed him in that steadfast loyalty from which he never swerved, but which laid the foundation of many disastrous results to the clan. About this time there began that rapid decline of the clan in power and possessions due to measure to the jealousies existing among the several branches of the family and the severe conflicts with the clan MacDonald, all of which were fostered and encouraged by the avaricious King James whose grasping policy and cunning behests were executed by those prices of perfidy and duplicity, Archibald and Colin Campbell, but more especially to the machinations and greed of the Campbells who, because they could not induce the MacLeans to join them in their treachery and intrigue, and being covetous of their lands and holding in the isles, became their most bitter foes. The close of the civil wars in 1644-43. which resulted in the triumph of the parliamentary armies and the dethronement of Charles I brought to the front the ambitious and unscrupulous, the result of which was that law and justice were trampled under-foot. The time had now come when the long-cherished desire of the house of Argyle against the MacLeans might he realized. Since the commencement of this strife of parliament with the King’s forces, the estate of MacLean had paid none of the public dues, Sir Lachlan estimating the amount of those dues trifling enough to indemnify him for the expense of maintaining a thousand armed followers on behalf of the King during Montrose’s campaigns; and, from conscientious reasons, he now felt less disposed to pay them into the hands of those whom he believed*

had usurped the King's authority. Noncompliance on the part of Sir Lachlan was just what Argyle desired. He instantly set himself about purchasing all the debts, both public and private, which he could find against the Chief of MacLean, and these debts, with certain alleged to be owing to the bishop of the isles, and some old debts, for the payment of which he pretended to be security, enabled Argyle to establish a claim of £30,000. He then issued secretly and of his own authority a writ of attachment against the person of Sir Lachlan, who was taken prisoner "at Inverary and thrown into Argyle's castle of Carrick for a debt due to Archibald Campbell, Marquis of Argyle". For upward of a year Sir Lachlan suffered imprisonment rather than sign a bond of acknowledgment of the debt demanded by Argyle. His health at length declining, and seeing no hope of relief by legal measures, in a country now prostrate, he was induced to yield to the wishes of his friends and signed the bond; whereupon he was liberated, to return in a dying condition to his castle in Mull where, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, 1648, he expired. \* \* \* The settlement of this claim was purposely delayed by the Campbells many years, and continually augmented, until by craft and falsehood, added to great influence at court, they succeeded in obtaining about £100,000 from the MacLeans, and finally the larger part of their lands. It is recorded that "Archibald Campbell, 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Argyle, for his many crimes was beheaded at the cross at Edinburgh, May 16, 1661", and his son Archibald, "for treachery and treason was beheaded June 30, 1685." Sir Lachlan MacLean married Mary, second daughter of Sir Roderick MacLeod of MacLeod, by whom he had two sons, Hector and Allen, and three daughters." (Hardy p16).

- Death: 1649
- Heir: Hector, son of Lachlan 17<sup>th</sup>.

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## 18<sup>th</sup> Chief - Hector

- Name: Hector Maclean or Hector Roy, 'Red Hector', 'Hector Rufus'
- Birth:
- Father: Lachlan, 17<sup>th</sup> Chief
- Mother: Mary, second daughter of Sir Roderick MacLeod of MacLeod (Hardy p16)
- Spouse: Never married
- Children: No children
- Residence:
- Titles: 18<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clam MacLean, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet
- Reign: From 1649 to 1651 – for 3 years
- Events:

- 1651 – Battle of Inverkeithing:-

- This was at the end of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms. It was fought between the English Parliamentary Army and the Scottish Covenanter army on behalf of Charles ii.
- "All the Macleans were zealous partisans of the Stewarts, in whose cause they suffered severely; more particularly at the battle of Inverkeithing, ... when this clan lost several hundred men, and a large proportion of officers." (Gregory p420)
- "Battle of Inverkeithing - Of the 800 MacLeans engaged but forty escaped alive." (Hardy p16)
- "Red Hector, 18th Chief, was present with his clansmen at Inverkeithing in the battle against the Cromwellian General Lambert. In the thick of the fight he was shielded by seven brothers, all of whom gave their lives in his defense. As each brother fell another stepped into his place calling out "Fear eille airson Eachainn!" (Another for Hector!) and this latter became one of the clan's war cries. It is sad to relate that Hector also was slain and the sacrifice of the brothers was in vain." (BRB p3)



Memorial cairn to Sir Hector Maclean of Duart and his clansmen who were killed at the Battle of Inverkeithing

- Notes:
  - "Hector Roy, or Hector Rufus, Bart., succeeded his father. His lines were cast upon evil times, civil commotions continuing during his rule. Charles II was crowned at Scone in 1651. He was slain in the battle of Inverkeithing. Of the 800 MacLeans engaged but forty escaped alive. As Hector never married, he was succeeded by his brother Allen." (Hardy p16)
- Death: 1651 – died in the Battle of Inverkeithing
- Heir: Hector died without a son and the chiefship went to his brother, Allan (Burke vol3 p648)



## 19<sup>th</sup> Chief – Allan

- Name: Allan MacLean
- Birth: 1645
- Father: Lachlan 17<sup>th</sup>
- Mother: Mary, second daughter of Sir Roderick MacLeod of MacLeod (Hardy p16)
- Spouse: Julian, daughter of John Macleod of Macleod of Dunvegan (Burke v3 p648 & SHS p249)
- Children:
  - John - who survived to become the next chief
- Residence:
- Titles: 19<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet
- Reign: From 1651 at the age of 6 years - to 1674 – for 23 years
- Comment: His brother, Hector the 18<sup>th</sup> was killed at Inverkeithing in 1651, with other brothers trying to protect him with their own lives. Allan did not participate in this battle as he would have been 6 years old at the time.
- Events:
  - 1660: Sir Allan briefly recovered the castle after the restoration of Charles 2nd to the throne in 1660.
  - 1671: Agreement between Allan of Duart, John of 8<sup>th</sup> Ardgour and his son, Hew 9<sup>th</sup> Ardgour – mutual assistance against the Earl of Argyll (SHS p335 & appendix in our ‘F30’).
  - 1673: Sir Allan remodelled the North East range of buildings in 1673 only to lose the next year.
  - 1674: The Earl of Argyll, on pressing for repayment of considerable debts, took over Duart Castle.
- Death: 1674 (SHS p249) – aged 29 yrs old.
- Heir: Allan was succeeded by his only surviving child, John (Burke v3, p648).

## 20<sup>th</sup> Chief – John

- Name: Sir John McLean
- Birth: 1670
- Father: Allan (19<sup>th</sup> chief)
- Mother: Julian, daughter of John Macleod of Macleod (Burke v3 p648)
- Spouse: While in exile, he married Mary, daughter of Sir Aeneas Macpherson of Esky Essich Invereshie (Burke v3 p648 & JPM p206)
- Children: John and Mary had 1 son and 5 daughters (JPM p212):-
  - Hector became the 21<sup>st</sup> Chief.
  - Isabella married a MacQuarrie of Ormaig in Ulva – There is a connection with Governor Macquarie of the colony of New South Wales who had Lochbuy connections.
  - Louisa
  - Mary
  - Ann
  - Beatrice died at Glendarnel, aged 13 yrs.
- Residence: Duart as a toddler, then exiled to France, back to Duart and then exiled to Holland.
- Titles: 20<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Morvern
- Reign: From 1674 when he was 4 years old, until 1716 – for 32 years. His father died around the time that the Earl of Argyll took over Duart Council and the family were exiled to France. So, as a young child, John became laird in exile. His affairs were managed by Lauchlan McLean of Brolas (SHS p249).
- Events:
  - 1681 - Duart Castle and lands were returned to Sir John, son of Sir Allan, when the Earl of Argyll fell out of favour with the King, only to lose it again in 1691 when Argyll was once more in favour with the Whigs. *“It might have been thought that the forfeiture of Argyll in 1681 would have resulted in the triumph of the Macleans. But its only effect was to transfer what Argyll had acquired to the Crown as part of his forfeited estates! And the Revolution of 1688, which resulted in the restoration of the House of Argyll and the flight of Sir John Maclean to France, made an end of the matter” (SHS p337).*

