

Paper 1852 - 19023 cover

Copy
Precognition of Witnesses
Sudden death of Euphemia
M^cMillan

1852

Prin. 48 pages

Paper 1852 - 19001

Tyree 14 July 1852

Compeared Lachlan Maclean Innkeeper residing at Kilmoluag in the Island of Tyree aged about 46 years who says on a

Tuesday

about three weeks ago Effie or Euphemia M^cMillan or M^cKinnon a Widow about 70 years of age or rather better came to my house ~ the arrival about 2 P.M. - she had come from the adjoining farm of Balevullin where she lived - Her sons John M^cMillan & Niel M^cMillan along with two lads of the name of Kennedy and Don^d M^cNeill were in the house when she arrived - she enquired for them and was shewn into the room where they were - They were drinking spirits - they had a full black bottle containing five gills among them - I was not in the room with them and I do not know how much spirits she drank - She looked very ill on her arrival at my house and had been previously confined to bed for a considerable time - about 4 P.M. M^cMillan (or Widow M^cMillan) came into a room where Niel Lamont Cornaigmore, my brother Archibald M^cLean and I were - she appeared sober when she came in - she asked Niel Lamont for a dram ~~

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having some whisky before us he filled up a glass handed it to her and which she drank - she sat down and talked of the quantity of Spirits she could take before being drunk - she said she could drink with the strongest man in the house and leave him drunk - I was going out and in the room while she was with Lamont and my brother and I saw her drink another Glass in my presence but she took some that I did not see - Niel M^cMillan her son came into the room before she left it and remained a considerable time with her - Niel her son told me that he had given her Three Pounds Stg to take home - but she did not say anything to me about it - she did not spend any money in the house nor offered to spend any - Between 5 & 6 P.M. she left the house to go home in company with her son John M^cMillan I heard her speaking immediately before she left and I observed she could walk - she was not drunk tho' she had drank a fair quantity of Spirits - The distance from my house to John M^cMillan's house where she remained that night is about half a mile - she got no ill-usage while in my house - She died about 8 A.M. next morning - I was not present when she died - I understand that she had taken ill on her way home and had to be ~~

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be carried home by her son who accompanied her - I did not attend her funeral - she is buried at Hynish in this Island -

Re-examined - after Widow M^cMillan and her son John went away they came back -

Inserted in margin *I am certain I did not send for her requesting her to come back*

she went into a closet where Niel Lamont & I were - Half a mutchkin of whisky was called for by Lamont and brought in by me -

Inserted in margin *I am certain it was Lamont that ordered the drink*

Lamont gave her a full glass twice but I was out and in and did not see all that took place - I observed on both occasions when she took the spirits that a portion was spilled on her dress as she was unable from the effect of drink to carry the glass steadily to her mouth - She remained in the closet about half an hour and was again taken away by her son John - I did not hear her speak when she left the house but I was not near them when they went away - She must have been very much the worse for drink when she left my house

Inserted in margin *She was the worse of drink but I cant say that she [was] much the worse for it*

but I did not see any one insist on her to take beyond her own pleasure and none was forced on her in my presence -

Signed Lachlan M^cLean

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Compeared Archibald Maclean Seaman residing at Kilmoluag aforesaid - I am about 32 years of age - Lachlan M^cLean the preceding Witness is my Brother & I reside with him. I remember about

Three Weeks ago

tho' I cant remember the date nor the day of the week of seeing Effie M^cMillan come to my Brothers house about 3 P.M. ~ I did not see her come into the house but I knew that her sons Niel and John & their Boats & Fishing crew were in the house settling their accounts a little after three O'clock he opened the door of the room in which Niel Lamont and I were sitting and put in her head - Lamont observing her asked her to come in and she came in and sat down - she had the appearance of having taken spirits - she had a great deal to say and talked incessantly - on coming into the room Lamont gave her a dram - It was for that purpose she came in - He filled a glass of spirits and gave it to her - she drank it every drop - she thanked him - and said in drinking Whisky she would

