

Are you a McClain? Do you wear the McClain Tartan Plaids from Ireland? Do you have a battle axe? Do you know about the first McClain to come to America? KLM-III would answer yes to all of those questions. Who is this interesting fellow?



Kirby LaRue McClain III

This is the story about how KLM-III respected his McClain heritage; maybe more than many of us natural-born McClains! KLM-III was Kirby LaRue McClain III – the adopted son of Kirby LaRue McClain (who we affectionately called ‘Uncle’).



Uncle Kirby LaRue

Uncle was the son of Kirby Leedom McClain – son of George Washington McClain. Now if you have been paying attention to this story, I will bet you have figured out that it is impossible to name a child Kirby LaRue McClain III – when the grandfather’s name was “Leedom” and not “LaRue”. Well, that is what happened!

Some say Kirby Leedom LaRue just to make it Kirby ordained it to be



Kirby Leedom McClain

McClain changed his middle name to happen, still others claim that Uncle true and it came to pass.

Uncle adopted a step-son, KLM-III, who had been abandoned by all male role models; Uncle invited that young man into the McClain family, and sent him off to college at the Merchant Marine Academy in New York -- changing that young life forever. KLM-III proved he was a McClain throughout the rest of his adult life. From his trip to the United Kingdom searching for the existence of a Paul McLane (which will be revealed later) to being buried at sea in 2006 (slid from a long-boat with full sails launched from Key West) in his McClain Tartan Plaid, battle axe, and family shield – while sailors played the bag pipes and performed a twenty-one gun salute. Now I ask you, was he a McClain? Before you answer, there is more.



[KLM-III's Burial at Sea - 2006](#)

KLM-III not only went to Scotland to search for the young Paul McLane, but he paid a researcher to go over thousands of archived records -- until finally, they found him!

He found a Paul McLane, in Old Bailey, London, who was sentenced on December 1746 to be transported to the Colonies for theft of 2 pounds of sugar. Paul and about a dozen teenagers were all caught taking sugar from the barn of Thomas Kirby. Paul was

sent aboard the convict ship St. George, with ship master James Dobbins. The ship sailed from England on March 31, 1747, bound for Jamaica. It is believed that the destination of the St. George was either South Carolina or Georgia and these young prisoners were forced into servitude on various southern plantations.

HEADS OF FAMILIES—PENNSYLV

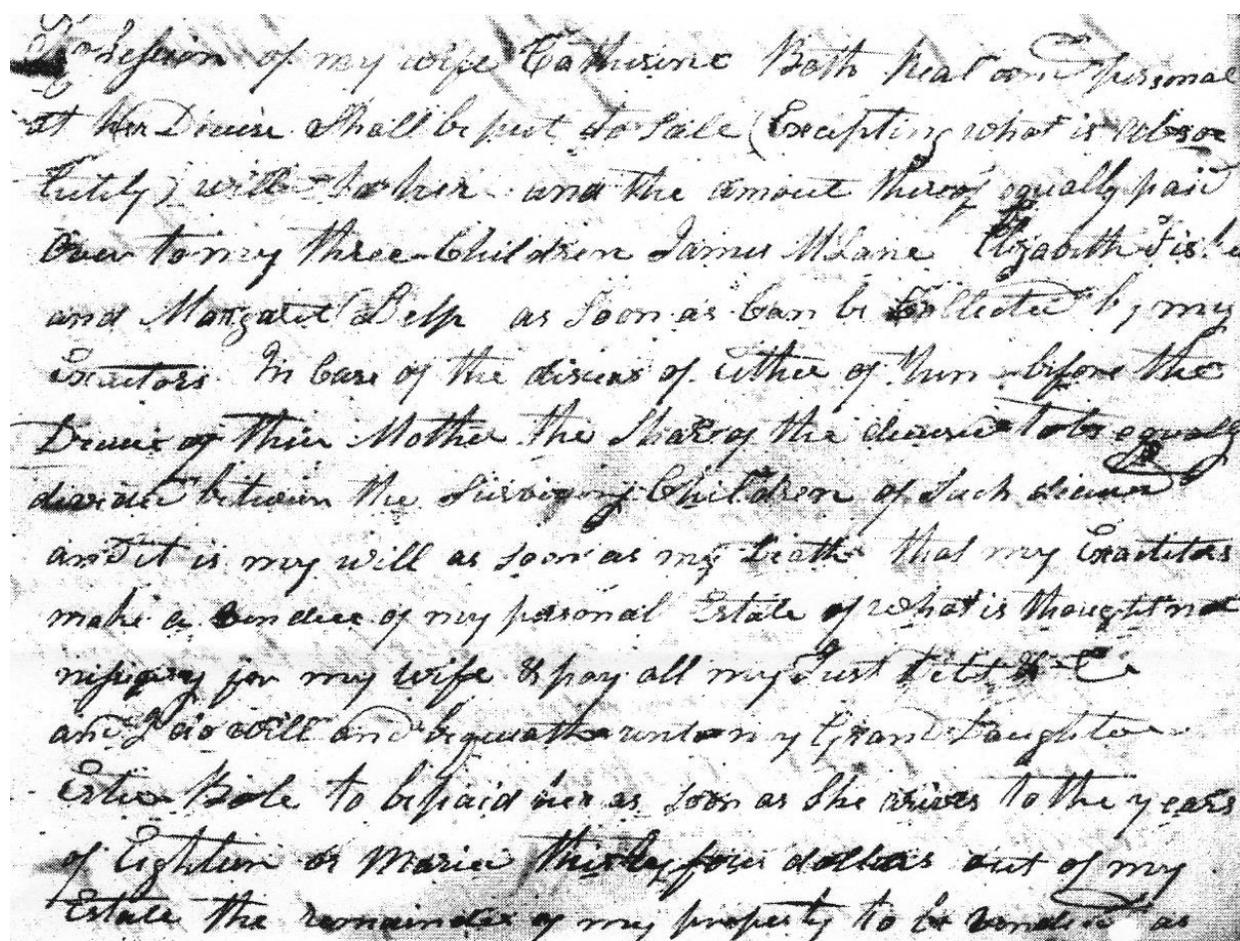
WESTMORELAND COUNTY—Continued.

