



ALEXANDER MCGILVRA

de Pennygai11

Born; 1684-1688 (105 #756) but his parents are unknown.

He had at least one younger brother; **Duncan**, a lawyer. (see 1716 arms list; 1725 contract & 1750 dispute below). This Dunc appears to have had a son John for in 1771 this John McGillivra is stated to be Alex's nephew & Alex's son Hugh's cousin. Of course, this nephew John could be the son of another brother or even of a sister of Alex if she had wed another McGilvray, which was very common. And, a successful Glasgow merchant, Malcolm McGilvra is called Hugh's cousin (but not cousin german).

Married; **Una MacLean**, the daughter of Lauchlan; eldest son of Alan of Gruline. (160p.18½) Their marriage contract was dated 5 July 1725. She is also called Ouna or Unna (which today would be Winifred or Agnes). She d.>1750.

On 14 Dec 1725 Duncan McGillevra in Pennieyayell (Alex's younger brother), appeared as attorney for & in name of Ouna McLean, spouse to Alex McGillevra of Pennieyayell. Alex settled a jointure (estate settled on wife to be enjoyed after husband's death), of a liferent against the lands of;

-Penniegayell (3 farthing land)

-Glenleadill (2 farthing land; same as ½ pennysize as per 1771) with houses, biggings, yards, orcheyards.

Alex's gillie (servant) was Don McNekaird in Craigurenish; & the witnesses to the contract were Chas McLean, Killennaig; Don McLean, Turbert; Dunc Campbell, Lorn: plus John McLean, Killean; Chas McLean, Killennaig (& his sons Allen, Hector, & Don); who were witnesses to the registration at Dumbartane on 25 Dec. (211; RS10 v5p.286)

Died; 27 June 1778; (age 94). Alex's obituary stated; "*At his house of Pennygaile, isle of Mull, Alexander Macgilvra of that Ilk (place or clan), Esq, in the 94th year of his age*". (212v40p.454) The long life span of Alex, John & Martin meant that Pennyghael had been held for over 150 years by but three (known) generations: a rarity for that period. Yet, despite the privations & frequent depredations of those times, longevity was by no means unknown. (132) "*There are in Ross (in 1795) three brothers & a sister of the name of Macgilvra, whose ages taken together are 342 years*". (221) (Ave= 86) They were all still alive in 1800. (187) Despite an average age of 70, their names can't be determined from the 1779 census.

KIDS -Hugh: 'only lawfull son' in 1771 Sasine (see his chapter)

-Una: b.c1735/40 wed 1760

+ Dr. Alex MacLean. JP (140v11p.41 & 26)

b.1725; Killunaig d.14 Apr 1786.

He was the fifth son of Charles of Killunaig, who was the second son of Allan of Gruline. Thus, she wed her mom's first cousin.

= Arch d.17 Feb 1830

= Cath

Dr Alex obtained a tack on the lands of Pennycross in 1778 (211 #395, 1795) & purchased them in 1798 from his father-in-law; Alex McGilvray. (162) He (or possibly the other Dr Alex of Rossal) was described by Boswell as more a farmer than a doctor & as one of the stoutest & heartiest men he had ever seen. (12p.342) On Oct 31, 1773 Boswell & Johnson dined well in his home at the north end of Glen Liddle. Una also provided Mrs Murray, the author, a good rest in 1800. (187p.147)

In 1780 there was a letter to Dr Alex MacLean & to 'step-mother'; from son? Farquahar McGilvra (in North America with Ensign Don MacLean of Killeen. (197a) This McLean & the 74th Regiment went to Halifax in 1778 & was at Penobscot, Maine until 1783. He then lived in Danville, Vermont until the 1812 War)

She d.23/25/27 Oct 1807 at Pennycross. (212) (no will)

-Mary spinster in 1771

Mentioned in Lochbuie papers 1799.

A Miss McGilvray is mentioned also in 1795 & 1798.

-Isobel spinster in 1771

Although Alex was not served heir until 16 Feb 1731 (132p.79 & SRO C22/61 #689, in Latin, recorded 25 Feb 1731) he was deponed as the nearest lawful male heir to his grand-uncle, Mr Martine McIlebra, prior to 3 Oct 1724. (SRO GD174/56/310) At that time, Alex claims to own the lands although he has not yet been retoured legal heir to the deceased Martin. Many heirs simply occupied their inherited land & didn't bother with the formalities for years. However, this succession may have presented Alex with problems he did not want repeated because in later years he transferred title to his son seven years before he died.

part or portion of the lands of Killunaig & because I am not as yet served heir to the deceased Mr Martine McIlebra of Pennycross my grand-uncle and so not entered in the books of the lands of the country as nearest lawful heir male to the said Mr Martine McIlebra who died last but 20 years ago of free spin and so cannot legally secure the said Murdoch McLean

The fact that the legal succession follows directly from Martin, & not via John, casts doubt on the previous questionable succession of John. John was Martin's nephew so it is likely Alex was John's son despite the fact that Alex named his only son Hugh (maybe they didn't get along). In any event, Martin's sons must have predeceased him, or they did not leave issue, or else they were not recognised as legitimate heirs. Thus, Alex & John's forbear is likely one of Martin's known brothers; Don, Farq'r or Alex. The mention of 'nearest male heir' indicates the lands were tailzied to the male line.