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would tie the best man in the house - I left the room and her in it - and I did not see her take or get any spirits except the one glass - after she had been sometime in the Room she was joined by her two sons Niel & John - Lamont was with them - all the time - I saw her leave the house between 5 & 6 P.M. along with her son John - They went in the direction of Balevullin where they lived - she had a hold of her sons arm and they both appeared to be walking pretty steady - They soon got out of sight by going over a knoll at the back of the house and I never saw her in life afterwards ~ next day I heard she was dead - I never attended her funeral ~

(Signed) Archibald M^cLean

Re-Examined - I did not follow after John M^cMillan and his mother after they left the house first - and say to them that Niel Lamont wanted to see her ~ I did not follow them at all nor speak to them - while Widow M^cMillan was in the room with my brother Niel Lamont - M^{rs} M^cLean my brother's wife came where she was and took her into the kitchen ~ I went with them - after sitting a few minutes in the Kitchen she rose and went into a back closet and I went out, M^{rs} M^cLean sent me into the closet to see what she ~~

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She was about - I went after her - she was sitting and I was standing - I had just got into the room when her sons John & Niel Lamont *[should this read McMillan?]* came into the closet where we were and I left at once and saw nothing that took place afterwards - about half an hour after this I saw John and his mother go towards their home ~ she had a hold of his arm with her hand and she appeared to walk steadily - I didn't follow them ~

Compeared John M^cMillan Fisherman residing at Balevullin in the Island of Tyree aforesaid who says I am 34 Years of age - On

a Thursday

twenty days past tomorrow I was in the public house at Kilmoluag kept by M^r Lachlan M^cLean ~ There was present in the house with me Niel M^cMillan my brother Donald M^cNeill, Archibald Kennedy Jr, Archibald Kennedy Senior and Niel M^cNeill the crew of the Boat in which we fish - We were dividing money and settling accounts with one another ~ We had a bottle of whisky containing five gills - about 3 P.M. of that day my mother ~

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mother Effie M^cMillan who was about 55 years of age and a Widow came into the room where we were ~ she had been unwell for the last twelve month & occasionally confined to bed ~ she complained of heaviness and of food disagreeing with her ~ she lived in the house at Balevullin with my brother Niel - His house is quite close to mine ~ my brothers house is distant from Kilmoluag Inn about half a mile ~ she was pretty well, on the day she came to Kilmoluag & was very lively - We had drank the bottle before she came in ~ on her arrival Donald M^cNeill ordered a gill of whisky for the purpose of giving her a dram - she did not ask for it - after the whiskey was brought in I left the room before it had been tasted by any one ~ I remained out about a quarter of an hour ~ I had gone out for the purpose of making water - on my return to the room my Mother had gone out - all the parties were in the room when I left it Except my Mother - I was told by my Brother Niel that he had given Three Pounds and sent her home with it for the purpose of Keeping it safe ~ I was not told by any one that she had drank Spirits ~ after I had been in the room for two hours on this second occasion Donald M^cNeill who had been out for a short time came in & said to me that Niel Lamont wanted to see me in the front parlour ~ I rose immediately

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immediately and went where he was - I found my mother in the room with Lamont along with Archibald M^cLean and the Landlord M^r Lachlan M^cLean ~ I sat down - my mother was apparently much the worse of drink - she was talking more than she used to do - I don't know what Lamont wanted with me and did not say that he wanted me ~ after I had sat in the room a few minutes - I asked my mother to go home ~ I got up & Lamont got me to sit down ~ He offered me spirits but I refused to take it ~ He filled a glass and handed it to my mother asking her to take it - she took it into her hand & drank about the half of it ~ Lamont wanted her to take it all ~ but she did not do it - she was apparently quite sensible & knew what she was about ~ I cannot say whether or not my brother Niel was in the room with Lamont and my mother - I did not see him ~ after my mother drank the half glass as aforesaid she & I left the house and went away homewards ~ No other person went with us ~ after we had gone a short distance Arch^d Maclean came after us and told my mother that Lamont wanted to see her ~ She returned and I returned with her ~ she went into a closet where Lamont and the Landlord M^r Lachlan M^cLean was - M^r M^cLean had a half Mutchkin of whisky in his hand and it appeared to be newly brought ~