COUNTING HEADS OF FAMILIES.	NAME OF HEAD OF FAMILY.		Free white males of 16 years and upward, including heads of families.	Free white males under 16 years.	Free white females, including heads of families.	All other free persons.	
	All other free persons.	Slaves.				All other free persons.	Slaves.
	HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP— continued.						
3		Iseman, Christian.....	2		1		
3		Stenor, Voluntine.....	2	1	4		
1		Richer, Samuel.....	2	2	4		
4		Ashbough, Adam.....	1	1	2		
7		Winsel, Phillip.....	1	1	4		
4		Restel, Andrew.....	1	5	1		
1		McGreger, Clemens.....	1	2	4		
2		Ryme, Nicholas.....	1		1		
1		Mcfoose, Jacob.....	1	2	1		
3		Smith, Henry.....	2		1		
1		Miller, Jacob.....	1	3	1		
	1	Cunkle, John.....	4	2	4		
3		Cunkle, Lawrence.....	1	1	1		
3		Backman, John.....	2	1	4		
1		Shall, Jacob.....	1	1	4		
2		Briny, Peter.....	2	4	6		
1		Shively, Fredrick.....	1	1	2		
2		McLean, Paul.....	1	2	3		
3		Waggoner, George.....	1	2	3		
2		Cuncle, Michl.....	1	1	3		
2		Shonts, Henry.....	1	1	4		

[First U.S. Census – 1790 – Complete Pennsylvania Records](#)

The 1790 United States Census was the very first census of the U.S., taken at the time of implementation of our Constitution and documented about three million “founding” households in the entire country. As you can see above, Paul McLean had no slaves and they counted one husband & one wife, and two boys under 16 years old, and two daughters of unknown age. That is all we know about Paul in 1790 – plus the fact he was the ONLY “Paul” McLean, McClain, McLane, etc. – there were no other “Paul’s”

listed in Pennsylvania. So 43 years after arriving in the Colonies, we find Paul McLean living in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, with his wife Catherine, sons James & Moses, and daughters Elizabeth, & Margaret. Some of the names were acquired from Paul's Last Will and Testament. Below is a portion of Page 2 from his Will, where he names his loved ones. In 1822, Paul lived in Redbank Township, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania; and put his "mark" on this document – sensing that death was just around the corner.