- 1685: Lauchlan McLean of Brolas, who was managing young John's affairs "opposed the Earl of Argyle's possession of the estate of Dowart, which he endeavoured to acquire by means of letters of fire and sword; but which it does not appear he had effected in 1681, when he was forfeited, and afterwards executed in February 1685. The Earl of Argyle, his son, was restored to his estate in 1690, and obtained an order of privy-council for reducing the McLeans (SHS p249).
- 1689 - Battle of Killycrankie - "This gentleman, who, like his predecessors, was devotedly attached to the house of Stuart, raised his clan in the Revolution, and joining Lord Dundee, participated in the battle and victory in Killycrankie" (Burke v3 p648). This was part of the first Jacobite Uprising. It gave the Campbells an opportunity to return to Mull and destroy Duart. John would have been 19 years old at this time.
- 1691 - Following the Battle of Cairburg Mor, the Mclean estates were forfeited by the Crown.
- 1692 - Sir John surrendered Duart Castle on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1692 (JPM p205)
- After the surrender of the castle, Sir John lived in exile in Holland.
- 1698-1704: "Sir John went abroad in 1698, and resided in France till 1704, when he returned to England" (SHS p249).
- 1704: "He was introduced to Queen Anne, and promised her favour in a settlement of his affairs with Argyle; and she gave him a pension of 500l Sterling per annum, which he enjoyed till her death in 1714" (SHS p249).
- 1704: John returned to London and was arrested, place in the Tower, tried for having taken part in the Queensberry plot, and acquitted (JPM p206). The Queen gave him a pension and he remained in London.
- "He was mixed up in the Scots Plot, and undertook to tell all he knew 'upon assurance of his pardon and being treated like a gentleman, so as not to be required to appear in public as an evidence against any person'" (Proceedings in the House of Lords, p6 – per SHS p249).
- 1714: Queen died and there was an unsuccessful attempt to arrest Sir John and Lochiel at the Cameron Castle at Achnacarry (JPM p 207)
- 1715: Battle of Sheriffmuir - "In 1715, he again raised his clan, under the banner of the dethroned family and joining the Earl of Marr, was with that nobleman at the battle of Sheriffmuir on 13<sup>th</sup> November" (Burke v3 p648). There were 800 men in Sir John's regiment (JPM p208). There were 8000 Jacobites, mainly from the Macleans, MacDonalds, Camerons, Stewarts and Huntlys. They were against 3500 Argyle veteran troops (JPM p209). The battle is described by JP Maclean.
- 1715: "Sir John having engaged in the rebellion 1715, his affairs were thereby rendered desperate" (SHS p249).
- Notes:
  - "Before the end of the seventeenth century Clan MacLean had lost nearly all its great possessions, and was almost deprived of influence." (Gregory p419)
  - Did the Macleans have a 'seat' after losing Duart Castle? What then were the resources, standing and role of the chief? Evidently he had enough authority to raise his clan for the Battle of Sheriffmuir in 1715.]
  - He was the last Laird of Duart until the property was recovered and restored more than 2 centuries later.
  - George, succeeded Queen Anne and initially, the leading Highland chiefs, including Sir John, expressed their readiness to serve him (JPM p207). But the King did not accept that they were loyal. The King also aggravated John Erskine (the Earl of Mar) who "did all in his power to ingratiate himself into the sovereign" (JPM p208). Thus, King George turned some who might have (reluctantly) have acknowledged him became active supporters of James iii Chevalier as the rightful king. The followers of James were called Jacobites.
  - "Sir John, Bart., succeeded at the age of four, under two kinsmen as regents till 1686, when Sir John appointed four agents for his business and started on his travels, first to England, thence to France, whence he returned to Ireland with King James II, to whom he remained faithful, resisting the government of William and Mary. He was continually persecuted by the Argyles, as his ancestors had been. He lived much of the time in London. He died at Gordon castle, 12th of March 1716, aged 45, and was the last of the powerful lords of Duard. He left one son and five daughters. He was fine looking, graceful and agreeable, his polite address showing he had spent much time at court. He was well educated, speaking Gaelic, English and French fluently. A sturdy honesty was the leading characteristic of his family and from that standard he never departed. His gallant behavior at Killiecrankie when but eighteen, and at Sheriffmuir showed his bravery. His life was a monument of the injunction, "Put not your trust in Princes". It is gratifying to know that the Morvern estates and Duard passed out of the Argyle family in 1819. Sir John was succeeded by his son, Hector." (Hardy p19)
- Death: John died on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1716 at Gordon Castle (Hardy p19) and was buried at the church of Raffin in Banff (JPM p212). Aged 46 years
- Heir: John's eldest son, Hector

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## 21<sup>st</sup> Chief - Hector

- Name: Hector MacLean,
- Birth: 1703 in Calais (Ffamily p51)
- Father: John (20<sup>th</sup> chief)
- Mother: Mary, daughter of Sir Aeneas Macpherson of Esky Essich Invereshie (Burke v3 p648 & JPM p206)
- Education: He studied languages, philosophy and mathematics in Edinburgh (Ffamily p51) and then belle-letters and law in France
- Spouse & children: He never married nor had any children
- Residence: Calais - then England (4 yrs old) - then Coll (in care of Donald MacLean) until 18 yrs) – then Edinburgh – then France - etc xxxxx – died in Rome
- Titles: 21<sup>st</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, 5<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Morvern, Jacobite Peer of Scotland as Lord MacLean
- Reign: Hector became the Chief when his father, Sir John, died in 1716. He succeeded in the title (bart) but there were no properties to inherit. He must have been about 13 years old at this time. He died in 1750, after a reign of 34 years.
- Events:
  - Sir Hector MacLean, Bart., born at Calais in 1703. At the age of four he was taken to England, thence to the Highlands, to the care of Donald MacLean of Coll till he was 18. (Ffamily p51)
  - *“He was raised to the Jacobite Peerage of Scotland as Lord Maclean on 17 December 1716, a title to pass on his male heirs.”* (Wikipedia). Comment: This was just months after he became the new Chief. We do not know why this honor was conferred on him – it was probably not due to anything he did because he was only 13 years old. Maybe it was a belated honor to Hector’s predecessor, John the 20<sup>th</sup> Chief, who was a significant supporter of the Jacobian cause - especially the battles of Killiecrankie in 1689 and Sherrifmuir in 1715. But, whatever the reason, it must have acknowledged the clan’s support for the Jacobite cause. Anyway, because he ended up without a male heir, this Jacobite Peerage lapsed on this death. Also, on his death the title of Baronet of Morvern (he was the 5<sup>th</sup>) also lapsed.
  - After studying in Edinburgh, he went to France in 1721 to complete his studies in belle-letters and civil law (Ffamily p51).
  - He was in France from 1721, visited Scotland 1726, and then returned to France in 1728. He lived in Paris and Bouloign until he returned to Edinburgh in 1745 (Ffamily p51).
  - In France he was the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Freemasons of Paris (Wikipedia).
  - He remained in France until the revolution under Prince Charles Edward Stuart broke out in 1745.
  - 1746: The Second Rising: See our **‘F40 – MacLeans in the Jacobite Risings’** for Sir Hector’s role in these turbulent times.
- He was described as *“low in stature, and lame in one of his legs yet walked, danced and performed exercises with strength and agility. His body was strong and capable of bearing fatigue. He sat on a horse with peculiar grace”* (Ffamily p51). This flattering description continues for seven more sentences.
- Poems & songs: Sir Hector McLean, is mentioned in the poem ‘Come O’er the Stream’ and in the Gaelic Clans Song. He is the ‘Heir of Dreollain’ (in Mull and Morvern) referred to in ‘Oran do Lochiall’. (ref: ‘The Bonnie Prince Charlies Country’ by Rev. J.A. Carruth, Norwich, 1996)
- He is mentioned in Fryer’s fact-novel ‘Allan Maclean – Jacobite General’ (see Fryer’s index)
- *“As long as he lived, although in foreign lands, he was regarded as the father of the clan”* (JPM p 221).
- *“Sir Hector, when he came of age, went abroad in the 1724: He visited Scotland in 1727; but went back to France, where he remained till May 1745, when he returned to Scotland; was sent prisoner to London, and kept in custody for two years; and having then been released, he went abroad, and died in Italy in the 1751, without issue”* (SHS p249).
- *“Sir Hector MacLean, Bart., born at Calais in 1703. At the age of four he was taken to England, thence to the Highlands, to the care of Donald MacLean of Coll till he was 18. He then studied in Edinburgh, and in 1721 went to France to complete his studies in belle-letters and civil law, where he remained till the revolution under Prince Charles Edward Stuart broke out in 1745. The battle of Culloden, disastrous to the Prince, may be said to have ended the clan system. Sir Hector remained faithful to the Stuart cause till his death which occurred at Rome Oct 1750. He died without issue. He was succeeded by Sir Allan MacLean, fourth Laid of Brolass, a descendant of the second marriage of Hector Og, 14<sup>th</sup> Chief of the MacLeans.”* (Hardy p19)
- *“Sir Hector MacLean died without issue, never having been married. In him occurred the third break of the line of chieftains, and the first failure in the family of the chieftains. It is befitting that such should be the case. The clans were no more; the last effort had been made for the house of Stuart and the oppression of the clansmen was being carried on with great violence, which was to end in cruel evictions, the recital of which brings sorrow and sadness of heart. The whole line of chieftains were much respected in their country, loved by their friends, feared*

by their enemies, never betrayed their trust, and whose peculiar characteristic was more brave than polite. Sir Hector was a fit ending for such a glorious line" (JPM, pxx) Comment: These conclusions by JP Maclean, in 1889, were premature.

