



DONALD gorm McILWRAY

(c1570-c1620)

Born; c1570

Wed; Florence Maclean (When?)

She was the youngest daughter of Allan of Ardtornish (Morvern) who was the second son of John dubh McLean (c1531-1581) & a second cousin of Sir Laughlan of Duart. (162) But, another source merely says she wed a McGilvray of Pennyghael, (215p.331) & two others have her wed to Donald's son, the Rev Martin of Pennyghael. (154p.301 & 86p.58) Her likely age makes it more probable she was Martin's wife.

Died; >1618; in the reign of James VI (1585-1625) (Sasine #552 below) (Legally, he became James 1 of England in 1603)

KIDS - son (must have died young because Martin, the second son, becomes laird)

- Martin b.c1600 (see his chapter)
- Donald There is no specific information regarding his later life; unless he is the Donald gorum on the rebel lists.
- Ferquhard He is a witness to Chas Maclean, third lawful son of Allan of Ardtornish, & bailie of various lands in Mull; given to Farq'r, brother german of Martin, who is attorney for the said Allan Maclean; on a charter by Hector Maclean, younger, of Duart, etc. The sasine was signed at Aros, 2 July 1630; before Martin. (28p.118 vol 30 1st series #366)
- Alexander A number of July 1642 sasines name him as brother german to Mr Martin McIlliwrae. (28p.226 #690 #691 #692) Alex is stated to be an attorney in #692. He is in Torloisk when he acts as attorney for (his niece) Fingwell McIlvra, lawful daughter of Mr Martin, in her marriage contract (sasine) in 1657. (see #959 below)

Donald 'gorm' (or gorum, i.e. Blue) McIlwray (or McIlwrye) of Pennyghael appeared before the Privy Council in 1614 as a cautioner for 'Hector McClayne of Dowart'. (208 xi #694) In 1618 Donald McIlvrach of Pennygyll is mentioned as one of the captains, chieftains & principal men of the Clan Maclean. (208 xi 382)

At this time Hector Maclean had lost Duart Castle temporarily to Sir Rory MacKenzie of Cogach for a debt. MacKenzie did not want to be responsible for these men (as chiefs then had to be), who although they lived on 'his' lands did not recognize him as chief. He asked that they be required to find their own caution (i.e. post their own performance bonds) but, they didn't appear & were put to the horn & denounced as rebels. (132)

The word **horning** originated in a curious way many centuries prior. When a debtor refused to obey a court order to pay his just debts the creditor could have him denounced as a rebel against the king by having a messenger of arms give three blasts on a horn. The debtor's goods were then considered to be held by the Crown against the claim of the creditor & anyone could kill the 'outlaw'. However, any Highlander would be safe as long as he stayed amongst his kin. It had been only a short time before this (1609) that James I had stopped the practice of allowing anyone to kill a person simply because that person had been denounced at horn, even for a civil crime. The king, however, maintained the practice for criminal cases.



NEIL McILRA

It is unknown how Neil was related to Pennyghael but he was mentioned in a 1616 Privy Council register as one of a dozen principal vassals of Hector Og of Duart. (162v14p.196 & 186) Possibly he is the Neil who was the laird of the Glencaner (Glencannel) branch (who may have been a piper to McLean) & whose daughter;

Julia wed Charles Maclean, the youngest son of John dubh of Morvern & the brother of Allan of Ardtornish. [When?]

(215p.333 & 162v14p.196)