The possession of my wife Catherine both real and personal at her demise shall be put to sale (excepting what is absolutely willed to her, and the amount thereof equally paid) over to my three children James McLane Elizabeth Fiskis and Margaret Delp as soon as can be collected by my Executors. In case of the demise of either of them before the demise of their Mother the share of the decree to be equally divided between the surviving children of such demise and it is my will as soon as my death that my executors make a vendue of my personal estate of which is thought not necessary for my wife and pay all my just debts and I do will and bequeath unto my granddaughter, Ester Bole to be paid her as soon as she arrives to the years of eighteen or marries thirty four dollars out of my estate the remainder of my property to be vendued as

Paul McLane's Last Will & Testament -- a portion of Page 2, transcribed below

“... possession of my wife Catherine both real and personal at her demise shall be put to sale (excepting what is absolutely willed to her, and the amount thereof equally paid) over to my three children, James McLane, Elizabeth Fiskis and Margaret Delp as soon as can be collected by my Executors. In case of the demise of either of them before the demise of their Mother, the share of the decree to be equally divided between the surviving children of such... and it is my will as soon as my death that my executors make a vendue of my personal estate of which is thought not necessary for my wife and pay all my just debts and I do will and bequeath unto my granddaughter, Ester Bole to be paid her as soon as she arrives to the years of eighteen or marries thirty four dollars out of my estate the remainder of my property to be vendued as...”

I wonder if Paul ever told the story of how Thomas Kirby pressed-charges and was the reason why he was sent to the Colonies -- and that he owed Kirby a great debt (in more ways than one). I say that, because legend has it, that "Nana" asked their children to carry-on the name Kirby. Some refused and chose "Dennis" (so the story goes), so I wonder if there is a relationship between England's Thomas Kirby and the number of "Kirby's" in the McClain clan.

Acestry.com records Paul as being born in 1750: "Paul (MCCLAIN) MCLANE was born in 1750 in Hempfield, Pennsylvania. He married Catherine (from Limerick, Ireland) and had four children during their marriage. Paul died on September 17, 1822, in Clarion, Pennsylvania, at the age of 72."

If we agree that a 13 year old Paul McLane was sent to the Colonies in 1747, then he would have been born in 1734. Then by 1790, at the first U. S. Census, he would be about 56 years old. That means that in 1822, when he stated in his Last Will that his body was weak and that death was eminent, he would have been 88 years old. Since there is no headstone and no way to confirm his birth date in 1750 – my guess is that in 1822 Paul's "weak body but sound mind" was 88 years old.

With regard to Paul's wife, Catherine from Limerick, Ireland – a search was conducted of Irish Birth Records for a girl named Catherine, who was born in Limerick, around 1760. Six possible young ladies met the criteria: Catherine Sparling, Catherine Shire, Catherine Miller, Catherine Hassett, Catherine Glazier, and Catherine Cripps. More research is needed, with regard to immigration records, etc.

What KLM-III started, I have revived and will be passing it onto someone that will keep it alive for many years to come. He not only spent time and money researching our heritage, but he even learned the CELTIC language of our ancestors and saved the historical documents, genealogical books, photos, notes, correspondence, computer disks (now translated into the latest Family Tree Maker 2014 and GEDCOM 5.5 formats). I am astounded at the level of interest and respect he paid to our family. I feel an obligation to document his work and share it with others.

David (McClain) Fashenpour,
Grandson of Roy Thurman McClain
March 28, 2014

We acknowledge that Kirby LaRue McClain III was a true McClain and we honor his extensive genealogical research and his fascinating life. To that end, I will conclude with a historical description written by Helen Urban, of the land near to Clarion County; the land of our ancestors. The following was copied from the Western PA Genealogical Society Quarterly, May 1975, Vol. 1, No. 4, page 115. No copyright infringement intended.

Clarion County was erected out of Armstrong and Venango Counties by an act of legislature, 11 March 1839, and was organized for judicial purposes on 10 September 1840. Its area was included in the "New Purchase", or land bought from the Indians by the Treaties of Fort Stanwix and Fort McIntosh (Beaver) in 1784-85. All land west of the Allegheny River and north was to be included in Westmoreland County. All land east of the Allegheny River not previously assigned to a county was to belong to Northumberland County. On 13 April 1795, the western part of Northumberland County, including the present Clarion County, was erected into Lycoming County. There was no township organization, but the western frontier was mentioned as "that part of Lycoming county lying in the New Purchase."

