

Archibald and Ann MacLean/McLean were at Ceathramh Meadhanach 11, (Middlequarter) North Uist prior to heading to Loch Euport in about 1851 then in Dec 1852 leaving for Australia. The ship they travelled on was "Hercules". I have a lot of information from then on but am seeking more on their time in North Uist as well as trying to knock down a brickwall or two!

So what I know: (dates are all approximate based on Census records and calculations from shipping/emigration records and Croft history books) as no birth records at all have been located.

- Archibald was one of four (or perhaps 5) children – Archie/Archd, born about 1802/1806, Rachel 1811, Donald 1821, Ann 1825.
- Rachel married Angus MacLeod of Dunskeilor, and was widowed by 1851 (I have a little more on them)
- Ann married Alexander MacAskill of Balemor and they lived at Bayhead (I have a little more on them). Marriage details Nov 1858 show Ann, 28, of **Oransay**, North Uist - struggling with working that one out! -
- Donald b 1821 ... vanished!
- There is some reference on other trees to another sibling – Sarah Marion or Marion Sarah, b 1818-1901. She certainly is not listed with the family in the Croft Histories, nor does she appear in any of the census records I have located. I suspect Sarah/Marion is a daughter of a different Archibald – perhaps a cousin

The parents of these siblings were Alexander MacLean (c1770-1840) and Marion Monk (1779 – 1875). Marion's parents were Angus and Mary McLellan from 13 Middlequarter. I have a little more on the Monk family but know very little about Alexander's birth/death and parents except that they were also at Ceathramh Meadhanach. According to Bill Lawsons Croft Books the croft was handed to son Archie when dad Alexander died. Alexander's death we can only assume was prior to 1841, as in that census Marion was a widow according to Bill Lawson. I have so far not found that census record despite searching names as Merron, Merion, Meron etc. There are thought Alexander was at Sollas prior to Loch Euport.

Back to Archie and Ann ..

We believe Ann was a MacDonald but have no proof,

Archie & Ann were at Dunksellor (Dun Sgealair, Dim Skellor), in the 1841 Census with the first two children, Alexander and Murdoch. (Murdoch was my gr grandfather). They were aged 4 and 2 in the 1841 Census.

By the 1851 Census there were 4 more children and they were at Ceathramh Meadhanach.

When they departed in Dec 1852 on the ship "Hercules" there were 7 children and the family details in the shipping records indicated:

Archibald, age 46, born 1806
Ann, age 38, born 1814
Alexander, age 16, born 1836
Murdoch, age 14, born 1838
Effy, age 12, born 1840
Ann, age 10, born 1842
Donald, age 8, born 1844
Archbald, age 3, born 1849
Malcolm, age 1, born 1851

Unfortunately not all survived the journey to Australia, but that is another story. Happy to share if wanted with any connections found. On the same ship were Monk and MacAskill families and many others.

From many family trees observed on Ancestry/My Heritage etc it appears the Archie may have had a brother born 1867 died 1853, named Alexander which certainly ties in with family names father's name.

Those with Alexander b 1867 on their trees somehow have parent's details also. Not all show a brother Archibald though! Some of those show Alexanders birth may not have been in North Uist. Have sent messages to the site managers but little in the way of responses unfortunately.

My belief from my father and his interpretation was that they were MacLeans of Duart, and from the Isle of Mull but how does one work this out/prove it?

I have searched long and hard on Scotland's People, HebrideanConnections and have found some info there, but not much, so hoping there may be a few more leads from other unknown sources.