- Death: He died in Rome in October 1750 (SHS p249) – aged 48 years old. Other sources (which ones?) have him dying in 1750 in January/February 1751.
- Heir: Hector's did not have a son, and the title passed to a third cousin, Allan

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> Chief - Allan

- Name: Sir Allan MacLean,
- Birth: 1710 in Torloisk
- Father:
  - Allan was a descendant of the second marriage of Hector Og, 14th Chief
  - *"Donald the 3rd. MacLean of Broloss who tho' he was left Fatherless when young and burdened with many Distresses in his own Private affairs and the affairs of his Clans, yet by the greatness of his mind and Prudent Management he bravely overcame them. He was some time Lieut in Coln McGill's Regt. where he was very severely wounded by a Troopers Shable"* (FFamily p106).
  - *"Donald, 3<sup>rd</sup> Maclean of Brolas was left fatherless at an early age. He entered the army and served for some time as lieutenant during the reign of Queen Anne; but in an attempt made by her brother for the recovery of the crown of his ancestors in the year 1715, Maclean of Brolas served as lieutenant-colonel of the clan Maclean under his cousin Sir John at the battle of Sheriffmuir, where he received two severe wounds in the head"* (Seneachie p228).
  - Ffamily (p106) has Donald dying in 1725 whereas Burke (v3 p648) has him dying in 1750 (or was this latter referring to the death of Hector, the 21<sup>st</sup> Chief.)
- Mother: Daughter of the Allan, the 10<sup>th</sup> Laird of Ardgour.
- Spouse: Anne (Unna) who was born 1728, daughter of Hector Maclean, 11th of Coll (c. 1689-1754), also referred to as 14th Laird of Coll or 12th of Coll. She died in 1760 (while Sir Allan was serving in America – ref Ffamily p107)
- Children (daughters):-
  - Lachlan – died young (Ffamily p106)
  - Maria Maclean, married Charles Maclean of Kinlochaline
  - Sibella Maclean, married John Maclean of Inverscadell
  - Ann Maclean, married Dr. Mackenzie Grieve of Edinburgh
- Residence:
- Titles: Fourth Laird of Broloss, 22<sup>nd</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, 6<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Morvern [research: Did the line of Baronet ceased with the 5<sup>th</sup>?]
- Reign: From 1751 when he was 41 years old, until 1783 – for 32 years
- Lineage:
  - He was a third cousin of the 21<sup>st</sup> Chief.
  - *"Sir Allan was the great-grandson of Donald Maclean of Broloss, eldest son, by his second marriage, of Hector Maclean of Dowart, the 1<sup>st</sup> baronet's father"* (Burke vol3 p648).
  - The 15<sup>th</sup> Chief, Hector and his second wife Isabelle (daughter of Achoaon of Gosford) had a son Donald.
  - Donald (son of Hector and Isabelle) married Florence (2<sup>nd</sup> daughter of John, 7<sup>th</sup> Laird of Coll) and they had two sons Lauchlan and Hector.
  - Lauchlan of Broloss (son of Donald and Florence), was MP for Argyllshire. He married Isabelle (daughter of Hector Maclean of Torloisk) and they had a son, Donald.
  - Donald of Broloss (son of Lauchlan and Isabelle), married Isabella (daughter of Allan Maclean, the 10<sup>th</sup> Laird of Ardgour). They had a son, Allan.
  - Allan (son of Donald and Isabella) became the 22<sup>nd</sup> Chief around the same time that his father died.
  - His father was Donald Maclean, 3<sup>rd</sup> Laird of Brolas. His mother was Isabella MacLean of Ardgour. His maternal grandparents (ie Isabella's parents) were Allan 10<sup>th</sup> Laird of Ardour and Anne Cameron of Lochiel.
  - His siblings (ie children of Donald and Isabella) were:-
    - Allan (himself)
    - Catherine – married Lauchlan Maclean, brother of Laird of Coll (Ffamily p106).
    - Isobell – married Laird of Lochbuy (Ffamily p106).

- Annam – married to Allan of Drimnin (Ffamily p106)
- Gillian (a natural son – ie Donald’s son, but not Isabella’s son) – a Lieutenant in Guernsey (Ffamily p106).
- Allan was also the 4th Laird of Brolas.
- Comment: Allan did not ascend to chieftom by means of the normal practice of being the eldest son of the previous chief – in fact his connection with the 21<sup>st</sup> chief was third cousin which is quite a remote relationship. It would have been known well in advance that, because Hector the 21<sup>st</sup> was approaching 50 years old without an heir, that succession would be a matter of contention. There were other factors in play. Hector was residing in France and there wasn’t a MacLean ‘seat’ in Scotland. It seems that there were no properties or resources which would normally support the prestige of the chief in carrying out his role. Was Hector active in the role of chief? Was he presenting himself as chief-in-exile? Who was acknowledging him as the chief? *“The clans were no more; the last effort had been made for the house of Stuart and the oppression of the clansmen was being carried on with great violence, which was to end in cruel evictions. ... Sir Hector was a fit ending for such a glorious line.”* (ref JPM pxxx). So, what was the process whereby Allan became the chief? Who was in control of this process? What qualities did he have? Many others would have been passed over, and we can assume there was much intrigue beforehand and subsequent resentment towards Allan after he finally became the new chief. Allan became chief at low point in the strength of the clan. Who knew about his taking on this role. Which clansmen acknowledged him as chief? In what ways did he perform in the role of chief – whatever that role might be?
- Military service:-
  - *“He was first Captain in Lord Drumlanrig’s Regt in the year 1748 and continued there till he got a Company in the honorable Coln Montgomerie’s Regt. in 1757 with whom he went to America ..... On his coming from America he was made Major to Coln. Fitzroys Regt”* (Ffamily p106&107).
  - He began his military career in the service of The Netherlands as a lieutenant in a brigade of Scots Highlanders. He participated in the assault and capture of Bergen-op-Zoom. He then obtained a commission in the 60th or royal American regiment, of which he was for some time an adjutant. He served as a captain in the expedition of Major General James Wolfe in 1759 for the conquest of Canada. He was afterward appointed to the command of the New York independent company, with which he was present at the Battle of Ticonderoga. During the battle he was severely wounded. He was again wounded during the action that preceded the surrender of Fort Niagara. At the end of the Canadian war he returned to England. During the American Revolutionary War he was promoted to the rank of colonel, he and his men were instrumental in the defeat of Benedict Arnold at Quebec. The garrison consisted of 50 fusileers and 350 Highland emigrants, and 700 militia and seamen. Sir Guy Carleton, 1st Baron Dorchester was occupied with arrangements for the general defense of the colony, so the defense of the town was entrusted to Maclean. Some of the faint-hearted and disaffected were now inclined to open the gates to the enemy, but were held in check by Maclean, who guarded the gate with his Highlanders, forbade all communication with the besiegers, and fired upon their flag, an ensign of rebellion, with the result that, after Richard Montgomery was killed, Benedict Arnold abandoned the siege and left the country. Colonel Maclean was subsequently stationed at Fort Niagara, and participated in the Battle of Eutaw Springs with his regiment. He was promoted to brigadier-general after leaving North America.
- Sir Allan entertained Samuel Johnson and James Boswell on Inch Kenneth in October 1773. *“Sir Allan’s hospitality at Inch-Kenneth in Mull, is commemorated in the Latin poem by Dr Johnson, a pleasing translation of which by the late Sir Daniel K Sandford is quoted by the author”* (The Gentleman’s Magazine, 1838, p507).
- He died in 1783 without a son and heir.
- He is featured in Fryer’s fact-novel ‘Allan Maclean – Jacobite General’ where is referred to as Maclean of Maclean.
- Events:-