On 12 March 1800, all of Clarion County lying north of the Clarion River was taken from Lycoming to form part of the new county of Venango, and all south of the river was likewise cut off from Lycoming and annexed to the new county of Armstrong. There was no township organization of these sections until 1801 for Armstrong County, and 1806 for Venango. When the first townships were laid out on 18 September 1806, there were only two between Redbank Creek and the Clarion River. The eastern township was named Redbank which included what is now Redbank, Porter, Monroe, Limestone, Clarion and Mill Creek townships in Clarion County and Redbank, Mahoning and part of Madison in Armstrong County. The western township was named Toby, which included what is now Perry, Licking, Piney, Toby, Brady, and Madison.

Today there are twenty-two townships in Clarion County. Farmington, Elk, and Richland were formed in 1806 when they were part of Venango County. Ashland was formed in 1856 from Elk and Richland; Beaver in 1839 from part of Richland; Brady in 1866; Clarion in 1832; Highland in 1848 from Paint and Farmington; Knox in 1853 from part of Highland, Paint, and Washington; Limestone in 1842 from Clarion; Licking in 1839 from Richland; Mill Creek sometime after 1850; Monroe, part of Clarion Township in 1832, soon after became a separate township; Madison in 1839 from part of Toby; Porter in 1839 from Redbank; Perry in 1839 from Toby; Paint in 1839 from Farmington; Piney in 1839 from Toby; Redbank in 1806 from part of the original Armstrong County township of the same name; Salem in 1856 from part of Richland and Beaver; Toby in 1806 when it was part of Armstrong County; and Washington in 1843 from Elk.

When it came time to select a site for a county seat for the new county, a contest arose between the leading villages: Callensburg, Shippenville, and Strattanville. Christian Myers of Penn Mills, Philip Clover of Strattanville, and the latter's sons and son-in-law, Levi G. Clover, Peter Clover, and James P. Hoover, owned the land now occupied by the county seat. They offered this land to the commissioners on condition of receiving half the proceeds of the sale of lots. This land had the advantage of being a neutral site; the surface of the land was elevated and level; and it was near the Clarion River, centrally situated, and on the Bellefonte and Meadville turnpike. All these

considerations, taken with the offer of donation, determined the site of the future town of Clarion. Its origin was purely political, on a spot where there was only one dwelling in the midst of a forest. The county and the county seat were named for the Clarion River, known in the early days as Stump Creek and Toby Creek.

Absolom Travis and his three sons, Robert, James, and Stephen, were the first permanent settlers here in the southeast corner of present Monroe Township, Clarion County, in 1792. In 1800 Alexander Guthrie, John Guthrie, Thomas Guthrie, brothers, and William Maffet came from New Derry, Westmoreland County. They penetrated the wilderness a mile east of Strattanville; made a clearing; built a cabin and returned to Westmoreland County. The next spring they returned, bringing along James Maguire, Herman Skiles, Mrs. Fulton, a widow, and her sons James and Cochran, James McFadden, and a few others. The first immigrants from Centre County were William Young, Philip Clover, John Love, James Potter, John Roll, John C. Corbett, Samuel Wilson, William Smith, and Philip Clover Jr. They also settled near the Strattanville area in 1801.

Another group settled farther south in what is now Limestone Township in 1800 and 1801. This group included Thomas Meredith, Revolutionary soldier, and his son-in-law, Mark Williams, from Chester County, Samuel C. Orr, Tate Allison, William Cochran, Robert Warden, Peter Pence, and John Sloan from Westmoreland County. Other people came from Mifflin County, and many more came from Westmoreland and various eastern counties. Settlement proceeded slowly because of the hard work and hardships of frontier life as well as confusion over land ownership.

The Land Office opened on 1 May 1795; by 1800 most of the land had been warranted to the Holland Land Company, William Bingham, Richard Peters, Pickering & Company through James Potter, and various smaller warrantees. In the beginning the surveys were vague, and there were many disputes in court to settle the real ownership of the land.

Gradually people began to come from the surrounding counties. Lumbermen made fortunes from the rich supply of virgin timber and mills were built along the streams which provided natural transportation down the Clarion and Allegheny Rivers to Pittsburgh. By 1845 the discovery had been made of the rich deposits of iron ore and the large amount of overlay of limestone that sparked the pig iron industry. At one time there were 31 iron furnaces in Clarion County which, in consequence, became known as the Iron County. Oil became a booming business in the western part of the county in 1864; this continued until the late 1880's. Cities grew up overnight and disappeared as quickly. At the same time, the mining of coal became a growing industry, as rich deposits were found all over the county.