

## McKinneys in Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshre

The earliest reference to the surname McKinney or McKenney is found in two writs, which both preserve the name of Malcolm McKenney, a juror at the sheriff court of Dumfries in 1347 and 1367. The medieval sheriffdom of Dumfries extended from Annandale on the east to the parish of Minnigaff in Galloway. To be a juror, Malcolm must have held property that placed an obligation of feudal service and required him to attend the sheriff's court when necessary. These jurors would have been picked from a group of men who would have had some knowledge of the lands under question, establishing if the claimant had a right to inherit the lands in question. The lands held by Malcolm himself in return for feudal service, would appear he held land in Galloway and Dumfriesshire and that he may have been the ancestor of many of the McKinney family who appear in the medieval records scattered from Dumfries to Wigtown, or at least genetically for most. From 1347 onwards then, there is more than sufficient time for Malcolm's offspring to have spread their wings along and across the Solway Firth, and later in the 1600s, for some to cross into Ulster.

### Malcolm McKenney of the Sheriffdom of Dumfries

[1] April 23, 1347

Inquisition at Dumfries on Monday next before St. Mark's day 1347, before John de la More under-sheriff of Dumfries, by William son of Matilda, John of Dumfries, **Malcolm MacConyge**, Padin Smolan, **Malcolm McKenne**, Henry Demester, John Milner, William son of Roger, John Lauge, Alan of Bernard Castle, Martin Milner, Thomas son of Bridoc, **Adam Macayne**, jurors; who found that Henry de Malton father of John de Malton, was seised in the whole manor of Kircpatric *juxta* Traverglis, with the advowson of the church and services of freemen. Also of **Dorsqwen** and **Alisland** in the valley of Nithe. And that Thomas de Malton son of John de Malton, bearer of these presents, is the lawful heir of the said Henry.

[Bain, Joseph: Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland 1307-1357, Vol. III, p. 272, no. 1493]

Note: Several properties were being claimed by Thomas de Malton son of John de Malton, the lawful heir of Henry de Malton, who held land in Cumbria and Yorkshire in the north of England. Two properties are of interest, the lands of Dorsqwen and Alisland in the valley of the Nith (Nithsdale). Alisland is modern Ellisland in the parish of Dunscore, and is located about mile from Milliganton and a bit more to Dempsterton.

[2] June 30, 1367

Inquisicio capta apud Drumfresie die Mercurii ultimo die mensis Junii anno domini millesimo trecentesimo sexagesimo septimo per Johannem de Crauford, Johannem filium domini Mathei, Gylbertum McLolane, Gyllespy Mcmonuch, Johannem de Crauford filium Hugonis, Moricium Acrassane, Nicholaum de Drumfresie, Patricium Mcwrori, Gilbertum Acrassan, **Macolmum Mckenyn** et Johannem Elidun de Glena – Qui Jurati dicunt quod quondam Maria de Duglas filia et heres quondam Willelmi de Duglas de Lydelisdal militis consaguinea Jacobi de Duglas latoris presentium obit vestita et faysita vt de seodo ad fidem et pacem domini nostril Regis infra vicecomitatum de Drumfres de terries del Garuald et Dalfoble cum pertinenciis infra Baroniam de Kyrkmychel in antique extent xl libras et nunc valent xx libras. Item dicunt quod obit vestita et faysita in medietate baronie de Prestoun cum pertinenciis et valuerunt tempore pacis xl marcis et nunc valent decem libris. Et obit vestita et faysita de Baronia de Botill et valuit tempore pacis c libris et nunc valet xl libris. Et quod dictius Jacobus eft legitimus et propinquior heres ejusdem quondam Marie consaguinee sue de eisdem terries cum pertinenciis et est legitime etatis et quod tenentur in capite de domino nostro Reg videlicet Baronia de Botill per seruicium vnus paris calcarium deauratorum nomine albe firme et terra de Prestoun per wardam et releuim et terra de Garwald et de Dalfoble per seruicium vnus libre peperis et nunc sunt in minibus domini nostril Regis racione obitus dicite Marie de Duglas a tempore obitus dicite Marie de Duglas. In cuius rei testimonium sigilla quorundam dictorum Inquisitorum presentibus sunt appensa vna cum sigillo vicecomitis. Data die anno et loco supradictis.