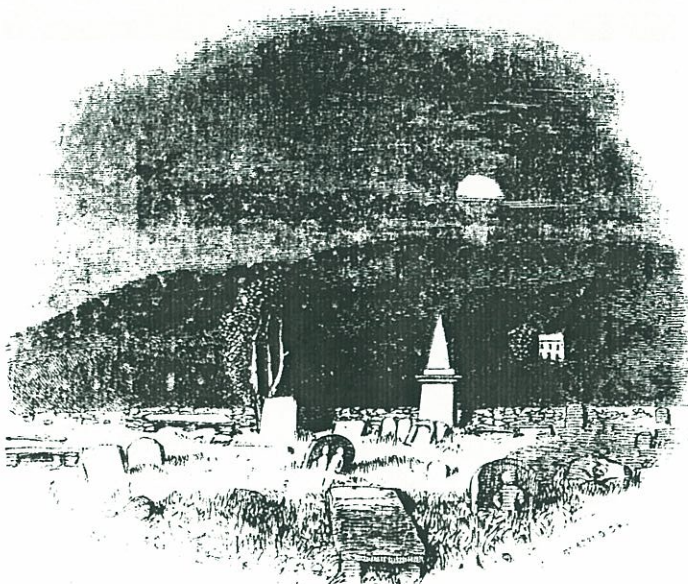
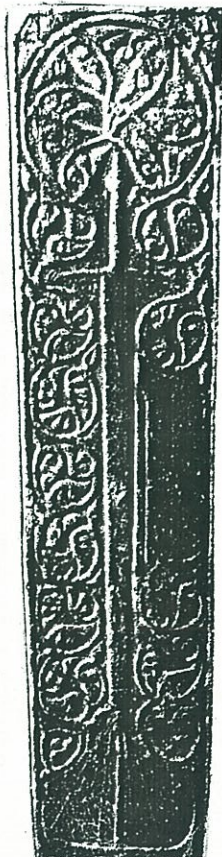
=John Diurach (or was he another brother to Allan?)

=Laughlan

=Don (a Glasgow merchant) + Isobell MacAdam; daughter of Pat, a Glas merchant & magistrate

=Pat d.1752

To add to the confusion, there was a Neil McGilvray who held Pennyghael by charter from Duart in 1608. (162v14p.196) This may be the same Neil as above, or he may be the father of Donald gorm, or even his eldest son. If he is the eldest son he may have inherited Glencannel while Martin got Pennyghael. No doubt there had been a heavy turnover of chiefs during the preceding troubled times. The path to the Carsaig burial ground of St Mary's church was likely well worn.



*Each in his narrow cell
forever laid,
the rude forefathers of
the McGilvrays sleep.*



"The Placenames of Mull",
by Dunc MacQuarrie

DONALD McILVORIE or McOlvorie

(c1575 - <9 May 1649)

Wed: Ann (or Janet) Campbell

Kids: - Don

- Anna + Alex MacIver alias Campbell of Pennymore
On 3 Nov 1630, Alex dated a sasine to his wife Anna N'Olvorie, lawful daughter of Mr Don McOlvorie, rector of Kilmalew, regarding the marriage contract which McOlvorie was part of on 22 Mar 1624. (28 folio 328 vol xxix 1st p.111 registered 22 Dec 1630)
- Kath + Niall Malcolm (Minister of Kilchrenan, Argyll; on Loch Awe, east of Oban)

It is unknown if Donald was related directly to Pennyghael. It is known, however, that such extremely high scholastic ability is one of the recurring characteristics of our family. It was likely present with Sir Arch & was certainly apparent in Rev Martin (see p.133). Other well documented examples occur in the late 1700's, the late 1800's & the early 1900's. This trait gives added credence to the earlier mentioned belief that the McGilvrays were originally the judges to the Lord of the Isles, & that we were important counsellors to the House of Duart.

Donald matriculated at the University of Glasgow in Jan 1591. To accomplish this he would have had to have been literate in Scots, Gaelic, Latin & likely English. He would have also had to master the skill of writing. Moreover, his grammar schooling was likely to have taken place, not in the Highlands, but rather in Glasgow where a number of 'Irishmen scholars' (i.e. Gaelic-speaking Highlanders) were accepted. English & writing were taught as private ventures &, in Glasgow in 1639, there were four such English schools & one writing school. (220p.28) Thus, he must have sustained himself at school for a number of years & at university for at least one, & possibly two years, before 1591. To do so would indicate his family had some resources & social standing.

As mentioned, knowledge of Latin was an absolute prerequisite for attending university just as it had been in medieval times. It is recorded that students then had been required to speak only Latin outside the classroom. Phrase books were available for those less capable. This obstacle of Latin may have been the reason why most university 'students' never offered themselves to be examined for any degree. (11p.490) The curriculum for a BA consisted of grammar, rhetoric & logic; all based on Roman texts. Only for an MA did the student receive instruction in arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, music & the Bible.

