

**THE MCCLURE  
FAMILY**

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The McClure Family by James Alexander McClure

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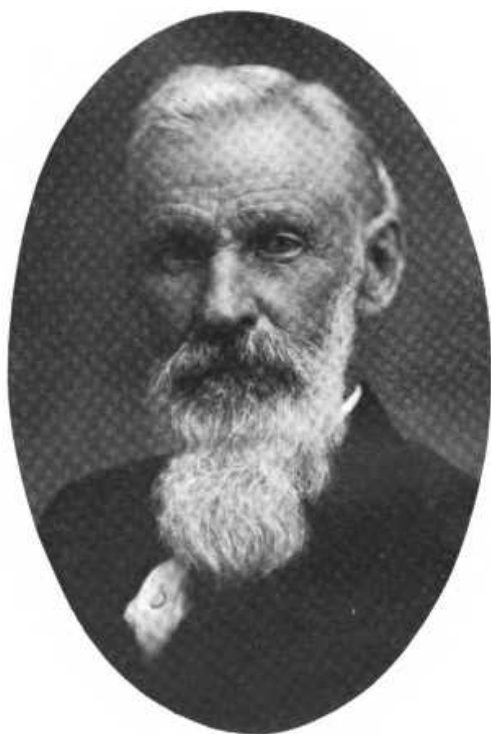
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**JAMES ALEXANDER MCCLURE**

**THE MCCLURE  
FAMILY**





MATTHEW THOMPSON McCLURE, Sr.  
1831—  
(TAKEN AT SEVENTY-SIX.)

T H E

# McCLURE FAMILY.

BY

JAMES ALEXANDER McCLURE.

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LIMITED EDITION.

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## FOREWORD.

THIS BOOK is an effort to preserve the names and something of the deeds of those who established the McClure family in America. While the result is far from satisfactory, I feel that I have rendered to the name in general, and to my own family in particular, a real service.

The work is the product of vacation days and rare leisure moments, thrown together rather than carefully arranged. It is the log cabin of our early ancestors rather than the modern mansion, to which I hope it will in time give place.

While all with whom it has been my privilege to converse or correspond have shown for the undertaking the greatest interest and concern, to whom I express my sincere appreciation, there are a number who have rendered special service and whose names I wish to mention in particular. First, the late Col. Charles McClure, of Ill., whose interest in the subject moved me primarily to the undertaking; Rev. A. D. McClure, D. D., Wilmington, N. C.; Prof. Geo. M. McClure, Danville, Ky.; Prof. C. F. W. McClure, Princeton University; Rev. James W. McClure, Cynthiana, Ky., Mr. Wallace M. McClure, Knoxville, Tenn.; Mr. Hugh S. McClure, New York City; Mr. Wm. A. McClure, Fairfield, Va.; Mrs. N. J. Baker, Nace, Va., Mr. Edward Frazer, Lexington, Ky.; Dr. J. D. McClure, London; Mr. John Wilfried McClure, Dublin.

The classification of the material which covers over two hundred years, seven generations, is as follows:

The first generation, born about 1700, is undesignated.

The second generation, born about 1733, is designated A, B, C, etc.

The third generation, born about 1767, is designated I, II, III, etc.

The fourth generation, born about 1800, is designated 1, 2, 3, etc.



## FOREWORD.

The fifth generation, born about 1833, is designated (1), (2), (3), etc.

The sixth generation, born about 1867, is designated a, b, c, etc.

The seventh generation, born about 1900, is designated (a), (b), (c), etc.

There are doubtless errors and omissions other than typographical, to which readers will kindly call my attention.

It is my desire to have members from the various branches of the family send me from time to time all items of family interest, marriages, births and deaths, that they may be carefully filed as a basis of information for any future family record.

And may there be fulfilled unto us the prophecy of Jeremiah, who said unto the house of the Rechabites, "Thus saith the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, Because you have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father and kept all his precepts and done according to all that he hath commanded you, Therefore thus saith the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me forever."

J. A. McCLURE.

Petersburg, Virginia,  
October 15, 1914.

## INTRODUCTION.

**T**HE ORIGIN of the name McCLURE has been frequently discussed in the genealogical literature of Great Britain. The following theories have been advanced:

1. The name (variously spelt McClure, McCluer, McClewer, Maclure, McLewer, McLure, and McLuir), comes from the Gaelic word MacLobhair, pronounced MacLour, and means "son of the leper."

2. That it comes from the Gaelic MacGiolla-odhar (which in the genitive is uidhar and pronounced ure), contracted to MacLure and hence McLure or McClure, and means "son of the pale one." This theory is advocated by Rev. Edmund McClure, M. A., London, Secretary of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge.

3. That it is a derivation of the Gaelic MacLeabhair, (pronounced MacLour) and means "son of the book," i. e. they were the teachers in the Clan McLeod, just as the McCrimmons (or McCrimmons) were the clan pipers. They were MacLeabhair McLeods, McLeabhair (McLour, McLure, McClure), eventually becoming the sir-name. Several Gaelic scholars deny this derivation of the name, tho' admitting the very ancient tradition of the McClure tutorship in the Clan McLeod.

4. That the name is identical with MacLir (or MacLar) the seagod of Ireland and the Isle of Man. This theory is advanced in an article published in the Dublin University Magazine on the late Sir Robert McClure, the navigator.

5. The McClures were originally a Manx family, the first legendary king of the Island being a Manannan McClure, is the tradition inherited by the McClures of Manchester, England, to which family belong the late Sir John W. McClure, M. P., and the Very Rev. Edward C. McClure, D. D., Dean of Manchester. Held also by Sir Edward Stanley McClure.

6. That the name means "great bruiser." An ancient king of Scotland was attacked by highwaymen. One of his attendants so distinguished himself by his prowess that he was called MacClure, "Mac" signifying "great" as well as "son of." A blow from the fist is still known in Scotland as a clure.

7. That it originated in the ancient sport of Falconry, in which the lure was used to recall the falcon. The crest of this family of McLures is a hand in armour holding a falconer's lure.

8. A soldier from the ancient town of Lure in Normandy crossed over with William the Conqueror. He was rewarded for his service by a grant of land in the Island of Skye and was known as DeLure, Mac being later substituted for De, to harmonize with the Gaelic custom.

9. The theory advocated by Rev. J. Campbell McClure, Minister of Marykirk, Kincardineshire, Scotland, is that the McLures are a sept of the Clan McLeod. In addition to extant records in Galloway of the McClure family, showing it to be of McLeod origin, Mr. McClure states that the family tradition handed down to him through a long line of long-lived ancestors is, "In early times a sept of the MacLeods left the Island of Skye for Ulster, where the northern Irish slurred the 'd' of MacLuide (as it was then pronounced) into 'r,' hence, MacLure. Later many of the name passed over from the northeast of Ireland to Galloway, thus to Wigtonshire and so on to Ayrshire. These districts to-day contain many McLures."

It is certain that McLures are in some way connected with the Clan McLeod, evidenced by the fact that the oldest traditions of the family in Scotland take them back to the Isle of Skye; the traditions of Skye link together the McLures and the McLeods; McLures have always had the same motto, crest and tartan as the McLeods, and their right to them has never been called in question.

McClure history, then, properly begins with the McLeods.