[Registrum Honoris de Morton, Vol. II, Ancient Charters, p. 64, no. 83]

Note: No. Relating to lands held in Annandale on the Scottish border with England and lands in Kirkcudbrightshire.

[3] 1408

Charter by Archibald, fourth earl of Douglas, lord of Galloway to Alexander de Gordon confirming to him: 'the lands of *Schyrmes, le Park, le Contrefe, Ern Canny, Ern Macnelly, Ern MacCathy and Ern Macquilwhinny* in the lordship of Galloway, the Barony of Balmaclellane and constabulary of Kirkcudbright. To be held forever for one attendance yearly at one court to be held immediately after Easter at the principal place of the said barony'.

[Brooke, Daphne: *The Glenkens 1275-1456: Snapshots of A Medieval Countyside*, in the Transactions of Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History & Antiquarian Society [TDGNHAS] (3<sup>rd</sup> Series (1924), Vol. LIX, p. 41-54]

[4] February 19, 1467

Rex confirmavit cartam Vedasti Geresoue domini de Lag, ac certarum terrarum de Balmaclellane [qua concessit Johanni M'Lelane filio Dungalli Johnsonsone, et heredibus ejus,—terras de Balmaclellane, viz. 12 marcatas antiqui extentus vulgariter nuncupatas **Armakcwne**, Trechanis, Blaranny, et Blakcrag: Tenend. a dicto Vedasto de rege, &c.: —Reddend. Regi unam sectam curie ad capitale placitum sencscallatus de Kirkcudbricht proximo post natale ibidem tenend, et alia servitia debita et consueta:—Test. Rob. Heris domino de Kirkpatrick-Yrngray, Don. M'Lellaue dom. de Gelstoune, Wil. Langmure do Waffurde, Pat. M'Culloch, Rob. Ahannay, Joh. M'Moryn, David M'birny, M. Joh. Hamiltoune vicario de Lochrewtoune, Wil. Ahannay, Joh. M'Lern, capellanis, et Gilb. Mertynsoun: Apud Kirkcudbricht, 28 August, 1466].

[Register of the Great Seal of Scotland 1513-1546 (Edinburgh, 1882), Vol. II, no. 907]

[5] 1473-74

Kirkcudbrightshire: Primis componitur cum **McCane** et Johanne Stell pro recepcione dict Gilberti [McGey] tantum: compositio, viij ii.

[Accounts of the High Lord Treasure of Scotland 1473-1498 (Edinburgh, 1877), p. 8]

Note: Gibert McGey is Gilbert McGhie, probably the son William McGhie of Plunton in the parish of Borge, of the McGhie of Balmaghie family.

[6] 1473-74

Wigtownshire: Primis componitur cum **Nevino McKenze** et Nigello Adare pro morte quondam Thome McDovele et aliorum interfectorum apud Syons, commissa ad septem annos; et pro omnibus etc, proditora tradicionem, murthro et communi furto exceptis, compositio, xxii.

[Accounts of the High Lord Treasure of Scotland 1473-1498 (Edinburgh, 1877), p. 9]

Note: If correct and McKenze is a mistake for McKenne, Nevin McKenze is the earliest person recorded in Wigtownshire with the surname McKenne.

