

An Investigation into the Ancestry of

Gilleasbuig MacLean; born 22nd June 1926

BROTHER OF ALISTAIR MACLEAN

The information provided in advance indicated that Gilleasbuig MacLean was born in Daviot on 22nd June 1926 to Alistair MacLean, a Church of Scotland Minister.

My starting point for research was to take the details of Gilleasbuig's birth in 1926. The details were located and noted as follows:

*On 22nd June, 1926 at 4 am at The Manse of Daviot, Daviot  
Gilleasbuig MacLean was born; son of Alistair MacLean (Parish Minister)  
and Mary MacLean m/s Lamont  
Marriage of parents: 1916, November 17th, Glasgow  
Informant: Alistair MacLean, Father (Present)*

*(Ref. 1926b/Daviot & Dunlichty, Co. Inverness 95)*

A search was made of *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae* by Hew Scott, DD, which lists Church of Scotland ministers and contains background information. The following entry was located and noted:

*Alistair (or Alexander) MacLean, MA, BD; transferred from Shettleston and admitted 1st December, 1922. Married 7th November, 1916 to Mary, daughter of Archibald and Mary Lamont, and has issue — Lachlan, born 9th September 1917; Ian born 3rd November 1919; Alistair, born 28th April, 1921.*

In the following volume 1914-1929 the entry was noted as follows:

*ALISTAIR MacLEAN died 12th December, 1936. Additional issue — Gilleasbuig, born 22nd June, 1926; (in above entry) for "Ian" read "Ian Macfarlane Lamont"; delete "Alistair, born 28th April, 1921" and read "Alistair Stuart, born 21st April, 1922". Publications — Volume of sermons; High Country; Gaelic Phono Grammar*

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The details of Alistair's marriage to Mary in 1916 were located and noted as follows:

*On 7th [sic] November, 1916 at St. Columba Parish Church, Glasgow  
After Banns according to the Forms of the Established Church of Scotland  
**Alexander [sic] MacLean** (B.D., Minister of Shettleston Parish - Bachelor),  
aged 31; of 2 Buchanan Gardens, Mount Vernon; son of Lachlan MacLean  
(Master Mariner - deceased) and Mary MacLean m/s McVean (deceased)  
[marriage to]*

***Mary Margaret McEachern Lamont** (Spinster), aged 24, of 20 Manson  
Street, Glasgow; daughter of Archibald Lamont (Storeman) and Mary Lamont  
m/s McFarlane*

*Officiating Minister: John Maclean, DD, of St. Columba's Parish  
Dugald Clark, Minister of Bonhill*

*Witnesses: John Cameron and Margaret Macfarlane MacLean*

*(Ref. 1916m/Anderston, Glasgow 644/11-502)*

A search was made for the details of Alexander's death in 1936 and these were noted as follows:

*On 12th December, 1936 at 12 Noon at The Manse, Daviot  
**Alexander MacLean** (Minister of the Parish of Daviot & Dunlichty - Married  
to Mary Margaret McEachern Lamont) died aged 51; son of Lachlan Maclean  
[sic] (Sea Captain - deceased) and Mary Maclean m/s McVean (deceased)  
Cause of death: Cerebral Haemorrhage; High Blood Pressure  
Certified by: George R. E. Kerr, MB, ChB., Inverness  
Informant: Lachlan MacLean, Son*

*(Ref. 1936d/Daviot & Dunlichty, Co. Inverness 95-11)*

I was unable to locate any trace of the death of Mary M. M. Lamont/Mc or MacLean from 1936 up to 1992.

Alexander MacLean would have been born around 1885, but as yet it was not known where. In order to try to gain more background information, a search was made for the death of Mary McVean/MacLean prior to 1916. Female deaths can be easier to locate since they can be listed under both maiden and married surnames, thus enabling positive identification at the index stage, without having to inspect numerous certificates.

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The correct entry was located in Kilmacolm Parish in Renfrewshire in 1891 and was noted as follows:

*On 30th December, 1891 at 11.15 am at 3 Nowal Place, Kilmacolm*  
**Mary McLean** [sic] (Married to Lachlan McLean - Master Mariner) died  
aged 34; daughter of Donald McVean (Shoemaker - deceased) and Isabella  
McVean m/s Dawson  
Cause of death: *Phthisis\* Pulmonalis, 1 year*  
Certified by: *C. Syme, LRCP & S, etc. Kilmacolm*  
Informant: *Lachlan McLean, Husband*

*(Ref. 1891d/Kilmacolm, Co. Renfrew 569-57)*

\* tuberculosis

I wanted now to make use of the Census Enumerators' Returns. The census returns are house surveys carried out every ten years from 1841. They provide details such as name, age, occupation, **place** of birth, etc, for each person living at the address on the night the census was carried out. Those for 1841 give far less information and the most recent open to public inspection are those for 1891. The 1881 and 1891 census volumes have now been indexed, thus enabling the identification of a family or individual without knowing the precise address.