*“Sir Allan MacLean, Bart., of Brolas, embraced a military life and was Captain-commandant of nine companies of Montgomery’s Highlanders, sent to America and serving at Fort Duquesne, Ticonderoga and Crown Point until the termination of hostilities in 1760. He afterwards attained to the rank of Colonel and retired on half pay, with his three daughters, to the island of Inch Kenneth where he lived in plenty and elegance. He had a tedious, expensive law suit with the Duke of Argyle, gaining a portion of his ancient patrimony. He entertained the celebrated Dr. Samuel Johnson in 1773, who gives a very interesting account of his visit at the “hut” (huts were distinguished from “houses” by being of one story only) in his ‘Tour to the Hebrides’. This was “furnished with unexpected neatness and convenience, and occupied by a gentleman and two ladies of high birth, polished manners and elegant conversation, who practised all the kindnesses*

**Sir Allan Maclean, 6th Baronet**



of hospitality and refinements of courtesy". He died Dec 10, 1783. The name of Sir Allan MacLean is still spoken of with great respect in Mull and the adjacent islands. He was particularly noted for his hospitality to strangers, amiability of disposition and courteous bearing. He was buried in the ancient cemetery on the island of Iona where his grave can be seen, covered by a sculptured sand-stone, enclosed by a low stone wall, not far from the ruins of the ancient chapel. As he died without male heirs he was succeeded in his titles by his nearest of kin, a descendant of his grand-uncle, Hector Og." (Hardy p19) This

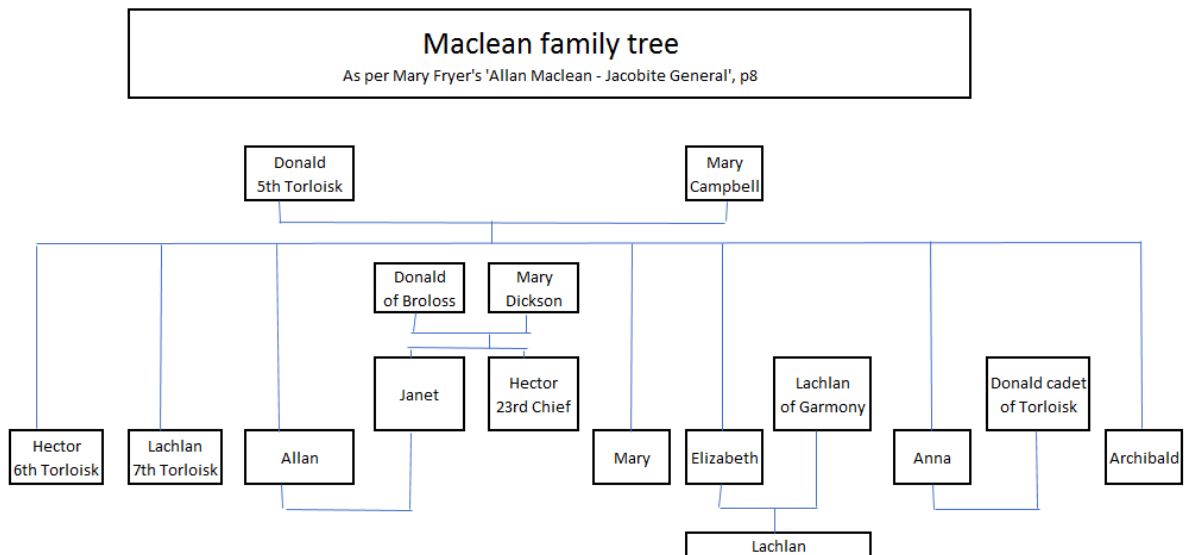
photo from www.revovly.com

- This Allan, 22<sup>nd</sup>, is featured in Fryer's fact-novel, 'Allan Maclean – Jacobite General' (see Fryer's index)
- Death: 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 1783 – aged 73 years.
- Heir: Allan did not have a son, so his title was bestowed on his closest living male relative, a fourth cousin, Sir Hector Maclean, 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet (through Hector Og, the 15<sup>th</sup> Duard Chief). Comment: It is difficult to see how a 4<sup>th</sup> cousin could be the closest living relative – so there would have been some intrigues behind the scenes to yield this outcome.

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## 23<sup>rd</sup> Chief – Hector Oig

- Name: Sir Hector Oig MacLean
- Birth: c1750
- Father: Donald Maclean of Broloss (Fryer p8)
- Mother: Mary Dickson (Fryer p8)
- Spouse:
- Children of xxxx:
- Residence:
- Titles: 23<sup>rd</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Morvern
- Reign: From 1783 to 1818 – for 35 years
- Siblings: His sister, Janet, married Allan Maclean of Torloisk. We have a particular interest in this Allan because:-
  - He fought at Culloden, and survived.
  - He is the central character of the fact-novel 'Allan Maclean – Jacobite General' by Fryer. This novel mentions the 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> chiefs.
  - His parents were Donald 5<sup>th</sup> Torloisk & Mary Campbell. His siblings were Hector 6<sup>th</sup> Torloisk, Lachlan 7<sup>th</sup> Torloisk, Mary, Elizabeth (married Lachlan Maclean of Garmony & mother of Lachlan), Anna (married Donald Maclean cadet of Torloisk) and Archibald.



- Hector's lineage: per Burke v3 p648 as follows:-
- Hector 15<sup>th</sup> Chief and his second wife Isabelle (daughter of Achoaon of Gosford) had a son, Donald
- Donald of Broloss (son of Hector and Isabella), married Florence (2<sup>nd</sup> daughter of John, 7<sup>th</sup> Laird of Coll) and they had two sons:-
  - Lauchlan of Broloss whose grandson, Allan, became the 22<sup>nd</sup> Chief
  - Hector-Oig whose great-grandson became the 23<sup>rd</sup> Chief (ie THIS CHIEF)

- Hector married Jennette (daughter of Macneil of Barra) and they had a son, John
- John (son of Hector and Jennette) married Florence (daughter of Maclean of Garmony) and they had a son, Donald
- Donald (son of John and Florence), married twice:-
  - 1<sup>st</sup> spouse Mary (daughter of John Dickson Esq of Glasgow), and had a son Hector 7<sup>th</sup> Bar, 23<sup>rd</sup> Chief. (ie THIS CHIEF)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> spouse Margaret (daughter of James Wall Esq of Clonea Castle in Waterford), and had by her a son Fitzroy Jefferies Grafton, 8<sup>th</sup> bart, 24<sup>th</sup> Chief (ie NEXT CHIEF)
- He is mentioned in Fryer's fact-novel 'Allan Maclean – Jacobite General' (see Fryer's index).
- Death: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1818 (Burke, vol 3, p648 & Hardy p20) – aged 68 years
- Heir: Hector died without a son and the chiefship went to his closest living male relative, his brother.

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## 24<sup>th</sup> Chief – Fitzroy Jeffreys Grafton

- Name: Fitzroy Jeffreys Grafton Maclean
- Birth: c1770
- Father: Donald Maclean of Brolas
- Mother: Margaret Wall(?).
- Spouse 1: Burke, v3 p648: In 1794, he married the widow of John Bishop of Barbados, the only child of Charles Kidd, and by her had several children, all of whom died in childhood except
  - Sir Charles Fitzroy Maclean, 9th Baronet (born 1798) – He became the 25<sup>th</sup> Chief
  - Donald Maclean (born 1800). Barrister of the Chancery bar and Member of Parliament for Oxford. On 8 Sept 1827, he married Harriet, daughter of General Frederick Maitland.
- His first wife died in 1832.
- Spouse 2: On 17<sup>th</sup> September 1838, he married his second wife, Frances who was the widow of Henry Campion of Mailing Deanery in Sussex. (Burke, v3 p648).
- Frances died on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1843
- Residence: In June 1815, he returned to Europe, after passing, with very little interval, a period of twenty-eight years on active service in the hot climate of the West Indies. On his return, he resided chiefly in London.
- Titles: 24<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, 8<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Morvern
- Reign: From 1818 aged about 48 years to death in 1847 – for 29 years
- Military service:
  - to wear a medal. On 24 September 1787, he obtained his commission as ensign in the twenty-ninth regiment, and rapidly rose to the rank of General, passing through the following grades: Lieutenant, 19 June 1788; Captain, 15 July 1793 ; Major, March, 1795; Lieutenant-Colonel, 18 November 1795; Colonel, 25 September 1803; Major-General, 25 July. 1810; Lieutenant- General, 4 June 1814; General, 10 January 1837.
  - He was colonel of the 45<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Burke, vol 3 p468).
  - He was, with very little interval, twenty-eight years on active service in the hot climate of the West Indies.
  - In 1793, he was at the capture of the island of Tobago and in the attack on Martinique. In 1803. He was appointed commandant of the Batavians, who were received into the British service on the surrender of the Dutch West India colonies. In the expedition for the capture of Surinam, he commanded the advanced corps of the army.
  - In 1805, he was at the capture of the Danish islands of St. Thomas and St. John, the government of which was conferred upon him in 1808, and continued as such until 1815. His administration of the affairs of those islands, his impartial conduct, mild sway, and kind disposition, were such as to endear him to all classes of the inhabitants, and when he took his departure, it was amidst the universal regret of the people.
  - For his gallant behaviour at the capture of the island of Gaudaloupe, in 1810, he received and was permitted
- Notes:
  - He succeeded his half-brother, when Hector died in 1818 without an heir.
  - Both Hector and Fitzroy were the sons of Donald Maclean of Brolas who was married first to Mary Dickson, and later to Margaret Wall(?). Fitzroy is the son from the second marriage. Donald Maclean was the great grandson of Donald MacLean, 1st Laird of Brolas through Brolas' son Hector.