[7] August 8, 1488

REX confirmavit cartam Gilberti Dikeonsoune de Clontis,—[quavendit et alienavit Symoni Makcristin, burgensi de Wigtoun, heredibus ejus et assignatis,—20 solidatas antiqui extentus terrarum de Clontis, vic. Wigtoun, in parochia de Sorby. Reddend, unum denarium nomine albe firme: Test. Wil. Makgerwe, notario publico, **Ric. Burne**, Pat. Murdochsoune, D. Gilb. Makgilhauch, D. Pat. Sprot, Pat. Makkelle, et Dungallo Achinyane:—Apud Wigtoun, 1 July 1484]:— Necnon aliam cartam dicti Gilberti Dikeonsoune,—[qua vendit et alienavit dicto Simoni Makcristin, heredibus ejus et assignatis,— dimediam mercatam antiqui extentus terrarum de Clontis, unacum manerie, pomario, orto et clausura ejusdem, infra dominium Galwidie, vic. Wigtoun:- Reddend, unum denarium argenti nomine albe firme:- Test. Wil. Murhed, Alano Makclelane, Pat. Murchosoune, Gilb. Makclelane, **Joh. Makkynnay**, Joh. Makgilhauch. Apud Wigtoune, 8 August, 1488].

[Register of the Great Seal of Scotland 1424-1513 (Edinburgh, 1882), Vol. II, no. 1769]

[8] April 4, 1495

A precept of Remissioun to **Thom McKenne**, for the slauchter of umquhile Thomas Cregane, and for all action that may be imput to him therfor alanerly. Apud Kirkcudbright.

[Register of the Privy Seal of Scotland 1488-1529 (Edinburgh, 1908), Vol. 1, no. 50]

[9] January 9, 1497

Tack by Margaret Keith lady of Crechlew (Craiglaw) and Longcastill (Longcastle) to her carnal son Adam Mure of Crechlew of the 5 merks worth of the lands of Carnenfeild, 4 merks worth of the lands of Culgare and 2 merks worth of the lands of Cuylbeir in the barony of Longcastyll, for the period of 19 years, paying 11 merks Scots of mail; with power to remove tenants and cottars. Sealed by Margaret at Wigton. Witnessess: Malcolm McGihaus burgess of Wigton, John Ramsa, Sand[....]jure clerk, George Keith, **Andro McKynna**, Schir John Wryt notary and Schir Allan Adare chaplain.

[Reid, R.C.: Wigtownshire Charters (Edinburgh, 1960), p. 179, no. 167]

[10] October 4, 1512

REX concessit Alexandro Gordoun, militi, filio et heredi apparent Johannis Gordoun de Lochinver, et Elizabeth Stewart sponse dicti Alexandri,—20 libratas 15 solidatas antiqui extentus terrarum dominicalium de Stichell, 6 libr orientalis tertie partis de Stichell dictis terris dominicalibus adjacentcs, in baronia de Stichell, vic. Roxburgh; et 15 mercatas ant. ext. de Balmaklellane, viz. 3 merc de **Erne-Maccanny**, 2 merc de Contreif, 3 merc de Martynstoun, 3 merc de **Erne-Maknely**, 3 merc per Donaldum Broun occupatas, et dimediam merc de Blakmark, in baronia do Kenmore, senesc. Kirkcudbrycht;— quas dictus Joh. resignavit: Tenend. dictis Alex et Eliz., et eorum alteri diutius viventi in conjuncta infeodatione, et heredibus masc. inter ipsos legit, procreatis, quibus deficientibus, legit, et propinquioribus heredibus dicti Joh. quibuscumque.

[Register of the Great Seal of Scotland 1424-1513 (Edinburgh, 1882), Vol. II, no. 3772]

[11] December 4, 1524

Action before the Lords of Council by Walter, Abbot of Glenluce against James Gordon of Lochinvar reciting the case had been adjourned until James could summon his witnesses:- John Sinclair, Gilbert Mulykyn, John Fergusson, Donald Wilson, John McGachane, David Edgar, Cuthbert McMichall, David McMillane, **Donald McKynnay**, **Hector McKynnay**, Rervas(?) McQuharg, Morise McQuharg, John and William Fergussons, Alexander McMichall, Fergus McMichall, Patrick Davy and John McMullane before the Lords of Council.

