

# Researcher's notes about Isabella McLUCAIS & Lachlan BLACK

## Isabella McLucais

- She was born about 1800, somewhere in Argyllshire perhaps in Mull. [research: Search OPRs]
- The McLucais surname is interchangeable with McDougall.
- Her mother was Susan Rhind who was born in 1781 in Argyllshire. Her father, Lachlan McLucais, was born 1763 at Knocknafenaig in Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon, and he died 1841 in Ardtun, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon.
- Isabella's parents had 13 children. She was the eldest. The youngest was born in 1824. They were born in several locations within Mull – notably Ardtun, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon.

## Lachlan Black

- Birth:
  - At present, there are three sources regarding when and where Lachlan was born.
  - OPR: 21<sup>st</sup> May 1797 at Lagganulva - "*Lau<sup>n</sup> Black & Christina McQuary at Lagganulva had their nat son Lauchlan*" (ref: OPR births 544/10113 Kilninian and Kilmore, page 113 of 178). So far, this is the only OPR we have found for a person of that name (various spellings), around that time, anywhere in Mull. We can be confident about the accuracy of the information in the OPR, but we need to consider whether there might be another individual with another OPR (yet to be found) or whether the birth was never recorded officially. [research: Search other OPRs]
  - Military record: Late 1799 in Tobermory – "*Lachlan Black (private) born in the parish of Kilmore in or near the town of Tobermory in the county of Argyle was enlisted on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 1817 at the age of eighteen ..... he is about twenty five and ¾ years of age ..... on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1825*" (ref: military discharge papers). Although a military record might contain some inaccuracies, this particular record is consistent with the 1841 census - both mention a pension, so are possibly referring to the same person.
  - Census: Around 1798 - The 1841 census has Lachlan Black as 43 years old living in Innair (where is this?). Ages written down for the census are indicative, but not always precise.
  - These three possibilities are close, but not identical – 21<sup>st</sup> May 1797 Vs 1798 Vs late 1799 (a difference of two and half years), and Lagganulva Vs Tobermory (a distance of 9 kms as the crow flies, 16 km by road).
  - The sources might be referring to different individuals. But hopefully, they are about the same individual, in which case we would attribute the differences to recording errors. If the OPR is OK, this also gives us his parent's name. If the military record is the right one, it also gives a lot of information about him. And if the census is the right one, it indicates something about changes in his family arrangements. So combined, they help build the picture of his life.
- His name is spelled as Lachlan or Lauchlan.
- Parents: The OPR record states that he was 'nat' – ie natural, or illegitimate. Thus, it appears that his parents, Lau<sup>n</sup> Black & Christina McQuary, were not married at the time.
- Lachlan's siblings: We have not found indications that he had any siblings or half siblings.
- Description: He was 5 foot 7½ inches tall with sandy hair, grey eyes and fresh complexion, with a trade of labourer (ref: military discharge papers).

## Military service

- Lachlan enlisted with the 79<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment in Edinburgh on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 1817. He was 18 years old.
- He was a private and served in France in 1817 & 1818 (during Napoleon's exile). His general conduct was 'good'.
- He served for 7 years and 308 days, and was discharged 27<sup>th</sup> July 1825.
- He was discharged for 'inguinal hernia of the left side, origin spontaneous' and received a pension.

## Marriage

- Isabella and Lachlan were married in 1826, in Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon. She was 26 years old and Lachlan was about 28 years and he had left the 79<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment six months previously.

## Children

- They had 6 children. The first two, John born in 1827 and Isabella jnr born 1829, were born in Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon. The third, Christina was born 1830 in Iona. The fourth, Catherine was born 1831 in Blarnacor. The last two, Lachlan jnr 1833 and Margaret 1836, were both born in Iona. This indicates that the family moved around several locations within the western parts of Mull.

## Crisis

- A major difficulty for the family arose between 1836 and 1841. Perhaps Isabella died. Karen Kennett stated that the children "*were divided up amongst relatives*". This was evident in the 1841 census as follows.

## Isabella, Lachlan, Lachlan jnr & Margaret

- In 1841, Isabella was not with Lachlan who was living in Innair with the two youngest children (Lachlan jnr 7rs & Margaret 5yrs).
- They were living in a household of 4 other adults and 2 young children, all of whom did not seem to be closely related to Lachlan.
- The following details are from Lachlan's profile on the Mull Families website:-
  - Census, 1841.
  - Iona - Argyllshire
  - Address: Innair
  - MACLEAN Flory F 70 Cotter Argyllshire
  - BLACK Lachlan M 43 Pensioner Argyllshire
  - BLACK Lachlan M 7 Argyllshire
  - BLACK Margaret F 5 Argyllshire
  - MACMILLAN Donald M 30 Taylor Argyllshire
  - MACMILLAN Mary F 25 Argyllshire
  - MACMILLAN Peter M 4 Argyllshire
  - MACMILLAN Margaret F 1 Argyllshire
  - MACNIEL Margaret F 50 Argyllshire
- Isabella: We have no details about her life after she gave birth to her last child, Margaret, in 1836. She has not been found on the 1841 census. There is no date of death but maybe she died some time before 1841 – perhaps following the birth of Margaret. We do not know. [research: Keep looking.]
- Lachlan: In 1841, he was listed as a pensioner – this would have been from his medical discharge from the 79<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment 16 years previously. We have no other details about his life after 1841 and no date of death. [research: Keep looking.]
- Lachlan jnr: He married Jennifer Grose in Ontario and they had 8 children. The children were all born in Ontario, with the first in 1856 and the last in 1883. He died in 1916 in Ontario.
- Margaret: She married Lachlan McLean (christened 21<sup>st</sup> June 1831 in Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon) in Ontario and they also had 8 children. These children were all born in Ontario, with the first in 1861 and the last in 1879. She died in 1898 in Ontario.