- *“Sir Fitzroy Jeffreys Grafton MacLean, Bart, who made the profession of arms his choice and rose rapidly from the rank of Ensign to that of General in 1837. He spent twenty-eight years of active service in the hot climate of the West Indies. In 1815 he returned to England and lived in London till his death, July 5, 1847. He married the widow of John Bishop of Barbadoes, and was succeeded by his son, Charles Fitzroy MacLean.”* (Hardy p21)
- This chief, 24<sup>th</sup>, is featured in Fryer’s fact-novel, ‘Allan Maclean – Jacobite General’ (see Fryer’s index)
- Death: 5<sup>th</sup> July 1847 (Burke v3 p648). aged about 77 years
- Heir: Oldest surviving son, Charles

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## 25<sup>th</sup> Chief - Charles Fitzroy Grafton

- Name: Sir Charles Fitzroy Grafton MacLean,
- Birth: 1798
- Father: Fitzroy Jeffreys Grafton Maclean
- Mother: Widow of John Bishop of Barbados, the only child of Charles Kidd
- Spouse 1: Married 10<sup>th</sup> May 1831 to Emily-Eleanor Marsham. Emily was the 4<sup>th</sup> daughter of Hon Rev Jacob Marsham DD canon on Windsor, uncle of the Earl of Romney (Burke v3 p648).
- Children of Charles Fitzroy and Emily:-
  - Fitzroy Donald, born 1835. He became the next Bart and Chief.
  - Emily Frances (Burke v3 p648).
  - Louisa Marianna (Burke v3 p648).
  - Fanny Henrietta (Burke v3 p648).
  - Georgina Marcia (Burke v3 p648).
- Emily died in 1838 (Burke v3 p648).
- Spouse 2: Married on 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 1838 to Frances who was widow of Henry Campion of Mailing Deanery in Sussex (Burke v3 p648).
- Frances died 12<sup>th</sup> June 1843 (Burke v3 p648).
- Residence: Lived in Argyll (Burke v3 p648).
- Titles: 25<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, 9<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Morvern
- Reign: From 5<sup>th</sup> July 1847 at the 49 years, for 36 years until his death in 1883
- Military service: Colonel in the army (Burke v3 p648).
- Notes:
  - *“Sir Charles Fitzroy MacLean, Bart, who commanded the 81st Regiment of Scotch Guards and died in 1883. In 1831 he married Emily, daughter of Rev Jacob Markham, DD, Canon of Windsor. He was succeeded by his son Fitzroy Donald MacLean.”* (Hardy p21)–
- Death: 1883
- Heir: First son, Fitzroy Donald

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## 26<sup>th</sup> Chief - Fitzroy

- Name: - Sir Fitzroy Maclean
- Titles: 26<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, 10<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Morvern
- Birth: 1835
- Father: Charles Fitzroy Grafton MacLean
- Mother: Emily-Eleanor Marsham
- Spouse:
- Children of xxxx:
- Residence:
- Reign: From 1883 to 1936, for 47 years
- Military service:
  - He served in the Crimean War in 1854-5 (Hardy p21)
  - He was a survivor of the Charge of the Light Brigade



- Events:
  - *"In 1912, after Duart castle had been a ruin for 220 years, Sir Fitzroy Donald MacLean, 26th Chief, effected a restoration. It took him sixty years of planning, working and striving before he was able to carry out this task, and clansmen from all over the world came to see their Chief enter the modernized version of his ancient home."* (BRB p3)
  - *"Sir Fitzroy Donald MacLean, Bart, the hereditary chief at the present time, served in the Crimean War in 1854-5. His last visit to the United States was in 1893, upon invitation of the MacLeans of Chicago and vicinity, to visit the Columbian Exposition as their guest."* (Hardy p21)
- Death: 1936 - he was in his 102nd year when he died in 1937
- Heir: Fitzroy died without a son and the chiefship went to his closest living male relative.

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## 27<sup>th</sup> Chief - Charles Hector Fitzroy

- Name: Sir Charles Hector Fitzroy Maclean
- Birth: 1916
- Father:
- Mother:
- Spouse:
- Children of xxxx:
- Residence:
- Titles: 27<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan Maclean, 11th Baronet of Morvern
- Reign: From 1936, at 20 years of age, for 54 years, until he died 1990
- Events:
- Death: 1990
- Heir:

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## 28<sup>th</sup> Chief - Lachlan

- Name: Sir Lachlan Maclean
- Titles: 28<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, 12th Baronet of Morvern
- Birth: 1942
- Father:
- Mother:
- Spouse:
- Children of xxxx:
- Residence:
- Titles: 28<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan MacLean, 12th Baronet of Morvern
- Reign: From 1990 at the age of 48 years old. Is still the current Chief – 28 years so far.
- Events:
- Overview:
- Death: Still living
- Heir:

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## 29<sup>th</sup> Chief

Next Chief???

- [research: Who are Sir Lachlan's children and what are their present circumstances. What are the arrangements for succession?]

## References

Sources are taken at face value and their reliability must always be questioned. Some sources are just quoting (without acknowledgement) from earlier sources. Often those researchers do not specify their sources.

**Libraries** - these have many classic MacLean books available for downloading

- Electric Scotland – <https://electricScotland.com/history/index.htm>
- Clan MacLean Worldwide - [www.macleans.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf](http://www.macleans.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf)
- MacLellan History Project - <https://macleanshistory.org/history/historical-texts-resources>
- Our own (Don Gordon's computer) – contact us via [www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com](http://www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com)

