

WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the information in this excerpt, forwarded to me by Fraser McAskill, nor do I necessarily support the views. So, in the theme of our previous discussions I hope that readers who are curious to explore our heritage, may appreciate the variety of derived names that are MacLeod, (The book is also referred to in S.A.Clan Newsletter, Dec. 1999, for the Mid North, McLeod Cemetery tour). Source possibly also "Black's Surnames of Scotlan"

Excerpts from "The McLeods of Pabbay", by Rod McLeod

"I have personally heard many stories about the derivation of the name McLEOD. One of the best summaries is given by the New York Public Library:-

"- Macleoid. 'son of Leod', from a Norse name Ljotr (r silent) or Ljot, (ugly) but evidently a curtailed form of some double-stemmed name of Ljotr was the first element, possibly Ljot-ulf, 'ugly wolf'. There was a Ljotr, a companion of Arnfinn, brother of Anakoll, a Viking of the Hebrides...."

Torquil M'Leod de Leohus witnessed a grant of lands in Badenoch in 1338. Gilbert or Gilbreid McGloid is recorded as a tennant in Tiree(1541), Murdow McCloyd made an attack on a galley of the Laird of Balcomie, one of the Fife adventurers of the Hebrides, in 1600. These are some of the earliest mentions of the McLeods.

The following spellings of McLEOD are recorded (1633)M'Cleod, M'Clويد, M'Glaud, M'Kleod, M'Leud, M'Lewd, M'Loid, mccleoyd, (1762)McCleud, (1779)M'Clويد, (1559)M'Clويد, (1655)Macleoad, (1343)Macloide, (1770)Makkloud, (1623)Ma Keloid (of Harris), (1443)M'Loyd, (1436)M'Loyde, (1539)M'clode and (1515)Makclويد.

It can be seen that there have been many variations throughout the centuries - in Poland the name has become Machlejd. Any the wiser ?

Even here in Australia there have been a number of variations in spelling in birth, death and marriage certificates over the years. These range from Mcleod, Macleod, MacLeod, McCloud to what is regarded as the correct spelling - McLEOD - and yet there have been so many errors made over the years. "

France Society lists Maclot in their members. -Ed

Alex McLeod