In Oct 1591 this Don received a bursary which was a rarity for a Highland student. On being

"informit of the qualificatioun, literature & habilitie of Donald McOlvorie & of his eirnest affectioun to be ane proffitabill member in the kirk of God for instructioun of utheris in the pairtis of the Ilis & hielandis", the king presented him to a bursar's place in the college "with all aliment, leveray & intertenement dew thairto during the ordinare tymes theirof". McGilvray, was described as "the first & maist leirnit student of the said college abill now for the said roume & place". (54p.360)

This was indeed warm official praise for a student coming from an area less equipped with educational resources than most parts of the Lowlands.

As with his predecessor, the Rev Arch, this educated Donald was often called upon to assist in legal matters as well as in church affairs;

- 1593; Don obtained his MA &, for his future career, chose to enter the ministry, seeking licence from the Presbytery of Glasgow to be admitted initially to the Barony Church of Glasgow.
- 1593/4; Don McKilvorie was Minister at the Barony Church.
- 1594; to Rothesay (Bute). (5)
- 1595; to Kilmalieu (Glenary; in Rothesay or Claonairy near Kilian, three miles southwest of Inveraray?) (54p.360 & 58v4&v8)
- 1610; Don M'Olvorie was still at Kilmalieu when he witnessed a document for Lamont of Knockdow (just north of Inveraray). (117p.125)
- 1618; he is unlikely to be the Don McColverie, who along with his brother John in Stronalbannoch, were witnesses. (28p.11)
- 1618, 3 May; the 6 merk land of Carlundan called Tombrek in Glenary, was transferred from Dunc M'Vicar to Mr Don McIlvory, rector of Kilmalew (at Inveraray). (28v1p.15 & 211 RS10v5p.72, 1 Nov; but in old English or Latin) Later that year he was again a witness. (28v1p.16)
- 1621, 27 Feb; it seems Mr Don M'Ilvorie was transferred to (or visiting at) Kilmichael, Bute where he witnessed a sasine (for MacLachlan). (28v1p.41; likely in series 1640-60)
- 1622, July; Don M'Ilvorie was again parson of Kilmolew. Possibly he held both parishes. (28v1p.70)
- 1631; Don McIlvorie, Minister (208 2nd series v4p.177)
- 1634; Mr Donaldus McGillivorish, min de Inveraray. (207 from a Hampton Court document) That same year Don M'Olvorie, as bailie & rector of Kilmalieu, witnessed a sasine for a MacNockaird.
- 1642, Oct; Donald McIlvory, minister at Inveraray, was elected Moderator for that Synod.
- 1650, May; his widow, Janet Campbell, (who was still alive 9 Oct 1655) claims to be in great necessity because "*the Irish under Alex Macdonald has burned the parish*", in 1644. She received some funds at her residence at Glenary. (58v4 & v8)

A further impetus for young McGilvrays to attend university came as a result of the 'Statutes of Iona' (discussed below) which Maclean of Duart & probably Don (or Neil) McIlway of Pennyghael, along with other Island chiefs, signed in 1608. This forced them to send their sons to Lowland schools in order for them to gain a 'civil' education. The concept had originated with the English 'Education Act', of 1496, which ordered all substantial barons & freeholders to send their eldest sons to grammar school from the age of eight until they were proficient in Latin. (220p.11)

The first Scottish college was at St Andrews in 1412 & two more began in the 1490's at Glasgow & at Aberdeen. Another source claims the University of Glasgow was established in 1450 & says there were high schools there in the 1100's. The universities would have been humble affairs but, it was a beginning, & only fools despise the day of small things. (146p.202) The Edinburgh College of Surgeons was founded in 1505.