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brought in ~ my mother sat down in the closet ~ I did not go in with her ~ I stood in the door ~ Lamont filled a glass of whisky and gave it to her ~ she took it but being unable to drink it the larger proportion of it was spilled on her breast - I did not hear her speak at all after she went into the room ~ I was out and in ~ I saw her take three glasses of spirits into her hand while she was in the closet but I cant say whether or not she drank them all ~ Lamont divided the whisky & the Landlord M^r M^cLean was present during the whole time ~ she remained about half an hour in the closet & I got her away a second time ~ when she got to the door she could not walk and I got her in my oxters ~ she was very drunk so much so that she could not speak - she commenced snoring ~ after I had got her to the top of a knoll about twenty yards from M^r M^cLean's house ~ after getting to the top of

this knoll as she was completely powerless I got her on my back ~ she fell out of my "oxter" and I got tired carrying her in that way - she snored all the way home and did not speak to me all the way ~ she didn't vomit anything ~ I took it [sic] to my own house & put her to bed ~ having previously been stript by my wife ~ Sarah Kennedy Balevullin saw me carry her into the house ~ she came and met me and went home with me ~ my wife attempted to give her a little milk but she could not take it - she never wakened - she continued in the same ~~

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same state - snoring and asleep and died at 4 O'clock next morning ~ She arrived at my house about 7 P.M. and my wife and myself attended her during the whole night ~ my brother Collin M^cMillan also met me on the way home & assisted me in carrying her home ~ He also waited with me all night as also Niel my brother but he slept ~ He was the worse of drink too ~ My mother never spoke a single word after she left Kilmoluag till she died ~ My Wife and Ann M^cMillan wife of Alexander Mcdonald Balevullin dressed the corpse ~ she vomited nothing during the night but after her death a little white foam came out of her mouth ~ I was present when the body was dressed and I saw no marks of violence on it - next day when the body was being put into the Coffin I observed that her nails, her sides & the back of her neck had become blackened ~ The Joiner Alexander M^cKinnon who made the Coffin also noticed this ~ she was buried upon Saturday in the afternoon at Hynish & I was at the funeral I have little doubt it was the whisky she had taken at Kilmoluag which killed her ~

Paper 1852 - 19011 [written by a different hand – with indifferent spelling!]

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Compeared Neil M^cMillan Fisherman residing at Balvulin in the Island of Tyree aforesaid who says - I am 28 years of age My Mother Effy M^cMillan a widdow residing in my house She was about 50 years of age About 6 weeks ago she was complaining of being unwell but was not confined - She complained of weakness

On a Wednesday or Thursday three weeks past today or tomorrow my brother John and the Boat Crew mentioned by him were in the Inn at Kilmoluag settling accounts and dividing money - we had a bottle of whisky which was drank over the Settlement after we had drank the Bottle of Spirits my Mother came into the room where we were Thus would be about 3 P.M. She was quite well after She came in Donald M^cNeill ordered a gill of whisky for the purpose of treating her The whisky was brought I don't think my brother John was in the room

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room at this time M^cNeill out of the Gill filled and handed her a glass of Spirits which she drank - He then filled and handed her another which she took - but I cannot say whether or not she drank it all - I rather think she did - I then gave her Three one pound notes and desired her to go home with it She left the room after remaining about ten minutes Soon after she had left my brother John came in & I told him what had taken place & that I had given her three pounds - I did not see her after that until I saw her in my brother's house Johns house after dark - She was then in bed apparently asleep She couldn't speak my brother John & wife was attempting to give her some milk but he could not swallow it She was snoring - She did not vomit anything - I lay down in the same bed with her and slept ~ I was much the worse of Spirits myself

