Laglingarten Farm

Ancestors of Alice Hunter, from McCallum to Nichol

1757, July 24th

**Malcom McCallum** and Margaret Kennedy gave birth to a son **Duncan** at Ardencraig, nearthe village of Killin, Perthshire, OPR Ref.361/0020 0029KILLIN. Killin is at the west end of Loch Tay, in the shadow of Ben Lawers and is notable for The Waterfalls of Dochart. The clan McNab seems to have been the main clan and have an old cemetery on an island on the river.

The time was just after Culloden, 1746, and most of the common people either weaved or farmed, growing food and keeping a few cattle on poor ground and paying rent to the landlords as well as supplying sons to fight for the landlord’s regiment in the regular wars at home and abroad, there would be no industry other than a bit of forestry. In the Winter sheep and cattle grazed the lowlands but come Spring the families would move uphill to Sheelings, this was hill shelters where families lived and took advantage of Spring and

Summer grasses to return to their homes in the Autumn. It is not clear if the landlord would allow trout and salmon to be taken from Loch Tay for extra food.

September, 1786, **Finlay McCallum** was born to **Duncan McCallum** and “Chris McDiarmie(d)” and christened on 1st October in Killin church, Perthshire, Ref.361/002 0213. The name of the property or farm is Blairm??? Like most country areas the district is extensive and the property could be some distance from the village of Killin. Killin today is still a rural community and is an almost all year-round a tourist destination.

**Finlay** McCallum (sometimes known as Finley) Aged about 19 must have left Killin at some time around 1805 and made his way to Kilmorich, a coastal parish of Lochgoilhead near St. Catherines on Loch Fyne where he was then listed as a farmer, probably farmhand.

We wondered why in the days of limited transport Finlay would want to travel to a coastal area and we read a bit further to discover that the owner of the Perthshire land, and the owner of the people on his land was the Marquis of Breadalbane and was second only to the Duke of Sutherland in the notorious “Highland Clearances” when over a short period had sent over 500 families off “his” land to be replaced by the infamous Cheviot sheep.

On the 16th June, 1815, **Finlay Married Janet McDougal** of “Ardno?” Janet was the daughter of Donald Mcdougal a Tacksman in “Lagliongartan” in the parish of Lochgoilhead, on the marriage record it stated Finlay was noted as “late hand in Ardo”, from this we assume he returned from somewhere else to marry Janet!

That somewhere else, we are not sure but their son **Malcolm McCallum** was born in Paisley in 1826, however they returned to Kilmorich to have Malcolm Baptised on 31st September. There is no record of Malcolm’s birth in Paisley, but his marriage certificate lists both Paisley and Kilmorich as his birth place.

At some time the family moves to the Island of Arran and **Malcolm**, (sometimes noted as Malcom), aged 28 (a teacher?) residing in Brodick marries Margaret Grey, age 27, a local girl, on the 24th April, 1855, in the parish of Kilbride, Lamlash, Ref.553/00 0003. Finlay and Janet are at the wedding and Finlay is listed as a farmer. Margaret’s father is also a local teacher.

In the 1861 census for the Parish of Kilbride, **Malcolm McCallum** seems to have had a change of career as he and the family now lived at 41 Blair Beg, Steamboat Store, Kilbride. The move may have been for better salary or prospects. Malcolm, then age 35, is the Steamboat Agent, with Margaret his wife, age 34, Elizabeth Hunter Gray, daughter age 5, Jessie McDougal age 2, born in Lamlash, and Mary age 1 born at Corrie. When Elizabeth was born, 24th April, 1855, the family lived at 2 or 12 Lancefield Street, Anderson, Glasgow, there is also a male servant living with them in Lamlash named Malcolm Hunter and he may be a relative of Margaret’s mother as she was a Hunter?

**Finlay**, their first son was born 8th October, 1861, at Lamlash,Kilbride. I have not been able to locate Finlay in his early days but am aware he served on several ships including the S.S. Dunara Castle run and owned by McCallum and Orr (no relation?), he was listed as a steward. We know Finlay was on the Dunara Castle and assisted when they evacuated the Isles of St. Kilda in 1930.

On 2nd April, 1886, **Finlay**, age 24 married Isabella Finlay, age 26, Ref.644/12 0139 in the district of Gorbals, County of Lanark. Isabella, a boot saleswoman, I assume worked in a shoe shop, lived at 30 Commerce St., Glasgow, and Finlay is noted as living at 119 Paisley Rd., also Glasgow. The marriage was witnessed by his father, Malcolm McCallum, Iron Storekeeper, and his mother Mary McCallum (Gray).

On 27 January, 1889, Maggie Gray was born to Finlay and Isabella, at 42 Commerce Street, Glasgow. Finlay was noted then as a Ship Steward.

The 1901 census finds the family at 121 Lambhill Street, Kinning Park, Glasgow, where resided mother Isabella, age 40, Isabella daughter age 16, a biscuit factory worker, (possibly Gray Dunn), Maggie daughter age 12, and Jeanie age 6, all born in Lanarkshire/Glasgow. Finlay McCallum carried on working for the shipping company and became Chief Cook. He died still working as he left ship at lancefield Quay, Glasgow, of a heart attack. Maggie, his daughter, 23, went on to marry William Nichol in Glasgow, November 1912. As there were no males born this line of McCallums ran out.

At the time of writing, April 2008, Alice Hunter, born 1913, daughter of Maggie is still alive at age 94 and can remember much of the later information especially one of her mothers sisters visiting St. Catherines on several occasions, and we assume this was a family connection.