As mentioned, James VI of Scotland had succeeded Eliz I, in 1603, & was now James I of England. From this vastly increased power base he decided to completely curb the excesses of the Islanders once & for all. It was during this same period that James absolutely crushed the vicious Border Reivers who for centuries had terrorized the area between England & Scotland. He 'encouraged' many of them to move to Ireland (the alternative being a noose). To make room for them, & for other English & Lowland Scottish settlers, he expelled most of the Irish from Ulster. Although he did consider this same drastic option for the Islanders (62), he may have been prevented by a lack of settlers wishing to replace them in the islands. It is doubtful he was swayed by any higher regard for the 'Irishmen' of the Isles than he was for those of Ulster. Such action, if it had occurred, would certainly have altered our family history. Still, the measures he did implement, at this time, account for a gradual but permanent improvement in this area & for our family.

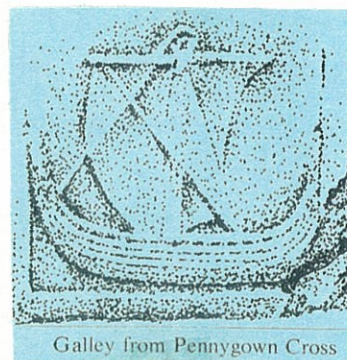
An uncomplimentary view of the Irish (which could be comparable to the Islands) was written c1605 & may explain why settlers to these areas were hard to find.

"The wild & (as I may say) meere Irish, inhabiting many & large Provinces, are barbarous & more filthy in their diet. They skum the seething pot with an handfull of straw, & straine their milke taken from the Cow through a like handfull of straw, none of the cleanest, & so clense, or rather more defile the pot & milke. They devoure great morsels of beefe unsalted, & they eat commonly Swines flesh, seldom mutton, & all these pieces of flesh, as also the intralles of beasts unwashed, they seeth in a hollow tree, lapped in a raw cows hide, & so set over the fier, & therewith swallow whole lumps of filthy butter. Yea (which is more contrary to nature) they will feede on Horses dying of themselves, not only upon small want of flesh, but even for pleasure...."

Neither have they any Beere made of Malt and Hoppes, nor yet any Ale, no, not the chiefe Lords, except it be very rarely: but they drinke Milke like Nectar, warmed with a stone first cast in the fier, or else Beeffe-broath mingled with milke: but when they come to any Market Towne, to sell a Cow or Horse, they never returne home, till they have drunke the price in Spanish Wine (which they call the King of Spaines Daughter), or an Irish Usqueboagh, & till they out-slept two or three daies drunkennesse. And not onely the common sort, but even the Lords & their wives, the more they want this drinke at home, the more they swallow it when they come to it, till they be as drunke as beggers.

Many of these wilde Irish eate no flesh, but which dyes of disease or otherwise of it selfe, neither can it scape them for stinking. They desire no broath, nor have any use of a spoone. They can neither seeth Artichokes, not eate them when they are sodden. It is strange & ridiculous, but most true, that some of our carriage Horses falling into their hands, when they found Sope & Starch, carried for the use of our Laundresses, they thinking them to bee some dainty meates, did eate them greedily, & when they struck in their teeth, cursed bitterly the gluttony of us English curles, for so they terme us." (?p.201)