[Acta Dominorum Concilii 1515-1527, R. C. Reid (Ewart Library, Dumfries), Vol. 149, p. 138]

[12] July 19, 1540

Letters by the Lords of Council to Hew Rig, prolocutor for John Vaus of Barnbarroch to summon the following witnesses: **Niniane McIlveane**, **Alexander McKynnay**, Gillespy McCrekan, Gilbert Dunnyel, Patrick McIlcaffy, John Gilbsoun, John McMaken, Alexander Mure, John McMaister, **Gilbert McKynna**, Thomas Parker, Thomas Gawen, schir Gilbert McGuffock, Andro McGe, dene Sampson Cunynghame, dene John Sanderson, maister Patrik McCulloch, schir David Hawthorne, Finaly Schelan, Thomas McMewin and schir David McBlane. The Council assigned on 16 November, 1540, to hear their testimony in the case brought against John Vaus of Barnbarroch, Gilbert alias Gibbon McCrakane, elder, Donald McCulloch, Gilbert McGibbon, John McRedy and John McCrakane, younger, by Walter, Abbot of Glenluce, who tried to eject and dispossess them of the seven merkland of Clanary in the parish of Inch.

[Reid, R.C.: Wigtownshire Charters (Edinburgh, 1960), p. 67-69, no. 50]

[13] February 23, 1542

Preceptum Carte Confirmations **Johnnis McKynnay** in Glenschimrak.

[Register of the Privy Seal of Scotland 1529-1542 (Edinburgh, 1921), Vol. 2, no. 4504]

[14] February 23, 1542

REX confirmavit cartam Willelmi M'Ge de Ballmage,—[qua, pro summa pecunie sibi persoluta, vendidit **Johanni Makynnay** in Glenschymrak, heredibus ejus et assignatis,—2 ½ marcatas terrarum antique extentus de Cra (per Wil. Makge occupatas), in parochia de Balmage, senesc. Kirkcudbrycht: Tenend de rege: Test. M. Andrea Blakstok, Joh. Sinclair, Gilberto M'Carrule, Wil. Rechee, notario Publico: — Apud Edinburgh, 22 Feb. 1541].

[Register of the Great Seal of Scotland 1513-1546 (Edinburgh, 1883), Vol. III, no. 2603]

[15] July 16, 1542

REX coufirmavit cartam Willehni Makge de Balmage,—[qua, pro surama pecunie sibi persoluta, vendidit Alexandro Gordoun in Ardis, et Margarete Sinclair ejus conjugii,— 2 1/2 marcatas terrarum antiqui extentus de Bernbord, in parochia de Balmage, senesc. Kyrkudbrycht. Tenend. dictis Alex, et Marg. eorumque alteri diutius viventi in conjuncta infeodatione, et heredibus inter ipsos legit,

procreatis, quibus deficientibus, legitimis et propinquioribus heredibus dicti Alex, quibuscumque, de rege. Test. Joh. Sinclair in Erlistoun, **Johanne M'Kynnan**, Roberto Hammyltoun, Rogero Dungalsoun, Jobanne Mureheid :—Apud Edinburgh, 28 May 1512]. Apud Edinburgh. [Register of the Great Seal of Scotland 1513-1546 (Edinburgh, 1883), Vol. III, no. 2729]

[16] August 20, 1542

Instrument of Sasine following on a charter by Robert, Lord Maxwell, baron of the barony of Tinwald, and of the lands of Murreif, by Henry Maxwell, brother to Lord Maxwell, infeted William Maxwell of Blairboy in liferent and of Margaret Maxwell, and Mr. Herbert Maxwell her future spouse conjointly and to the heirs of their bodies with the remainder to Margaret's nearest heirs, of the lands of Murreif with its mylms etc. extending to a £20 land in the shire of Wigtown. It had previously belonged in heritage to the said Margaret and her sister Elizabeth and resigned by them in favour of the said lord, to be held by service of ward, relief and marriage and 3 suits at the granter's head baron court at Caerlaverock. The charter was sealed at Dumfries 20 July, 1541, and witnessed by Robert Maxwell and John Maxwell 'my sons', John Maxwell of Kowhill, John Douglas, George Maxwell burgess of Dumfries, John Kirkpatrick, Doms. John Turnor rector of Annan and official of Dumfries and David Makgee, clerk. Signed by the granter. Sasine of infetment was witnessed by William Adunyll, Thomas Parker, **William McKynna**, John Gluar, Thomas Thomasoun, Henry Mundwell and Robert Turnor on the said lands of Murreif.