A search was made of Renfrew County 1891 Census index for Mary Mc/MacLean and family, but after checking out a number of entries I found that I was unable to locate the correct entry. I also carried out the same search in Glasgow, but without success.

I decided instead to search for the marriage between Lachlan Mc/MacLean and Mary McVean from 1885 back. Their marriage was located in Argyllshire in 1883 and noted as follows:

*On 18th July, 1883 at Sunfield, Stralachlan. After Banns according to the  
Forms of the Free Church of Scotland*  
**Lachlan McLean** (Seaman - Bachelor), aged 30, of Stralachlan; son of  
Alexander McLean (Shoemaker) and Jessie McLean m/s Black  
[marriage to]  
**Mary McVean** (Domestic Servant - Spinster), aged 25, of Stralachlan;  
daughter of Donald McVean (Shoemaker) and Isabella McVean m/s Dawson  
Officiating Minister: *William Lauder, F.C. Minister, at Strachur*  
Witnesses: *Charles Macaskill and Annie McVean*

*(Ref. 1883m/Stralachlan, Co. Argyll 534/1-1)*

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I searched Argyll County 1891 Census index for a Mary McLean aged 33/34, matching a cross-reference to a husband, Lachlan, aged around 38 and a son Alexander about six years old. The following entry was located and noted:

Sunfield, Stralachlan — 5/6<sup>th</sup> April, 1891

Mary McLean (Wife), Married, 32, Housekeeper	b. Argyle [sic], Stralachlan
Alexander " (son) 6, Scholar	b. " , "
Isabella D. " (dau.) 4	b. Renfrew, Greenock
Janet B. " " 2	b. " , "
Donald " (son) 1	b. Argyle, Stralachlan
Isabella McVean (mo.), Widow, 79	b. " , "
Neil Clark (nephew) 8, Scholar	b. " , Campbeltown
Sarah McNair (servt.) 13, Gen. Servt.	b. " , Stralachlan

(Ref. 1891 census/Stralachlan, Co. Argyll 534/1/bk1/p1)

The above house had three rooms with one or more windows. Mary is noted as speaking Gaelic and English.

A search was made for Alexander McLean's birth around 1885 and this was located in Stralachlan that year and noted as follows:

*On 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1885 at 4.30 p.m. at Sunfield, Stralachlan*

*Alexander McLean was born; son of Lachlan McLean (Seaman) and Mary McLean m/s McVean*

*Marriage of parents: 18<sup>th</sup> July, 1883, Stralachlan*

*Informant: Mary McLean, Mother*

(Ref. 1885b/Stralachlan, Co. Argyle 534-1)

Lachlan McLean would have been born around 1853. Before the introduction of compulsory civil registration in Scotland (1855), virtually the only source of births, or more commonly baptisms and marriages, were the Old Parish Registers (OPRs). There were almost 1,000 parishes in Scotland, and not all of the old registers have survived. It was not really until the early part of the eighteenth century that the maintenance of OPRs became reasonably widespread. The registers were usually the responsibility of the Session Clerk and some were much more diligent than others. The secession of 1733 had an adverse effect and many of those who seceded refused, on principle, to register baptisms with the Established Church. In 1783 an act was passed imposing a tax of three pence on every entry; this also deterred many from registering.

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(5)

*On 26th March, 1862 at about 2 am at Moss, Tyree*

***Janet MacLean*** (*Married to Alexander MacLean - Agricultural Labourer and Shoemaker, Master*) *died aged about 48 years; daughter of Lachlan Black (Crofter - deceased) and Elizabeth Black m/s Stewart*

*Cause of death: Debility from Palpitation & Coughing, about 1 year*

*No immediate medical attendant*

*Informant: Alexander MacLean (his X mark), Husband, Present*

*(Ref. 1862d/Tyree, Co. Argyll 551/1-20)*

A search was made of Tyree 1861 Census at Moss and the following entry was located and noted:

*Farm of Moss, Tyree — 7/8th April, 1861*

*Alexander McLean, Head, Married, 55, Crofter of 6 acres b. Argyll, Tyree  
of land*

<i>Janet</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>48, Weaveress</i>	<i>b. " , Banessan</i>
<i>Archibald</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>son, Unmarried,</i>	<i>19, Agric. Labr.</i>	<i>b. " , Tyree</i>	
<i>Margaret</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>dau.,</i>	<i>15, Scholar</i>	<i>b. " , "</i>	
<i>Eliza</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>13 "</i>	<i>b. " , "</i>	
<i>Lachlan</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>son</i>	<i>9 "</i>	<i>b. " , "</i>	

*(Ref. 1861 Census/Tyree, Co. Argyll 551/bk4/p4)*

According to the schedule, the above dwelling had two rooms with one or more windows.