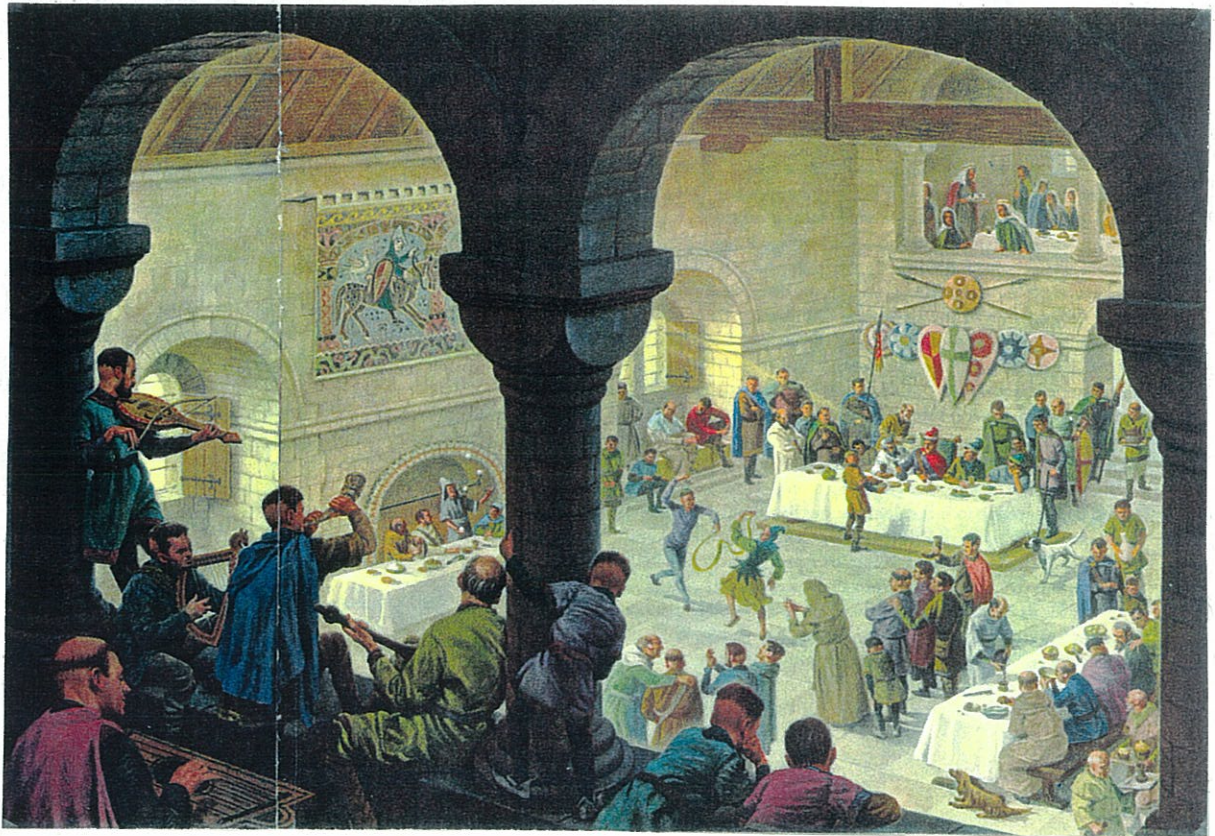
On 15 Aug 1608, Andrew, Lord Stewart of Ochiltree, sailed into Duart harbour with a powerful fleet. He had just taken over Isla & Hector McLean wisely surrendered his castle without a fight. It was garrisoned by government troops on the 17th. Ochiltree was acting on harsh royal instructions but on the 18th he wrote to the Privy Council, from Duart, that he was not carrying out the order to destroy all boats & galleys in the Isles. He said he had determined such action would leave the people vulnerable to their mainland enemies. Therefore, those ships belonging to 'obedient subjects' would be saved. He also soon returned Duart & Aros Castles to Maclean.



Galley from Pennygown Cross

All the chiefs of Mull & the Isles were summoned to appear at Aros Castle. What a stir this would have caused at Carsaig & Glencannel as Donald & Neil selected their finest attire &, armed to the teeth, set out with their followers. Would Don have crossed through Glen Liddle & then over the ridge of Ben More, to join Neil, & hence down Loch Ba to Aros? Or, would he have sailed there directly in his own galley? What a scene of bright sails on warships, flapping banners besides tents, & milling crowds of armed men that would spread out before him as Pennyghael approached Aros point. Would he have wondered what new rules those cursed Sassenachs (Lowlanders or Englishmen) would be trying to impose?





National Geographic "The Age of Chivalry". 1969. p.95

Hector of Duart & his brother Laughlan & other big chiefs plus "two gentlemen of Mull, followers of Dowart" (possibly Pennyghael & Glencannel) were present at this meeting on 5 Oct 1608. We can only guess at the colorful & noisy ceremony, in the main hall of Aros Castle, when both great & lesser chiefs all swore the usual oaths of allegiance & promised enduring peace.