And, as usual, there is confusion as to when John died. He was named on a 1722 mortgage discharge but he does not seem to be included on the 1716 list of men with arms (at least not at Pennyghael or Carsaig). He might, however, have been excluded due to old age. There had been a John, in Carsaig, on the 1675 Rebel list. Both Alex & Dunc were active in the 1715 Rebellion & as mentioned it was likely Alex whose exclamation is recorded. Dunc had borrowed a gun from Alex "his brother Pennyghael", according to the 1716 list & both men are living at Carsaig along with a Don McMartine McIlvra. It is noteworthy that there were no McGilvra's listed at Pennyghael. (see Appendix 3)



Younger brothers are much more difficult to trace in the records because they had no property, did not sign marriage contracts & did not marry into well placed families. They seem to live in the shadow of the laird.

There is also a curious commonality about the marriages of Alex, & of his son Hugh. It appears they both waited until their predecessor had died, & they had inherited, before they married. As both John & Alex lived to ripe ages this meant Alex was 41 & Hugh was about the same age before they would marry. Both married MacLeans & both signed bountiful wedding contracts.

On 12 June 1750, Alex MacGillivra of Pennyghael, age 62 (b.1688) & married, testified regarding a boundary dispute. (105 #756) Also appearing was Dunc McGilvra, brother to Pennyghael, age 61 (b.1689) & married (to?); who had been the possessor of Kenlocksraiden 25 years ago, for two years. Other witnesses were John McLean, tacksman at Pennycross, age 40; John McLean of Lochbuie (a party to the land dispute); Chas McKinnon, tenant on Kenlock; & John McKinnon at Burg. Just prior to this, in May 1749, a Lochbuy Will had been probated & an outstanding debt by Pennygaile, for one grey bull valued at £1.8.8, is listed. (SRO CC12/15/1 Inventories)

A 1771 Sasine (see p.186) is witnessed by John McGillivra (in Pennyghael), cousin to Alex's son Hugh. Another cousin of Hugh's is Malc, the Glasgow merchant born 1729, although he is not called cousin german. They could be sons of Alex's brother Dunc.

The above John is also listed in the Mull Tacks Book of 1762. (105 ip.166) John McIlvera in Pennyghael $\frac{1}{2}$; & Hector Beaton $\frac{1}{4}$ & Don McDonald $\frac{1}{4}$, 1 penny $\frac{1}{2}$ penny Terergan & Isle of Calman (just below Erraid, southeast of Iona) presently possessed by Janet McPhie relict of Alex (McPhee?), Oct 1772, 24 houses thereon. John McIlvera in Pennyghael & others, continue to lease Tirergan from 1772 until at least 1791. However, the only McGillvray tenant at Tirergan in the 1779 census was Don age 24 with his mother & sister. As will be explained, Pennyghael & Carsaig were not included in this census.

Other McGillvrays listed on the Mull Leases of 1769-1804 were; (105)
-Dunc MacIlvera in Sheba, & others at Suie & Tirghoill, 1772-1791
(he is at Suie in 1779; age 72, so not Alex's brother);
-Neil McGillvray in Ardlure, & others at Seirphin, 1772-1791
(he is at Seirphin in 1779);
-Arch McGillvray sometime in Ardtun; &
Don & John McGillvray in Ardtun, & others at Buessan, 1780
(Arch & Don are at Buessan in 1779).

Earlier Mull rental lists for 1742 & 1744 have; (105 #757)
-Dunc McIlivra paying £21 at Ardalanish
-Don McIlvra paying £16 at Sarphein
-Angus McIlvra paying £23 at Assapole (£12 in 1744)
-Farquhard McIlvra & his son-in-law (who?) paying £15 at
Knocknafennaig (but only in 1742)
-Alex McIlvra of Pennyghael paying £102 for Glen canell, Torosay.
This indicates McGillvray ownership of Glencannel had been
usurped by Duart & hence lost to Argyll.

Alex did not, of course, have to pay rent for lands he owned but he did have to pay taxes & these Valuation Rolls give a perspective of the McGillvray lands in 1751; (SRO SC51/59/1)

Pennyghael, Fynnachy, Carsaik, Glenlidil; property of
Alex McGillvray £12.4s.2p ($\approx 8\frac{1}{2}\%$ tax on 1770 assessment)
(I believe this was the first time this spelling was used)
Beninish, a pendicle of Pennyghael, property of Chas Murray
£1.7.9 (the loss of this land will be discussed later)
Pennycross Wadsetted to John McLean £3.16.9
(Total value of Mull £744.11.10)

A 1770 tax list of landowners gives the (assessed) value of the McGillvray lands. (241p.37)

-Alex McGillvray of Pennyghael, Finachag & Carsaig = £146/yr
-Chas Murray of Stanhope - Beninish (sold by Alex) = £ 16
-John MacLean - wadset of Pennycross (sold by Alex) = £ 46