[Reid, R.C.: Wigtownshire Charters (Edinburgh, 1960), p. 221, no. 278]

[17] January 22, 1543

Preceptum legitimationis **Johannis McKynnay et Willelmi McKynnay**.

[Register of the Privy Seal of Scotland 1542-1548 (Edinburgh, 1936), Vol. 3, no. 47]

[18] January 22, 1543

REGINA &c., dedit literas legitimationis **Johanni Makkynny et Willelmo Makkynnay** bastardis, filii naturalibus Johannis M. in Glenschymrok, et eorum alteri. Apud Edinburgh.

[Register of the Great Seal of Scotland 1513-1546 (Edinburgh, 1883), Vol. III, no. 2856]

[19] February 9, 1544/5

REGINA &c., confirmavit cartam Finlaii Macdowell de Mowr,—[qua, pro suimua pecunie sibi persoluta, vendidit Patricio Makclellan de Gilstoun, et ejus heredibus quibuscumque,—3 marcatas terrarium de Balcreg (per Job. M'Galdalie, Rob. Stewart et Geo. Vans occupat.), 20 solidat. de Mowr (per dictum Joh. M. occupat.), dimediam marcat. de Barmaill (per Joh. Carleill occupat.), 10 solidat. de Steldach, antiqui extentus, necnon quartam partem molendini de Mureyth cum multuris &c., in baronia de Mureyth, parochia de Kirkmadin in Fernis, vic. Wigtoun. Texend de regina. Test. Dunc. M'Goun burgen, Candidecase, David M'Clellen, David Bailye, **Wil. M'Kynnay**, Georgio Dunbar, Nich. Murray notario publico :—cum subscription dicti Fin., duct, per Rob. Murray notarium publicum :—Apud Wigtoun, 28 January 1544]. Apud Edinburgh.

[Register of the Great Seal of Scotland 1513-1546 (Edinburgh, 1883), Vol. III, no. 3063]

[20] November 8, 1545

Preceptum Carte Confirmationis **Johannis McKynnay** – Super carta sibi, heredibus suis et assignatis per Johannem Makkynnay of Cray suum patrem facta, de totis et integris duabus marcetis terrarium et dimedia marcata terrarum antique extentus de Croy cum suis pertinentiis, iacentibus infra senescallatum de Kirkcudbrycht. Tenendis de domina regina et suis successoribus, etc.

[Register of the Privy Seal of Scotland 1542-1548 (Edinburgh, 1936), Vol. 3, no. 1409]

[21] October 1, 1545

REGINA &c., confirmavit eartam Johannis Dunbar de Mochrum,—[qua,—pro amore, ac pro benenieritis, necnon pro 700 mareis sibi persolutis,—concessit Elizabeth Mure, filie Kentigemi M. de Rowallane, in vitali reddito,—5 marcatas terrarum de Craggis antiqui extentus (per dictum Joh. Tho. Edyare et Gilb. M'Clannochane occupat., reddentes in firma 24 raarcas), 5 marcat, de Arlik ant. ext. (per **Alex. M'Kynna**, Rob. Waid et Ninianum Cor occupat., reddend. 20 mareas), in parochia de Mochrum, baronia de Mochrumpark, vic. Wigtoun. Tenend. de regina. Reddend. annuatim dicto Joh. unum den. argenti nomine albe firme. Test. Joh. Dunbar de Blantire, Pat. Ahannay de Sorby, Alex. Wallace, D. Joh. M'Crekane vicario de Sorby, Mich M'Crekane notario publico, M. Gilberto M'Crekane. Apud Wigtoun, 1 6 August 1544]. Apud Linlithgow.

[Register of the Great Seal of Scotland 1513-1546 (Edinburgh, 1883), Vol. III, no. 3163]