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Before she died I awoke and found my mother in the same state appearanly [sic] sleeping I spoke to her but she did not answer - I endeavour to rouse her but could not I caught her by the shoulder and called out to her loudly but without effect - My Brother John & his wife were also present ~ Colin my brother and Ann my sister were also present She died abot [sic] 6 A.M. next morning never having spoken after I saw her at home Before she died and afterwards my brother John told me that my mother was unable to wack [walk] from Kilmoluag and that he assisted by my brother Colin carried her home in their backs That this was in consequence of her being dead drunk I was present when the

body was dressed but I observed no marks of injury on it. I was present when the body was put into the coffin & I observed that it had grown black about the hands and neck & sides The funeral took place on Saturday at Hynish I attended it This is truth I cant write

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Compeared Sarah Kennedy residing at Balevullin in the Island of Tyree aforesaid aged about 60 years who says on a

A day about three weeks ago

tho' I cannot remember the date precisely I was out in front of my own house and I observed Colin & John M^cMillan coming towards their own house from Kilmoluag carrying a burden ~ I went towards them to meet them & when I was near enough to speak Colin M^cMillan addressing me "asked what the devil I wanted" ~ Hearing this I ran off ~ I observed he was carrying his mother who was apparently drunk ~ John M^cMillan was walking beside him ~ He appeared sober ~ I didn't go near them again and I heard that M^{rs} M^cMillan died next morning at 6 or 7 O'Clock ~ This is truth & I cant write ~

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Compeared Donald M^cNeill Fisherman residing at Balevullin aforesaid who says I am 28 years of age ~ I concur with Niel M^cMillan in the first three pages of his declarations and adds on Widow M^cMillan coming into the Room she remarked that we had nothing before us ~ I said that we had not and ordered & got a gill of Whisky of which I filled and gave her a glass which she drank ~ I then told her to go away as she had got plenty ~ I don't know whether she asked for another glass but her son Niel told me to fill and give her another which I did and which she drank ~ She then went away ~ Three or four hours afterwards I saw John her son and her go homewards - she was evidently much the worse of drink & held her son by the arm ~ I saw them only starting & paid little attention to them ~ This is truth ~

(Signed) Donald M^cNeill

Paper 1852 - 19017

Compeared Sarah Cameron or M^cMillan Wife of and residing with John M^cMillan Fisherman Balevullin aforesaid aged about 29 years, says

about 3 weeks ago

and I think three weeks this day Euphemia M^cMillan called at my house saying she was going to the house of Martha Cameron Kilmoluag where her daughter Nancy was weaving stockings This was before dinner ~ About 7 P.M. of that day I saw my husband coming from Kilmoluag carrying some person on his back He was met by Colin M^cMillan his brother ~ after they came nearer me I observed it was his mother he had on his back - he brought her into his own house ~ she was apparently very drunk & could not speak or do anything for herself ~ I did not think there was anything the matter with her except that she had taken too much Whiskey ~ My husband told me that she was at Kilmoluag Inn and that she had got the drink there ~ I stripped & put her to bed ~ I saw no marks of injury or violence on her person ~ After I had put her to bed I gave her some milk but it came out at the side of her moth ~ she could not swallow the milk - she continued in the same state as she was when first brought into the house and died at or about 7 O'clock next morning - She never spoke to me nor any one - I endeavoured to waken and arouse her but was unable I spoke loudly to her and shook her but without effect - There was no doctor on the Island and I could not get the benefit of the advice & assistance of a surgeon - I

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I washed and dressed the body after death & I then saw no marks of injury on it ~ when the Joiner came to measure the body for the Coffin I then observed that there was some blackness about the breast, this blackness was not on the body when I washed it ~ The funeral took place on the Saturday following - Colin M^cMillan my husband, Flora M^cLean & myself sat with her during the whole night - Niel M^cMillan her other son came but he was so drunk as to be unable to do anything - all the rest were sober - Ann M^cMillan did not sit up with us ~ she did not see her mother till after she was dead ~ I cant write -