<b>Shortcut</b>	<b>Full details</b>	<b>Access</b>
How it is referred to in these research notes	Author, title, year and place of publication etc	How anyone can be view the original source. Contact us via our website if you have difficulty in accessing any of these.
BRB	<b>'Donald &amp; Christina McLean &amp; Their Descendants'</b> , 1995 – It is a big red book, so is referred to as the BRB.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At State Library of South Australia, phone 08-8207 7250, <a href="mailto:slsainfo@sa.gov.au">slsainfo@sa.gov.au</a></li> <li>• Or contact us at <a href="http://www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com">www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com</a></li> </ul>
Bristol	Nicholas Maclean-Bristol, <b>'Warriors &amp; Priests'</b> , 1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Google Books</li> </ul>
Cameron	Pedigree of Jessie Alice Cameron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access??? Contact us????</li> </ul>
Electric Scotland A	No author attributed, and no page numbers provided. The article <b>'MacLean'</b> is found via Electric Scotland homepage, then 'Clans & families', then 'Clans', then 'Maclean', then 'Clan history'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/m/macleans2.html">https://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/m/macleans2.html</a> then use Control/F and a relevant key word to locate the quote.</li> </ul>
Electric Scotland B	RC MacLeod of MacLeod, <b>'The Island Clans During Six Centuries'</b> - chapter VI, 'Scottish Kings & Island Chiefs'. No page numbers provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/island_clans_chap6.htm">https://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/island_clans_chap6.htm</a> then use Control/ F and a relevant key word to locate the quote.</li> </ul>
Ffamily	<b>'A Breif Genealogical Account of the Ffamily of Maclean Ffamily from its First Settlement in the Island of Mull ad Parts Adjacent'</b> , published by W Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh, 1872 (written much earlier) – The author was not specified so we refer to the author as 'Ffamily'- see appendix F in our <b>'F30 – 'MacLeans of Ardgour'</b> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://archive.org/details/breifgenealogica00macl">http://archive.org/details/breifgenealogica00macl</a></li> <li>• Or item 7 in <a href="http://www.macleans.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf">http://www.macleans.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf</a></li> <li>• Or Google Books</li> </ul>
Fryer	Mary Beacock Fryer, <b>'Allan Maclean – Jacobite General'</b> , 1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Google Books</li> </ul>
Gentleman's Magazine	<b>'Gentleman's Magazine'</b> , Vol X, new series, July to Dec 1838	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=iu30000080772837;view=1up;seq=527">https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=iu30000080772837;view=1up;seq=527</a></li> </ul>
Gregory	Donald Gregory, <b>'The History of the Western Highlands and Isles of Scotland, from AD 1493 to AD 1625 – with a brief introductory sketch from AD 80 and AD 1493'</b> , published by Hamilton, Adams & Co, London and Thomas D Morison, Glasgow, 1881	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.archive.org/details/historyofwestern00greguoft">http://www.archive.org/details/historyofwestern00greguoft</a></li> <li>• Or item 6 in <a href="http://www.macleans.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf">http://www.macleans.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf</a></li> </ul>
Hardy	Mary MacLean Hardy, <b>'A brief history of the ancestry and posterity of Allan MacLean – 1715-1786, Vernon, Colony of Connecticut, New England, USA'</b> , published by Marquand Printing Company, Berkeley, California, 1905	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Item 8 in <a href="http://www.macleans.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf">http://www.macleans.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf</a></li> <li>• Or <a href="http://www.archive.org/details/briefhistoryofan00hard">http://www.archive.org/details/briefhistoryofan00hard</a></li> </ul>
JPM	John Patterson MacLean, <b>'A History of the Clan MacLean from its First Settlement at Duard Castle in the Isle of Mull, to the Present Period, including a Genealogical Account of Some of the Principal Families together with their Heraldry, Legends, Superstitions etc'</b> , published by Robert Clarke & Co, Cincinnati, 1889	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.archive.org/details/historyofclanmac00macluoft">http://www.archive.org/details/historyofclanmac00macluoft</a></li> <li>• Or item 32 in <a href="http://www.macleans.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf">http://www.macleans.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf</a></li> </ul>

JP MacLean	John Patterson MacLean, <i>'Renaissance of the clan MacLean, comprising the also a history of Dubhaird Caisteal and the great gathering on August 24, 1912, Together with an Appendix containing letters of Gen'l Allan MacLean, narrative of an American party, a MacLean biography'</i> , published by The FJ Heer Printing Company Columbus, Ohio, 1913	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.archive.org/details/renaissanceofcla00macl">http://www.archive.org/details/renaissanceofcla00macl</a></li> <li>• Or item 35 in <a href="http://www.maclean.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf">http://www.maclean.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf</a></li> </ul>
McLeans of Coll	Website of the Coll McLeans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.mcleanofcoll.com">www.mcleanofcoll.com</a></li> </ul>
Monthly Review	Monthly Review, vol 145, Jan-Apr 1838, pp535-547, Critique of Seneachie, edited Ralph Griffiths & George Edward Griffiths, London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Google books</li> </ul>
Our website	Website of the C&D MacLean Committee – for descendants of Christina and Donald MacLean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com">www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com</a></li> </ul>
Seneachie	A seneachie, <i>'An Historical &amp; Genealogical Account of the Clan Maclean – from its first settlement at Castle Duart in the Isle of Mull, to the present period'</i> , published by Smith, Eldr & Co, London, 1838 – the author might be was not specified so we refer to the author as 'Seneachie' (see appendix in our 'F30 – 'MacLeans of Ardgour').	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://archive.org/details/historicalgeneal1838sene">http://archive.org/details/historicalgeneal1838sene</a></li> <li>• Or item 40 in <a href="http://www.maclean.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf">http://www.maclean.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf</a></li> <li>• Or <a href="https://books.google.com.au/books">https://books.google.com.au/books</a></li> </ul>
Sinclair	Alexander MacLean Sinclair, <i>'The Clan Gillean'</i> , published by Hazzard & Moore, Charlottetown, 1899	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://archive.org/details/cihm_13626/page/n501">https://archive.org/details/cihm_13626/page/n501</a></li> <li>• Or item 46 in <a href="http://www.maclean.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf">http://www.maclean.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf</a></li> </ul>
Skene	William Forbes Skene, <i>'Celtic Scotland – A History of Ancient Alban – Vol 1 – History &amp; Ethnology'</i> , published by Edmonston & Douglas, Edinburgh, 1876	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.archive.org/details/celticscotland00unkngoog">http://www.archive.org/details/celticscotland00unkngoog</a></li> <li>• Or item 51 in <a href="http://www.maclean.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf">http://www.maclean.org/heritage-trust/Forms/Free%20downloads.pdf</a></li> </ul>
Wikipedia	No page numbers provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Search by relevant key words.</li> </ul>

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## Sources

## History of McLean histories

These research notes are based on many sources, each is referenced throughout. It is useful to identify the main sources and consider how they relate to each other. Here we are considering comprehensive histories of the whole MacLean clan, rather than selective accounts which focus on one branch (though admittedly, we are particularly interested in the Duart-Ardgour-Blaich connections).

## Listing

- A. Earliest –
- McKenzie & Fitzgerald genealogies: Ffamily places reliance of genealogical work of the McKenzie & Fitzgerald families as a basis for identifying the early development of the MacLean clan (Ffamily p6 to p11).
  - John Beaton's genealogy: *"The Macleans' knowledge of their ancestry was preserved both orally and in writing. At one time several versions of Maclean genealogies existed. Mr John Beaton, the last Seneachie of the Macleans of Duart is known in 1700 to have possessed the 1467 manuscript, which records the pedigrees of the clans of the West Highlands and Islands. It is now in the National Library of Scotland. MS 1467 was evidently not Beaton's only Maclean genealogy. It is the only one known to have survived"* (Bristol p1).
  - Dr Kennedy genealogy:
  - Ffamily tabulated a comparison between the genealogies of John Beaton and Dr Kennedy (Ffamily p1 to p5). This table is, in a slightly revised form, is in item I (1900) below.
- B. 1734 - Dr Hector MacLean – Ffamily - 'A breif genealogical account of the Ffamily MacLean':-
- This was the first comprehensive history of clan MacLean.
  - This is an initial version (up to 1716), followed by later versions in items C (1750), E (1872) & I (1900).
  - The original manuscript is possibly in NLS Advocates Library in Edinburgh.
- C. 1750 – Walter Macfarlane - 'Genealogical collections concerning families in Scotland'
- Includes a version of Ffamily – probably item B.
- D. 1838 – Seneachie– 'An Historical & Genealogical Account of the Clan MacLean'
- Perhaps written by Rev John Campbell Sinclair or Lachlan MacLean
- E. 1872 – Ffamily by Dr Hector MacLean
- This was published long after it was written
  - Other versions are items B (1734), C (1750) & I (1900)
- F. 1889 – John Paterson MacLean - 'A History of the Clan MacLean from its First Settlement at Duard Castle in the Isle of Mull'
- G. 1889 – Alexander MacLean Sinclair –
- "In the April number of the Celtic Magazine, 1888, Rev. A. MacLean Sinclair commenced a series of historical sketches of the clan MacLean. The series was concluded in the Scottish Highlander for January 10, 1889, the Celtic Magazine having in the meantime been merged into the other periodical"* (JPM p391).
  - These historical sketches were probably the basis of Sinclair's 'The Clan Gillean' which was published a decade later (item H).
- H. 1899 – Alexander MacLean Sinclair – 'The Clan Gillean'
- I. 1900 – Clark:
- JT Clark edited the MacLean genealogy which appeared in Vol 1 of 'Genealogical Collections Concerning Families in Scotland, made by Walter Macfarlane, 1750-1751'.
  - This was re-published by The Scottish History Society (volume 33) in 1900.
  - This was probably based on item B (a version of Ffamily)
- J. 1905 – Mary MacLean Hardy - 'A brief history of the ancestry and posterity of Allan MacLean – 1715-1786'.
- This has a significant section about the whole clan before focusing on Allan.
- K. 1923 - Mortlock Notes
- This is not a comprehensive history – but is specifically relevant to our history of Christina and Donald.
- L. 1995 - 'History of Donald and Christina McLean and Their Descendants'
- This is mainly about the descendants in Australia after 1850