But, the Bishop of the Isles, Andrew Knox (Ochiltree's chief advisor) knew well of the Islanders' fickleness of word & he distrusted their loud protestations. He therefore invited them to dinner & to hear his sermon on board HMS Moon. Only Ruari MacLeod of Harris is recorded as suspecting a plot & declining the invitation.

After the dinner the assembled chiefs were informed they were prisoners. The anchor was weighed immediately & all sailed directly to Ayr whence they were conveyed to Edinburgh Castle. The Privy Council ordered these chiefs & gentlemen held in the several castles of Dumbarton, Blackness & Stirling.



One of these captives was Neil MacIlduy, a follower of Duart (probably the one who held Pennyghael from Duart in 1608). He was placed in Dumbarton Castle, then to the Edinburgh Tolbooth & then back to Dumbarton. (208v8p.1vii) It is unlikely he was held for long because Maclean of Duart's petition for release is dated 10 Nov 1608 & is recorded in Feb 1609. There is no record of a Don McIlwra as a prisoner. But, if the above Neil is his father than Don would not yet be laird & not important enough to be invited. Should this be correct then Don was laird for only a short time as he is stated to have died in this king's reign.

The Bishop of the Isles made a survey of the Islands in July 1609 after which he met with most of the chiefs at Icolmkill (Iona). These chiefs included; Macdonald of Dunyveg, Hector of Duart, Donald gorme of Sleat, Macleod of Harris, the Clanranald, Lauchlan Maclean of Coll, McKinnon, Hector MacLaine of Lochbuy, Laughlan & Allan -brothers german to Duart, MacQuarrie of Ulva & Macfie of Colonsay. Their far-reaching agreement would result in the first real change to the Islanders' way of life.

The 'Statutes of Icolmkill' had nine points:

1. Churches were to be rebuilt & the Sabbath kept; the number of clergymen would be increased & their stipends (salaries) paid promptly; handfasting (informal marriage) was outlawed & the Reformed Kirk would have precedence (over the RC).
2. Inns were to be established at convenient places.
3. The chief's entourage (i.e. idle followers & jobless vagabonds) would be severely limited.
4. The large numbers of foreigners (probably Irish mercenaries) living at free quarters upon the poor inhabitants should be treated as thieves.
5. Alcohol sales were made illegal in order to diminish the people's poverty & cruelty. The lairds & gentlemen could continue to purchase Lowland wine.
6. The eldest son (or daughter - if no sons) of every gentleman or yeoman with 60 cattle (the standard of wealth) had to be sent to school in the Lowlands until they could speak, read & write English. (& hopefully learn something of law & order)
7. Firearms could not be used for any reason.
8. The bards were threatened with banishment if they persisted in glorifying the violence of the good old days.
9. Dealt with enforcement of the above. (84pp.322/330)

The Island chiefs must have soon become weary of this government interference in 'their' affairs. Duart had to appear before the Lords of Council on 14 Nov 1609, (208v6p.757) & he & the other big chiefs were back in Edinburgh in 1610 promising to help the king's justices & other officers in the Isles. They also agreed to live peacefully; settling their disputes by law rather than the sword. What a difference the paid regular troops & the resources of the English were now having on these previously isolated areas.

However, it wasn't easy for men long accustomed to violence & rapine to suddenly become peaceful & law abiding citizens. Renegades infested the Western Isles in 1615 & numerous acts of piracy were committed. If they couldn't make an open dishonest living then they would make a clandestine one. How else were they to feed their families?

The Bishop of the Isles was now appointed Steward & Justice for this region & he established his office at Dunyveg on Isla. Despite his presence there the Campbells were again trying to stir up trouble with the Macdonalds in 1614. (84p.355) The government's renewed practice of allowing one clan to chastise another, which had broken the peace, fostered feuding & played into Argyll's expansion plans which depended on revolt. Even the Bishop of the Isles saw this & thought it wise to curtail the growth of the Campbells.

