

Other Possible Branches of the MacMarquis Family

Being a comparatively rare name in Argyll means that it is likely any MacMarquis living there, no matter how the name was spelt, would have been related to the families of Laggan and later Cara. During my research I've come across several MacMarquis family groups throughout Argyll: Dalmally and Glenorchy from 1685; Nether Lorn, southwest of Oban, from 1654; Campbeltown, 1685 until the 1750s and '60s; even a family of ferrymen at Coulpport, Rosneath, during the 19th century. The Marquis name appears in the Glasgow area during the 18th century. There seems to have been a Marquis family connection with South Uist, including at least two marriages with Flora McDonald's family.

This is how George F. Black referred to the Marquis family in his *Surnames of Scotland*, 1946: -

*MACMARQUIS: An Argyllshire surname, now rare. Gaelic MacMarcuis, 'son of Mark, ' from the Latin form of the name, Marcus. Marcus MacDonald, slain in 1397, is recorded in Irish annals as "Constable of gallowglasses" for the O'Connors (Celt. Mon., VIII, p. 181). He was one of the sons of John, lord of the Isles, and Margaret, daughter of King Robert II. From him, according to M'Vurich (Rel. Celt., II, p. 159), are descended the Macdonalds of Cnoicanehluith in Tyrone. **Cristinus Macmarkys** was rector of the church of St. Moluog de Trentornys (Trotternish) in the diocese of Sodor in 1428 (Pap. Lett., VIII, p. 14). **John MacMarkiseh** was tenant of Kyram Mor in Kintyre in 1506, and **Gilnow MeMarkische** or McMarcus, tenant of Laggan and Keranemore, Kintyre, in 1541 (ER., XII, p. 708; XVII, p. 626,632), was probably a descendant of his, as also was **Donald Makmarlde**, occupier of the three merk land of Laggan, Kintyre, in 1596 (HP., III, p. 73). **Donald M'Marqueis** in Oiban, parish of Seall, is in record in 1676, **Neil M'Marcus** in Kylipoll, parish of Kilmichell, in 1686 (Argyll), **Archibald M'Varquise** in Catenish is in record in 1691, and **Finlay M'Varquies** in Airechastelan in 1695 (Argyll Inv.). **John Macmarquis** married Margaret, daughter of Angus MacDonald, fourth of Milton, South Uist, about 1793. **William McMarquis**, barrack sergeant at Vizagapatam, Madras, died there in 1838. The name is now*

shortened to *Marquis*, a form found in Inverness as early as 1631. *Mac Marc Uis* in 1597, *MacMarkes* 1692, *McMarquish* 1669, *McVarques* 1692. There is a promontory in Lorn called *Rudha Mhic Mharcuis*. **Peter M'Varquish** was name of the man who blasted M'Fadyen's stone (*Clach Mhic Phadain*) in river Awe.

Other Possible Branches of the MacMarquis Family identified before 1900

Kilbrandon and Kilchattan, Nether Lorn, (near Oban)

There is promontory called *Rudha Mhic Mharcuis* overlooking the island of Easdale providing possible evidence of a long and significant family presence in the Lorn region. I've come across several people called MacMarques or MacVargues residing in the parish of Kilbrandon and Kilchattan, south of Oban, from the 17th century onwards, indicating, along with the Mhic Mharcuis promontory, that a branch of the family had been long established in the region. Although the first identified MacMarquis from this area could hardly be described as a figure of historical importance. In fact, he was a rather rakish character called Angus McMarques, an itinerant 'fiddler' who seems to have become a *cause célèbre*, generating quite a scandal during the 1650s.

1654 – Angus McMarques excommunicated from the Kirk because of serial adultery. (For more details, see my book)

1676 – Donald M'Marqueis in Oban, parish of Seall, recorded in 1676.

1709 – McVargues and son of Nether Lorn. From the 1709 letter (see Documents Section of this website).

1791 – Donald Marquis, born 1791, married Mary Graham.