- M. 1995 – Nicholas MacLean-Bristol – ‘Warriors & Priests’-
  - This is not a comprehensive history – but is specifically relevant to our history of Christina and Donald.
- N. 1995 – Fitzroy MacLean – ‘Highlands’
  - This is a general history of all the clans but has a little about the Macleans because it is written by a MacLean.
- O. 2015 - Our website – [www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com](http://www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com)
  - Ongoing since 2015
  - This includes documents (such as this one) in the form of research notes in Small Print on the left of the home page.
- P. Others
  - No doubt there are several more histories which we are not aware of.
  - For example, *“It is said there is a MS history, .... in the Vatican, at Rome” (JPM p391).*

## Where did each of these histories get their information?

- Our confidence in the accuracy of a detail will depend on the reliability of the source.
- From other histories:-
  - Obviously, the earlier histories have been the foundation on which later histories have been built. In order to work out who relied on who:-
    - Acknowledgments: Unfortunately, later researchers have not always made it clear who they are quoting for their sources.
    - Wording: Comparisons of texts reveal identical wording in different accounts. This might indicate that one has copied from the other – but maybe they both used a common third source which neither has acknowledged.
    - Substance: The different accounts are addressing the same history and it would be expected that there are many overlaps – there facts are congruent. They cover similar issues in slightly different ways. Their substance is generally consistent, but where there are differences, the different details are placed next to each other in our research notes. Often, we have not attempted to resolve these contradictions, but occasionally comments are made where one account appears to be more credible.
    - Style & structure; Similarities in how the material is presented may point to one source relying on the other.
    - Sequence:
      - It would be expected that the later accounts are relying on the earlier accounts but this might not be the case in practice. The later researches might not be aware of some of the work of previous researchers. Also, some earlier accounts might be published long after they were written (eg Ffamily).
      - Earlier accounts are not necessarily the most accurate as they will not have had the benefit of later research findings and the ever increasing availability of early material and new technologies.
- From own research:
  - Pre-1850 in Scotland:
    - In our research notes, mostly we have just been gathering material that has already been presented by the various researchers listed above - re-arranging what is available from the internet.
    - Those researchers had particular challenges in being among the first to create a Maclean history. It is so much easier, in following on, to fill in the gaps in a structure that has already been established.
    - We are in awe of what early researches such as Ffamily have put together, without the benefits we have. It is difficult to imagine how they gathered as mass of details, sorted it all and presented it so well. The collation of so many details, of different branches, diverse locations, covering many centuries, and presented in such an orderly manner, is an impressive achievement, especially when we consider the difficulty of accessing sources at that time. Several centuries ago, they worked with quill and parchment. They had to visit families and archives, and had to gather details by correspondence. They did not have card systems or typewriters let alone genealogical software, word-processors, emails and the vast information on the internet.
  - Post-1850 in Australia:

- Apart from items K, L & O, the above listing of the histories is no assistance to the setting down the developments in Australia.
- We have been fortunate to benefit from the efforts of Alf McLean and his team who compiled 'The History of Donald and Christina McLean and Their Descendants' in 1995.

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DRAFT



## Burke's Peerage &amp; Baronetage - 1849, vol 3, pages 467 &amp; 468

## MACLEAN.



**MACLEAN, SIR CHARLES-FITZROY-GRAFTON**, of Morvaren, co. Argyll, colonel in the army; s. his father as 9th bart., 5 July, 1847. He m. 10 May 1831, Emily-Elleanor, 4th dau. of the Hon. and Rev. Jacob Marsham, D.D., canon of Windsor, uncle of the Earl of Romney, and by her (who d. in 1838) has issue,

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| i. FITZROY-DONALD, b. in 1835. | ii. Louisa-Marianne. |
| 1. Emily-Frances.              | iv. Georgina-Marcia. |
| iii. Franny-Henrietta.         |                      |

**Lineage.**

Gaelic antiquaries assert that the surname of Maclean was originally Macgillian, and that it was derived from the celebrated highland warrior (the progenitor of the family) Gillian, who was denominated Gillian-ni-Tuaidh, from his ordinary weapon, a battle-axe, (in Gaelic, tuaidh,) which his descendants wear to this day in their crest, betwixt a laurel and cypress branch. For full details of the illustrious house of Maclean, see the "History of the Clan," published in 1838.

**HECTOR-MON MACLEAN**, Lord of Dowart and Morvaren, eldest son of Lachlan-Cattanach Maclean, who was slain by Campbell of Achallader, m. Mary, dau. of Alexander Macdonald of Isla, and dying about the latter end of the reign of Queen MARY, left, with seven daus., two sons,

**HECTOR-OLIG**, his heir.  
John-Dubb, ancestor of the Macleans of Kinlochaline, Drimnin, and Pennycross.

The elder son,

**HECTOR-OLIG MACLEAN**, m. Lady Jennette, dau. of Archibald, Earl of Argyll, and dying temp. JAMES VI., left,

**SIR LACHLAN-MON MACLEAN**, a gallant and distinguished chieftain, who was killed at the battle of Tra-Gruinart, in Isla, 5 Aug. 1598. By the Lady Margaret Cunningham, his wife, dau. of the Earl of Glencairn, he was father of

**HECTOR MACLEAN**, of Dowart, m. 1st, Jennette, 2nd dau. of Colin, 11th Lord Kintail, by whom he had a son, **LAUCHLAN**, the 1st bart.; and 2ndly, Isabelle, dau. of Acheson, of Gosford, by whom he had two sons,

1. Donald, of Broiloss, who m. Florence, dau. of John, 7th Laird of Coll, and was father of two sons,

1. **LAUCHLAN**, of Broiloss, M.P. for Argyllshire; who m. Isabelle, dau. of Hector Maclean, of Toftusk, and had a son, **DONALD**, of Broiloss, who d. in 1750, leaving, by Isabelle, his wife, dau. of Allan Maclean, of Ardgoor, a son, **ALLAN**, who s. as **SIR BARR**.

2. **Hector-Olig**, who m. Jennette, dau. of Maenel of Barra, and was father of **JOHN**, whose son (by Florence, his wife, dau. of Maclean of Gartnomy), **DONALD**, m. 1st, Mary, dau. of John Dickson, Esq. of Glasgow, and had by her a son, **HECTOR**, 7th bart. He m. 2ndly, Margaret, dau. of James Wall, Esq. of Clonca Castle, co. Waterford, and had by her a son, **FITZROY-JEFFERIES-GRAFTON**, 8th bart.

ii. **John**, ancestor of the Counts Maclean, of Sweden. Hector of Dowart d. in 1619, and was s. by his eldest son,

1. **LAUCHLAN MACLEAN**, Esq. of Morvaren, who was

**I. LAUCHLAN MACLEAN**, Esq. of Morvaren, who was created a *Baronet of Nova Scotia*, with remainder to his heirs male whatsoever, 13 Feb. 1632. Sir Lauchlan, who was zealously attached to CHARLES I., participated in all the triumphs of the great Marquess of Montrose. He d. in 1649, and was s. by his eldest son,

**II. SIR HECTOR**, who fell fighting under the royal banner, at the battle of Inverkeithing, in 1651; and leaving no issue, the title devolved upon his brother,

**III. SIR ALLAN**. This gentleman m. Julian, dau. of John Macleod, of Macleod; and dying in 1674, was s. by his only surviving child,

**IV. SIR JOHN**. This gentleman, who, like his predecessors, was devotedly attached to the house of Stuart, raised his clan at the Revolution, and joining Lord Dundee, participated in the battle and victory of Killycrankie. In 1715, he again raised his clan, under the banner of the dethroned family, and joining the Earl of Marr, was with that nobleman at the battle of Sheriffmuir. Sir John m. Mary, dau. of Sir Aeneas Macpherson, of Eastch, and was s. by his eldest son,

**V. SIR HECTOR**. This gentleman was apprehended with his servant, in 1746, at Edinburgh, on suspicion of being in the French service, and of enlisting men there for the French army. He was subsequently conveyed to London, and incarcerated for nearly two years, when he was set at liberty, in pursuance of the act of grace. He d. soon at Paris, in 1750, when the title devolved upon his third cousin,

**VI. SIR ALLAN**, (great-grandson of Donald Maclean, of Broiloss, eldest son, by his 2nd marriage, of Hector Maclean, of Dowart, the 1st baronet's father.) This gentleman m. Anne, dau. of Hector Maclean, Esq. of Coll, by whom he had three daus., Maria, m. to Charles Maclean of Kinlochaline; Sibella, m. to John Maclean of Inversteadell; and Ann. Dying thus without male issue, in 1783, Sir Allan was s. by his kinsman,

**VII. SIR HECTOR**, who was s. at his decease, 2 Nov. 1816, by his brother,

**VIII. SIR FITZROY-JEFFERIES-GRAFTON**, lieutenant-gen. in the army, and col. of the 45th regiment; who m. 1st, Mrs. Bishop, widow of John Bishop, Esq. of Barbadoes, and only child of Charles Kidd, Esq., and by her (who d. in 1832) had two sons,

**CHARLES-FITZROY**, his heir.

Donald, of the Chancery bar, and M.P.; m. 8 Sept. 1827, Harriet, dau. of Gen. Frederick Maitland. He m. 2ndly, 17 Sept. 1838, Frances, widow of Henry Campion, Esq. of Malling Deanery, co. Sussex, which lady d. 12 June, 1843. Sir Fitzroy d. 5 July, 1847, and was s. by his eldest son.

