

Marquis/MacDougall Families of Tarbert

There is only one person today living in Tarbert with the name Marquis, and that only as a middle name, Mary Marquis MacDougall (Veitch) who has recently restored her family home, 'Sunngraig', as a holiday let. Her account of growing up in Tarbert can be found in the Articles Section of this website.

In fact, the few remaining descendants of the first Marquis family in Tarbert of Alexander Marquis who married Catherine McCaog in 1818, and still living there today are all named MacDougall. There have in fact been three marriages between Marquises and MacDougalls in Tarbert. Alexander and Catherine's second son Dugald, who married Mary MacMillan in 1846 and had two sons, Alexander (1847-1932) and Dugald (1851-1914); who was my great-great-grandfather. Mary MacMillan died very young in the early 1850s, possibly as a result of having Dugald or in the serious cholera outbreak of 1854. All those MacDougall/Marquises still living in Tarbert are related to Dugald Marquis and Mary MacMillan's eldest son Alexander (see Marquis Family Tree in Family Trees Section of this website).

Alexander like many of the Marquis men in the 19th century married twice after their first wife died at a younger age (whilst all engaged in the dangerous occupation as fishermen, it's their wives who seemed most likely to suffer early deaths).

Marquis/Johnson/MacDougall

Mary Marquis MacDougall (Veitch) is descended from Alexander and his first wife, Mary Johnson (1847-85) through their eldest daughter, also Mary (1873-1967). Mary married another Johnson, James, in 1871. Their daughter, Mary McCaog Marquis (1914-91), married Duncan MacDougall, the parents of Mary Marquis MacDougall (Veitch). Mary moved to England but now spends a lot of the time living in Tarbert.

The photos below are of Mary Marquis, eldest daughter of Alexander Marquis and Mary Johnson, her brother Hughie (1876-62) and Mary's husband, James Johnson. Before marrying Mary moved to London in 1887: -

"...taken away from Tarbert at the age of 14 to work as a scullery maid. I get very emotional when I think about the wee girl who hadn't long lost her mother travelling all that way to work at cleaning out fireplaces and lugging buckets of coal round the huge house. (I did find the address early on in my research and have promised myself that I'll go to London one day and stand outside) Anyway, she did OK, worked her way up through the ranks and ended up being the Lady's maid.) I often wish I'd asked her a lot more about her days "in service". Mary Marquis MacDougall (Veitch)



Mary Marquis in the 1890s



James Johnson in the 1890s



James Johnson with Hughie Marquis (looking down) and cousin Neil, 1928



Mary Marquis, James Johnson sailing the 'Molly'



Three Maries, granddaughter, mother and grandmother



Mary and father Duncan McDougall



'Sunnygraig', renovated family home of Mary Marquis MacDougall (Veitch)

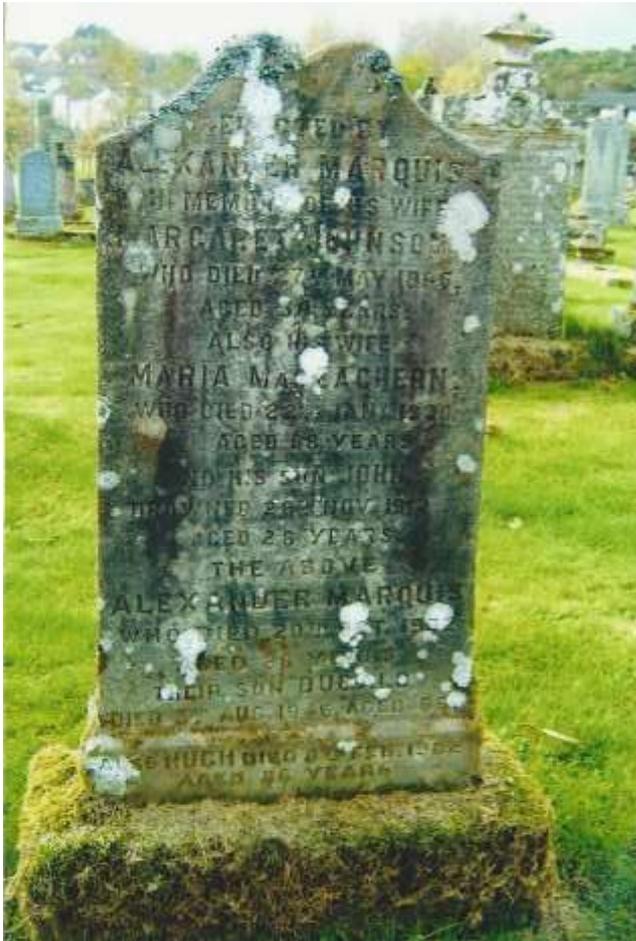
Marquis/Maceachern/MacDougall Family – ‘A Family of Tragedies’