1791 – Peter Marquis married Agnes Brown, child Catherine, born 1791, who later married John Currie, a son Donald, born 1830.

1804 – Alexander Marquis married Ann McCowan, daughter Mary Marquis, born 1804.

1804 – James Marquis, born 1804, Kilbrandon and Kilchattan, later farmer in Kilmaronaig, married Isabella, children Sarah, 8, Catherine, 5, Neil, 3, Allan, 2 (1851 Census).

1831 – Neil Marquis married Ann Adam in 1831.

1850 – Neil Marquis, born 1850, Oban, convicted assault by stabbing and previous conviction in 1877. Sentenced to two months in Inveraray Prison. Lived in Ardrishaig, Veterinary Surgeon.

1914 – Mary McMillan Marquis (half-sister to my grandfather), from Tarbert, married Alexander MacKenzie (second husband), railway worker, in Oban in 1914. Would eventually lead to a second Marquis/Jordan marriage (see my book for more details)

Campbeltown

With the first recorded Marquises being the bardic family of Lagan and Kerrimore, both close to Campbeltown, it is hardly surprising the name crops up early there.

1669 – Donald Mac Marqueis of Locheid (Campbeltown), father of John and James Mac Marqueis, recipients of a bond (see Other Documents Section of this website) from J. Angus MacDonald, Laird of Largie.

1685 – John Mcmarqueis, ‘parochie of Kilkeirane’ (Campbeltown), identified as ‘Rebell’. Presumably, meaning a Jacobite supporter of Catholic James VII.

1750s and 1760s – Neal McMarques, merchant and councillor, Campbeltown.

1765 – Donald, son of Finlay McMarques and Mary McMillan, Campbeltown.

1768 – Finlay Marquis married Mary Anderson, Campbeltown. Probably the same man and his first wife had died, and a relative to Neal, perhaps, even a son.

Glasgow and Renfrewshire

With the rapid industrialisation of the Glasgow region members of the various Marquis branches would have inevitably been drawn to the new job opportunities there.

1765 – Donald Marquis married Anne Robison 1765, son Donald Marquis born 1772, Eastwood, Glasgow.

1786 – Alexander Marquis, born 1786, Innerkip, Renfrewshire, weaver, married Margaret, children - Elizabeth 20, Livingstone 12 (1841 Census).

1857 – Mary Marquis born 1857, son John Marquis, aged 11, son Archibald Marquis, aged 5, School Master's House, Row, Dumbartonshire (1901 Census).

1798 – John McVarquis, born 1798, later moved to Glasgow where he died in the Gorbals in 1856. From Glenorchy.

1806 – Christian McVarquis, born 1806, later moved to Alexandria, Dunbartonshire, where she died in 1872. From Glenorchy.

1807 – Finlay McVarquis, born 1807 moved to Glasgow, occupation, hawker, died Glasgow in 1879. From Glenorchy.

There seems to be some connection between the Tarbert Marquises and Dumbarton/Glasgow Marquises. Sarah Marquis and sister Flora Bain Marquis (daughters of Dugald Marquis and Margaret Bain, his first wife) both moved to Dumbarton on marriage. Dugald Marquis and second wife, Mary McLeod, married in Glasgow and lived there in January, 1901. Dugald worked as a shipyard labourer but moved back to Tarbert shortly after and returned to fishing. My grandfather moved to Glasgow during World War One to start an engineering apprenticeship in the Govan shipyards. His younger brother, Alexander, also moved to Dumbarton. The Glasgow area was the destination for a lot of Dalmally Marquises, especially during the 19th century. Whether this was the source of the connection between the Tarbert, Dalmally, and Glasgow Marquis families my grandfather referred to, we'll probably never know.

South Uist

1722 – Flora MacDonald was born on South Uist. Her cousin was married to Alexander McMarcus of Cara.

1793 – John Macmarquis married Margaret (Flora's niece), daughter of Angus MacDonald, Laird of Milton, South Uist.