*Creation*—13 Feb. 1632.

*Arms*—Quarterly: 1st, ar., a rock, gu.; 2nd, ar., a dexter hand, fessewise, coupé, gu., holding a cross-crosslet, fitchée, in pale, az.; 3rd, or, a lymphad, sa.; 4th, ar., a salmon, issuant, ppr., in chief, two eagles' heads, crased, affrontée, gu.

*Crest*—A tower, embattled, ar.

*Supporters*—Two ostriches, ppr.

*Motto*—Virtue mine honor.

## The History & Heraldry of the MacLeans

Extract from 'Donald & Christina McLean & Their Descendants', 1995 - pages 2 & 3

Gaelic Name: Clann Gilleathain (Gillian)

Chief's Patronymic: *Mac-ic 'Eachainn* (McLean of Duart)  
*Mac'ill-Eathain Lochabuidhe* (MacLean of Lochbuie)  
*Mac-'ic Eoghain* (MacLean of Ardgour)

Crests: A tower embattled argent. A lochaber axe between a laurel branch on the dexter and cypress on the sinister proper (Duart).  
A battleaxe in pale in front of a laurel and cypress branch in saltire, all proper (Lochbuie)

### THE GALLGAELS

Badges: Crowberry (Duart)  
Blueberry (Lochbuie)

WarCries: "*Bas no Beatha!*" (Death or Life!) and "*Fear eile airson Eachainn!*" (Another for Hector!).  
Slogans were used alternately.

Mottoes: "*Altera Memes*" (Reward is secondary) Duart  
"*Vincere vel mori*" (Victory or death)

Pipe music: *The McLeans March* (Duart)  
*Lament for McLean of Lochbuie* (Lochbuie)

The Clan McLean have in their time held extensive lands in the Western Isles and mainland of the Highlands. Traditionally they are descended from a member of the great Irish Geraldine family who was brother to the progenitor of Clan McKenzie, but Mr Skene in his *Highlanders of Scotland* takes the view that they were one of the old tribes transplanted from Moray by Malcolm IV. This could well be true without refuting their descent from a Geraldine. It is too often lost sight of that the early Picts of Moray and those of the North and West of Ireland were one and the same race, with close family ties, as their names prove. It is even possible that some of the great Irish families were descended from savage progenitors in Albyn. It will be noted later that other famous Pictish clans have the same persistent traditions of Irish ancestry.

The clan's earliest-known ancestor was *Gilleathain na Tuaidh* (Gillian of the Battleaxe) who fought for Alexander III against Haco at Largs. Most modern writers fall into the trap of assuming that Gillian of the Battleaxe was so named because of his prowess with that weapon, but the 'Historical Account' of the McLeans by a 'Clan Seannachie' gives a different reason. He relates that this ancestor, after losing his way while hunting deer, wandered about in the hills for days until completely exhausted, hung his axe on the branch of a laurel to mark his last resting-place, then lay down under a cypress bush to die. The axe was noticed by a search-party and the chief rescued. One only needs to glance at the McLean crests to see how this incident has been perpetuated.

Gillian's son, Gillimore McLean, settled in Lorne, and his two sons, Lachlan Lubhnach and Eachin Reganach were the progenitors of the McLeans of Duart and Lochbuie, respectively. The two brothers who lived during the reign of Robert II quarrelled with their overlord, McDougall of Lorne, and thereafter became followers of the McDonald Lords of the Isles who thought highly of them and rewarded them with ample grants of land in Mull. Lachlan married the daughter of the Lord of the Isles, and Hector acted as Lieutenant-General of the latter's army at the Battle of Harlaw where he was killed.

The Lochbuie MacLaines dispute the chiefship with the Duarts, asserting that Eachin Reganach was the elder of Gillimore's two sons, although the Duarts have always taken the foremost place in clan history.



Charles (Tearlach), son of Eachin Reganach, settled in Glen Urquhart and was founder of the *Clann Thearlich*, or Dorgarroch McLeans, sometimes called the 'McLeans of the North'. On being oppressed by the Chisholms this branch, although confederated to the Clan Chattan, appealed to Duart for help which was readily granted. Thereafter the Chisholms treated them with great respect.

After the forfeiture of the last Lord of the Isles (1493) the McLeans attained great power and held large tracts of land. Their possessions then included the major parts of Mull and Tiree, together with portions of Islay, Jura, Scarba and districts in Morven, Lochaber and Knapdale. It was time that they divided into four clans, each independent of the other. They were the McLeans of Ardgour and of Coll, both cadets of the McLeans of Duart, and Lochbuie.

Lachlan McLean of Duart was killed at Flodden (1513) and Lachlan Mor, 14th Chief, was slain at Fraigh Ghruinneirt in Islay (1598) when fighting against his nephew James McDonald of Islay. The lofty mind and great heart of this chief endeared him to everyone who knew him and when he was killed an elegy was composed in his memory entitled 'Gavir nan Ban Muileach' (The wail of the Mull women); a most moving piece of Gaelic poetry.

Sir Lachlan Mor, 17th Chief, created Baronet by Charles I, was present at the Battle of Inverlochy when Argyll was so signally defeated. After Charles was betrayed and executed the 8th Earl of Argyll, backed by the forces of General Leslie, invaded Mull and, although no resistance was offered, wrought disgraceful cruelties and outrages. Sir Lachlan gave himself up to Argyll to prevent further bloodshed, and was imprisoned in Carrick Castle.

Red Hector, 18th Chief, was present with his clansmen at Inverkeithing in the battle against the Cromwellian General Lambert. In the thick of the fight he was shielded by seven brothers, all of whom gave their lives in his defence. As each brother fell another stepped into his place calling out "Fear eille airson Eachainn!" (Another for Hector!) and this latter became one of the clan's war cries. It is sad to relate that Hector also was slain and the sacrifice of the brothers was in vain.

Probably no clan is richer in historical anecdote, folk-lore and legends than the McLeans, and although there is no space here to tell the legends of heroes like *Murrachaidh Gearr* (Dumpy Murdoch), *Eoghainn a' Chinn Bhig* (Small headed Hector) or *Ailen nan Sop* (Alan of the Straws), these can all be found in books such as *The Island of Mull* by John McCormick, and are well worth reading.

The cadet branches of Clan McLean are almost as numerous as their legends and to attempt their description would occupy many pages. The possessions of the Brolas family, who succeeded to the Duart name when the direct line failed in 1600, became so mortgaged that towards the end of the 18th century, the Duke of Argyll having bought up most of their debts, the lands passed into his hands. It can be said, however, that successive Campbell lairds have proved good landlords and done much to benefit the islanders of Mull.

The McLeans of Coll lost their lands in 1856, also owing to financial embarrassment, while the Lochbuie properties passed from their hereditary ownership during the present century for the same reason.

Until comparatively recently Ardgour was practically the only clan possession still in the hands of the McLeans, but in 1912, after Duart castle had been a ruin for 220 years, Sir Fitzroy Donald McLean, 26th Chief, effected a restoration. It took him sixty years of planning, working and striving before he was able to carry out this task, and clansmen from all over the world came to see their Chief enter the modernized version of his ancient home. Their accents were many and varied, and only a few knew a word of the Gaelic, yet they proved conclusively that time and space meant nothing when the voice of their Chief and ties of blood were calling them back to their native land. Their one possible regret was that their Chief had reached the venerable age of 77 before achieving his objective, and could not, therefore, be expected to enjoy the fruits of his labours for long - but they had no cause for such foreboding. Most of the guests at the Clan gathering were, in fact, in their own graves when Sir Fitzroy again called his clansmen around him to celebrate his 100th birthday. He was in his 102nd year when he died in 1937.

The present Chief is the 28th of Duart, and there is a Clan McLean society with headquarters in Glasgow.

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