Argyll treachery paid off again in 1615 when his tactics forced the Macdonalds of Isla into open rebellion. The other area lords, including Duart & Lochbuy, were warned to stay peaceful in the divide & conquer game. The king wished "*all the old barbarous customs in these isles to be utterly abolished*" & said Argyll could keep the forfeited lands if he suppressed the rebellion. (84p.378) This was accomplished easily with the aid of government troops. Some rebels were executed while the chiefs fled to Ireland & Spain. Thus were the once powerful Clandonald of the Isles & Kintyre; the one time Lords of the Isles, reduced to servants of the Campbells.

Although the Campbells rarely won battles they used their brains & steadily increased their power & lands through politics (i.e. treachery & deceit if you are a McDonald or a McLean). Their dealings with the Islanders were often aimed at arousing their childlike passions & in thwarting any of their few good intentions. But, it must be admitted, the Campbell people probably suffered less under such methods which conform more to the McGilvray policy of 'brains before brawn'. And, it is difficult to argue with success.

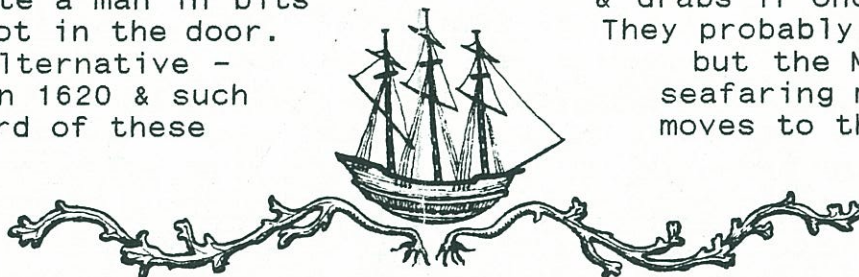
Following this Macdonald rebellion the Privy Council began exercising stricter control over the other Island lairds. These chiefs had now to exhibit annually some of their principal kinsmen; chosen from a list they had given to the council. The concept was likely designed to bring these other personages into contact with 'civilization' & to give them a taste for living rather than

killing. Duart had to exhibit four & Coll & Lochbuy, one each. Duart was limited to only eight gentlemen that he could maintain in his household (one or two McGilvrays?) & the others but three each. Duart's brother, Laughlan, was allowed a house at Ardnacross, Mull & could keep two gentlemen. To further oversee the Islanders the Bishop of the Isles established a Commissary in the region.

In July 1617, Hector of Lochbuy, Laughlan of Coll, & Duart's brother appeared before the Council in Edinburgh. However, Duart himself did not appear from 1617-1621. (84p.404) At these meetings the Island chiefs agreed to eliminate idleness in their clans & to let their lands out to tenants (which was the beginning of tacksmen & of warriors turned farmers). The new rules also required them to send all their kids, over the age of 9, to Lowland schools; or else such kids couldn't inherit. The chiefs were also told they could now keep only one galley (of 16 or 18 oars) & that the use of guns & of booze were to be further limited. Alcohol seems to have affected a Highlander's conduct to almost the same extent as it did that of a North American Indian. Lockbuy & Coll agreed also to repair their parish churches (no doubt in order to bring to bear the concept of sinning). Certain other rights of chiefs over their vassals were abolished. For example, they could no longer take the best animals when a vassal died.

These chiefs were learning
emasculate a man in bits
get a foot in the door.
had no alternative -
sailed in 1620 & such
have heard of these

that civilization & government
& drabs if once allowed to
They probably thought they
but the Mayflower had
seafaring men must soon
moves to the New World.



In 1624 the Clan Ian of Ardnamurchan rebelled. Once again this was due to Campbell heavy-handedness. The McIan's took to piracy & became the terror of the west coast. But alone, they were no match for authority & were soon wiped out. One would think, that by this time, the Islanders would have begun to see the writing on the wall.

The 1600's would see a significant extension of the crown's authority into all island affairs. The overwhelming turbulence of the 1500's was a result of the vacuum left after the forfeiture of the Lordship of the Isles in 1493. Various Island clans tried to assume this lost leadership but when they failed the results were long, bitter & bloody feuds. James I stepped into this vacuum & settled land claims, set up the Campbells & established the Iona Statutes. All of these measures did not work perfectly at first but James's long reign, the English crown, English troops & English gold, meant he would ultimately get his way, & he did. (218p.4)