## John

- In the 1841 census, John (14 yrs) was living in Ardtun in a large household of 13 adults and 8 teenagers (but no young children).
- John was listed as a servant and all the adult males were agricultural labourers.
- Within this household, 5 people had the surname of McDougall which is interchangeable with McLucais – Lachlan 75 yrs, Susan 55 yrs, Mary 20 yrs, Angus 50 yrs & Flora 14 yrs. This indicates that John was living with his grandparents, Lachlan and Susan, however the ages do not match completely (Lachlan 1766 Vs 1763, Susan 1786 Vs 1781 and their children Angus 1791 Vs 1790, Mary 1821 Vs 1817 & Flora 1827 Vs 1822).
- These census details are from Lachlan Black's profile on the Mull Families website:-
  - Census, 1841.
  - Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon - Argyllshire
  - Address: Ardtun 1st Division
  - MCDUGALL Lachlan M 75 Agricultural Labourer Argyllshire

MCDUGALL Susan F 55 Argyllshire  
 MCDUGALL Mary F 20 Argyllshire  
 BLACK John M 14 Male Servant Argyllshire  
 MCDUGAL Angus M 50 Agricultural Labourer Argyllshire  
 MCDUGAL Flora F 14 Female Servant Argyllshire  
 MCFADEN Donald M 65 Agricultural Labourer Argyllshire  
 MCFADEN Lachlin M 15 Agricultural Labourer Argyllshire  
 MCFADEN Donald M 13 Argyllshire  
 MCFADEN Cate F 15 Female Servant Argyllshire  
 LAMONT Donald M 50 Agricultural Labourer Argyllshire  
 MCKINNON John M 40 Agricultural Labourer Argyllshire  
 MCKINNON Marrion F 15 Female Servant Argyllshire  
 MCINTYRE Nicol M 50 Agricultural Labourer Argyllshire  
 MCINTYRE Charles M 15 Agricultural Labourer Argyllshire  
 MCLEAN Hugh M 25 Agricultural Labourer Argyllshire  
 MCLEAN Marrion F 25 Argyllshire  
 MCDONALD Allan M 30 Agricultural Labourer Argyllshire  
 MACDONALD John M 35 Agricultural Labourer Argyllshire  
 MCLEAN Cate F 14 Female Servant Argyllshire  
 MCLEAN Duncan M 35 Agricultural Labourer Argyllshire

- We do not have any details about John's life after 1841.

#### Catherine

- In 1841, Catherine (10 yrs) was living in Kentra with elderly Flory MacLucas.
- No one else was living there – just a little girl and an old woman. So who was looking after whom?
- The census details are from Catherine's profile in the Mull Families website.  
 Census, 1841.  
 Iona - Argyllshire  
 Address: Kentra  
 MACLUCAS Flory F 70 Cotter Argyllshire  
 BLACK Catherine F 10 Argyllshire
- Flory was 70 yrs and was listed as a cotter which is a peasant farmer.
- Tim Parry concluded that Flory was probably Catherine's grand-aunt – the sister of Catherine's grandfather Lachlan. However, Flora's birth year does not quite match up with 1771 Vs 1768.
- In 1850 Catherine married in George Young in Midlothian near Edinburgh and they had 14 children. The first 12 children were born in several locations within Midlothian – between 1851 and 1872. The 13<sup>th</sup> was born in Lanarkshire in 1874. The 14<sup>th</sup> was born in 1879 – but we do not know where. It appears that the family migrated to USA – perhaps after 1874 or after 1879. The indicators of migration are that Catherine died in 1898 in Wyoming. Also, two of her offspring died as old people in Utah. We do not have details of when and where the others died.

#### Christina

- In 1841, Christina (11 yrs) was living in Kentra with her uncle Archibald, aunt, and 3 cousins.
- Archibald was a brother of Christina's mother.
- Archibald was a boatman.
- These details are from Christina's profile on the Mull Families website:-  
 Census, 1841.  
 Iona - Argyllshire  
 Address: Kentra  
 MACLUCAS Archibald M 35 Boatman Argyllshire  
 MACLUCAS Margaret F 40 Argyllshire  
 MACLUCAS Susan F 15 Argyllshire  
 MACLUCAS Marrion F 9 Argyllshire  
 MACLUCAS Niel M 1 Argyllshire  
 BLACK Christy F 11 Argyllshire
- In 1848, she migrated to South Australia with this family - on the Duke of Bedford.
- She married Hugh McLean just six months after arriving in the colony. She was 18 yrs and he was 35 yrs. They had 10 children from 1850 to 1869. She died in 1907 in Albert Hill in South Australia.
- Full details of her life in Australia are in [www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com](http://www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com).

#### Isabella jnr

- Isabella has not been found in the 1841 census and we have no details after her birth in 1829. She would have been 12 years old at the time of the census but we do not know who she was living with, or indeed, whether maybe she had died as a young child.

#### Deaths

- We have no records of when and where Isabella and Lachlan died.

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#### Names

- McLucais, McClucush and MacLucas are interchangeable.
- McLucais is interchangeable with McDougall. The reasons for this are not known.

#### Places

- Kentra Vs Kintra: Confusion might arise with these two places. Kentra is on the Ardnamurchan peninsular on the main land – about 60 kms away from Kintra which is on Mull, just across from Iona. For example, with the family of Archibald MacLucas, the 1841 census has their address as Kentra, whereas two of these children were born in Kintra in 1828 & 1837, and two died in 1835 & 1845.

#### Sources

- These notes were compiled by Don Gordon on 28th Nov 2017.
- At present, the Mull Family website is the best source of information (Karen Kennett brought our attention to this). It includes the work of Tom Hughes, Tim Parry and Bob Howlett.

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