A search was made from 1862 on for the death of Alexander Mc/MacLean, which was located in 1870 and noted as follows:

*On 1st November, 1870 at 3 am at Moss*

***Alexander McLean*** (*Crofter - Widower of Janet Black*) *died aged 60; son of Archibald McLean (Crofter - deceased) and Margaret McLean m/s McPhail (deceased)*

*Cause of death: Supposed to be Disease of the Brain, 3 days*

*No Medical Attendant*

*Informant: Hector MacLean [sic], Brother (Present)*

*(Ref. 1870d/Tyree, Co. Argyll 551/1-58)*

The search was concluded here as the time available had expired.

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Suggestions for further research:

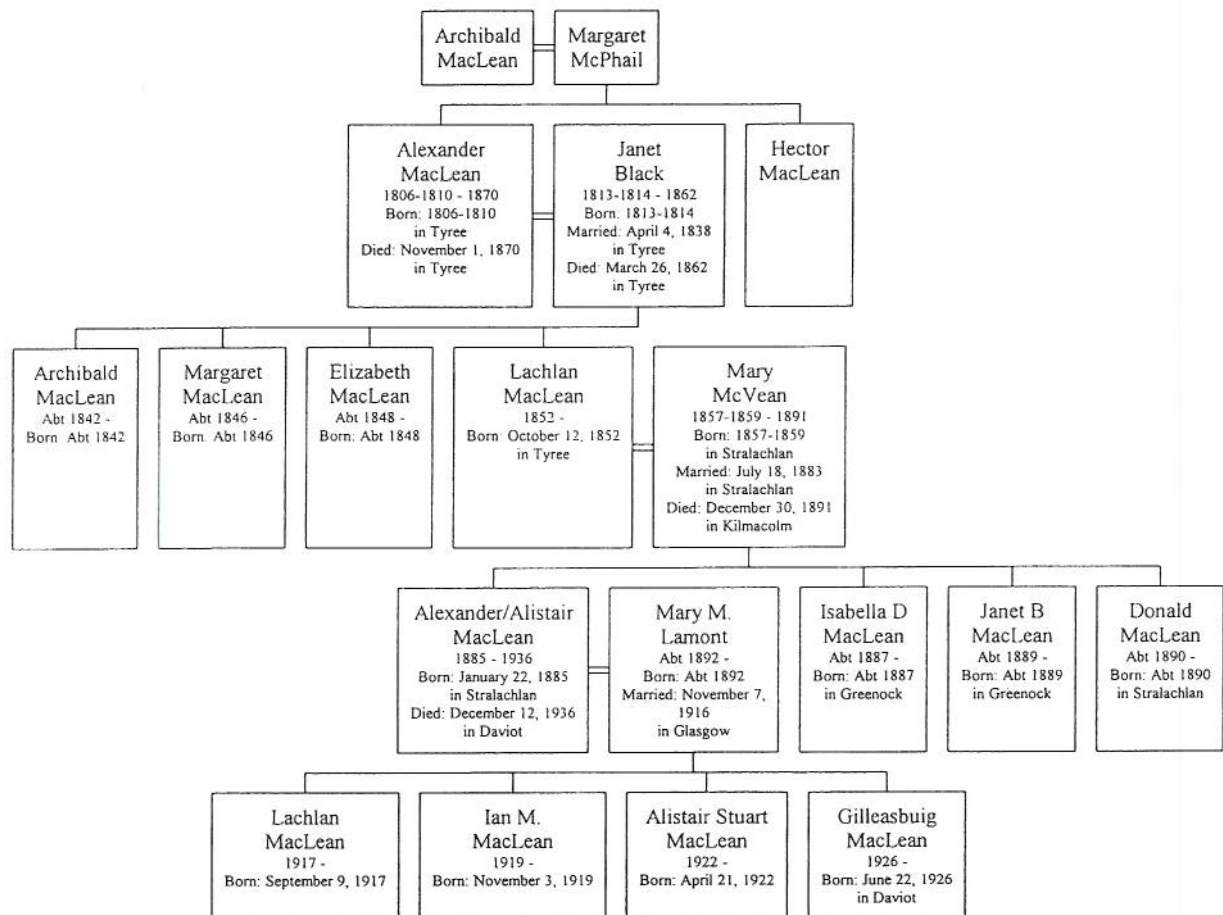
1. Search for Lachlan MacLean's death after 1891, but prior to 1916.
2. Search for Alexander MacLean's birth circa 1806-10 in Tyree, for siblings, for his parents' marriage and for their deaths after 1855.
3. Continue research on Black, McVean and Dawson lines.
4. Begin research on Lamont line.

Suggested budget: £185

4 June 1998

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## Descendants of Archibald MacLean





## Ancestors of Gilleasbuig MacLean