1829 – Mary Ann Marquis, daughter of Donald McMarcus of Cara, moved to South Uist with new husband, Munro Morrison.

Antrim Mac Marcuis Family of Poets

1568 – Donnell McMarques, made a statement to the English authorities in Carrickfergus, concerning the possibility of the Campbells and MacDonalds entering the war in Ulster, was passed on to Elizabeth I.

1588 – There is also a reference to a poem for the chief of the Mac Marcuis family of 'Knocknacloy'. It is dated, but we do not have the name of its author nor the first name of that chief.

1607 – Aindrias Mac Marcuis, the County Antrim poet, may have been related to the Laggan Mac Mharuis. 'Flight of the Earls', 1607, only surviving poem.

1847 – Irish Famine eponymous poem, *Johnny Seoighe*, by Micheal Marcuis.

(both poems can be found in my book)

Some recorded Marquises

Kilbrandon and Kilchattan

Peter Marquis

Name: Peter Marquis
Gender: Male
Spouse: Agnes Brown
Child: Cathrine Marquis

Catharine (nee Marquis) Currie

1851 Census

Age: 60
Estimated birth year: abt 1791
Relationship: Wife
Spouse: John Currie
Gender: Female
Where born: Bal??n, Argyllshire
Civil Parish: Kilbrandon and Kilchattan
Town: Colipool
County: Argyll
Occupation: Slate Quarriers Wife

	Name	Age
Household Members:	John Currie	65
	Catharine Currie	60
	Donald Currie	21

Mary Marquis

Name: Mary Marquis

Gender: Female

Birth Date: 19 Aug 1804

Baptism Date: 21 Aug 1804

Baptism Place: Kilmore and
Kilbride,Argyll,Scotland

Father: Alexander Marquis

Mother: Ann Mccowan

Name: Alexander Marquis

Gender: Male

Spouse: Ann Mccowan

Child: Archibald Marquis

Niel Marquis

Name: Niel Marquis

Spouse: Ann Adam

Marriage Date: 29 Jan 1831

Marriage Place: Kilbrandon and
Kilchattan,Argyll,Scotland

James Marquis

in the 1851 Scotland Census

Name: James Marquis
Age: 47
Estimated birth year: abt 1804
Relationship: Head
Spouse: Isabella Marquis
Gender: Male
Where born: Kilchattan, Argyllshire
Civil Parish: Muckairn
County: Argyll
Address: Kilmaronaig
Occupation: Farmer

	Name	Age
	James Marquis	47
	Isabella Marquis	35
	Sarah Marquis	8
	Catherine Marquis	5
	Niel Marquis	3
	Allan Marquis	2
Household Members:	Mary Campbell	38
	Margaret Bell	36
	Flora MacEachnie	15
	Dugald Carmichael	36
	John MacCorquodale	18
	Niel Cowan	15
	Donald Mackillop	24

Renfrewshire, Scotland

Alexander Marquis

in the 1841 Scotland Census

Name: Alexr Marquis

Age: 55

Estimated birth year: abt 1786

Gender: Male

Where born: Renfrewshire, Scotland

Civil Parish: Innerkip

County: Renfrewshire

Address: Shore Street

Occupation: Customer Weaver

	Name	Age
	<u>Alexr Marquis</u>	55
	<u>Margaret Marquis</u>	50
	<u>Elizabeth Marquis</u>	20
	<u>Livingstone Marquis</u>	12
Household Members:	<u>William Ritchie</u>	67
	<u>Jean Ritchie</u>	66
	<u>William Ritchie</u>	30
	<u>Jane Ritchie</u>	25
	<u>Jean Ritchie</u>	12
	<u>Walter Ritchie</u>	7

Southend, Argyll, Scotland

George Marquis

Gender: Male

Birth Date: 15 Sep 1822

Baptism Date: 21 Sep 1822

Baptism Place: Southend, Argyll, Scotland

Father: Donald Marquis

Mother: Elizabeth Dunbar