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Compeared Lachlan Cameron Fisherman residing at Balevullin aforesaid who says I am 30 years of age - I concur with Donald M^cNeill after Widow M^cMillan left the room with the money and after taking the two glasses of spirits as mentioned by M^cNeill I met Niel M^cMillan who told me that his mother was in the front parlour drinking along with Niel Lamont - I didn't see her there myself nor did I see her afterwards at all - This is truth -

Compeared Ann Macdonald Servant to & residing with Lachlan Maclean Innkeeper Kilmoluag who says I am 27 years of age - On the day Widow M^cMillan came to Kilmoluag I saw her before she went into the room where her sons and the other Fishermen were ~ I met her outside the house and told her that her two sons were inside drinking - she said she cared little for that, that she herself had come for the purpose of getting herself drunk I replied very little will do that - she answered "the Hogs head which Lachlan (referring to my Master) has would not have

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have that effect - but that she was determined before leaving the Inn to get drunk - I did not see her drink any spirits in the Inn but I saw her and her son John leave to go home in the evening about 6 P.M. and I then observed that she was so drunk as to be unable to go home without assistance - Her son was supporting her with his arm around her waist - I did not speak to them - I was out on the field at work and saw them pass homewards - I did not see her fall nor did I see him carry her on his back - I lost sight of them after they got over the Knoll at the back of Kilmoluag house - next day I heard she was dead ~

Paper 1852 - 19020

Compeared Niel Lamont Son of and residing with John Lamont Merchant Cornaigmore in the Island of Tyree who says I am 24 years of age - I was at Lachlan Maclean's house at Kilmoluag on a Wednesday or Thursday about three weeks ago - where I met with Niel & John M^cMillan and their Boats crew - I went for the purpose of paying them money for the fish they had taken and which I had got - We had some Whiskey at the settlement which was paid for by the Fishermen - I think there was a Bottle of whiskey drank in whole among 7 or 8 after I had settled I went into a front parlour with Archibald M^cLean and the Innkeeper M^r Lachlan M^cLean - We had some drink there - While sitting in the room M^{rs} Effie M^cMillan came in and sat down I did not ask her to come in - She came of her own accord -

Inserted in margin *She asked me for it – said that she Expected I would have given it to her without asking*

- of the spirits we had before us I filled and handed her a glass which she drank - She was talking very much and was asking me when we were to be married - Her son Niel came to the room where she was but I cant remember where she was ~~

Paper 1852 - 19021

was - but I cant remember whether or not John her other son was in - I think he was - she remained in that room more than an hour and I think drank fully two glasses of spirits It was going round and she was offered and took a share - I don't remember whether her sons tasted of the spirits - she went out of the room with one of her sons to go home - I went out also - and went into another room - a Bedroom called M^{rs} M^cLean's room - I had not remained in this room any time when the old woman M^cMillan other son came into it - Lachlan M^cLean came in with them and brought two gills of Whiskey with him which he gave me to drink - I did not order it nor did I pay for it - I was myself a little the worse of drink & very considerably elated - Archibald M^cLean was in the room also with us - I am quite certain I did not send for the Woman back & I have no Knowledge of that whatever - she was brought in by Lachlan M^cLean who came in along with her and handed me the Whiskey to drink as aforesaid - M^cMillan before tasting any Spirits in this room appeared to be much the worse of drink - I filled the whiskey and handed it round - I gave it to Widow M^cMillan as to the others but I cant say how much she drank - after this half mutchkin was finished I ordered and paid for another which I also handed

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handed round - I cant say how much Mrs McMillan or any in the room drank of it but I remember the glass from both half mutchkins was filled and handed round by me three or four times - and that so far as I can remember she as well as her son partook of it each time - I did not insist on her taking it but judging from the state I was myself from the effects of drink she must have been much worse - We remained in this room about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour and she and her son again went away - I did not see them again and I heard next day that she was dead - This is truth -