The second family of Marquis/MacDougall's are the descendants of Alexander Marquis and his second wife, Maria Maceachern (1852-1920). Alexander married Maria in 1886, a year after his first wife had died. Alexander had five children with his first wife and five more with his second wife. In my book, I described this family as the 'Family of Tragedies'. Apart from an inordinate number of individual tragedies, which I'll highlight shortly, each generation of this family has suffered a cruel hereditary genetic disorder, 'Cerebral Ataxia', which resembles Huntington's Chorea; if not quite as severe. Victims can live perfectly normal lives until their late twenties, even thirties, before their nervous system begins to breakdown causing early deaths, usually in their sixties.

Looking at the family tree it seems that Maria Maceachern was the most likely source of this deadly gene. Maria's mother, Mary McCormack, moved from Ross of Mull around 1849 and married local Tarbert man, John Maceachern. John Maceachern and Maria had five children, the eldest, John, drowned at sea aged 26, two girls, Janie and Tina, died in infancy. A third daughter, Maria Maceachern Marquis (1891-1951) would pass on ataxia to no less than six of her nine children (see family tree of the Marquis/Maceachern/MacDougall family).

Maria's first son, James Marquis, born in 1910, was illegitimate. James didn't show symptoms until well into his thirties, he even played in goal for local football teams. James married Mary Morrison and had two daughters, Maria and Christine. Christine had ataxia, Maria did not. Maria Maceachern married John MacDougall in 1920 and they would have eight children. Of those eight children, at least five inherited ataxia. In fact, we do not know if the three other siblings had also had it because they died very young. The first, a daughter, Mary, aged two, was killed by a car in 1930. Their oldest son, John, was killed during the D-Day landings on 16 June 1944 aged 26. A second son, Alistair, died in 1947 aged 25, from TB.

The family gravestones of woe



Family of Alexander Marquis and two wives



Family of John MacDougall and Maria Maceachern



James and Mary's wedding, 25/1/1930



James Marquis



Goalkeeper James Marquis during the 1930s

Photos of James Marquis

Maria MacDougall, daughter of James Marquis, lives with two of her sons in Lorne Villa.



Lorne Villa, Tarbert, home of Maria and two sons



Mary (Morrison) Marquis's Ninetieth Birthday Party, standing next to daughter Maria (Rhea), with grandchildren (from left to right) Fiona, Peter, James and Jane.



Gravestone of James Marquis

Terrible Misfortune Continues

The descendants of Maria Maceachern have certainly suffered incredible misfortune over the last 150 years on top of the misery of ataxia. This misfortune still continues. In January 2018, Duncan MacDougall, great-grandson of John MacDougall and Maria Maceachern Marquis, was one of two fishermen who drowned when their boat, *The Nancy Glen*, capsized.



Duncan MacDougall, aged 46



Until January 2018, *The Nancy Glen*, last trawler still fishing with a Marquis family connection.

On Christmas Day, 2020, Lorne Villa, home to Maria MacDougall and her two sons, James and Peter, burned down and was totally gutted with Peter tragically killed – a family of tragedies indeed!

Steve Marquis, 2020