

**DESCENDANTS OF ARCHIBALD  
MCALLISTER OF WEST  
PENNSBORO TOWNSHIP,  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA.,  
1730-1898**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649561049

Descendants of Archibald McAllister of West Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County, Pa.,  
1730-1898 by Mary Catharine McAllister

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**MARY CATHARINE MCALLISTER**

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MCALLISTER OF WEST  
PENNSBORO TOWNSHIP,  
CUMBERLAND  
COUNTY, PA., 1730-1898**



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OF  
**ARCHIBALD McALLISTER,**  
OF  
**WEST PENNSBORO TOWNSHIP,**

Cumberland County, Pa.

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**1730--1898.**

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BY  
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— Harrisburg, Penn'a.: —  
Scheffer's Printing & Bookbinding House,  
No. 21 South Second Street,

1898.

WILLIAM McALLISTER  
1898

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Fort Hunter, Pa.

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## PREFACE.

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**T**HIS compilation from original documents, and family history has been made with the hope that at some future day, it may be of service to the inquiring minds of coming generations.

For the original idea, the general plan, and valuable assistance, the author is indebted to Mr. Frederick Schober, member of the Historical and Genealogical Societies of Pennsylvania.

The author desires to thank members of the different branches of the family who so kindly and willingly furnished information of their several lines.

NOTICE.

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Numbers on the right of name indicate generation.

Numbers on the left of name number in succession.

A star on the left of a number in succession indicates detailed information further on.



**McALLISTER**

## GENEALOGY.

**MACALLISTER:**—That is, son of Allister a branch of the famous and warlike clan, MacDonald, whose chief was Lord of the Isles:—(Hebridean Isles).

This clan were always Stuartmen—and loyal to their king until the final overthrow in 1745. It was their boast that they were always given the right on the field of battle.

At the battle of Culloden these MacDonalds were placed on the left wing, and not a man would draw a sword that day. In defense of their conduct an officer of division said: "We, of the clan MacDonalds, thought it ominous we had not this day the right hand in battle, as formerly and as we enjoyed when the event proved successful. As at Gladsmuir and Falkirk, and which our clan maintained we had enjoyed in all our battles and struggles in behalf of our royal family, since the battle of Bannockburn, on which glorious day Robert, the Bruce, bestowed this honor upon Angus MacDonald, Lord of the Isles, as a reward for his never-to-be-forgot fidelity to that brave prince, in protecting him for above nine months in his country of Rachlin, Isla and, Uist. This right, I say, we have enjoyed ever since, unless when yielded by us out of favor upon particular occasions, as was done by the Laird of MacLean at the battle of Harlan; but our sweet-natured prince was prevailed on by L. and his faction to assign this honor to another on this fatal day; which right, we judge, they will not refuse to yield us back again on the next fighting day."

The badge borne on their helmets was a "froach gorm," or "common heath," and their battle cry, "Froach eilan," the "Heathy isle."—(Scottish Gael or Celtic Manners, Logan.)

Allaster MacDonald, the progenitor of the MacAllasters, flourished in about A. D., 1263, and became "*Chief*" of a new clan, then known as "clan Allaster"—this Allaster was succeeded by a worthy son, "Allaster MacAllaster," who upon the death of his father became the "*Chief*," and headed and led a powerful clan that flourished in Scotland from that time until the downfall of "Prince Charles" in 1745.

Their possessions and homes were in and about Knapdale in Cantire, Scotland.

The first Allaster was the son of Angus Mor, (i. e. Angus, the Great), who in about 1258 to 1274, was "Lord of the Isles." He had descended from *Somerled* Thane (Baron) of Argyle and First "Lord of the Isles," who was a son of Magnus III., Barford, King of Norway. It may be added also that the said Allester maternally descended from Isabella, a sister of King Robert, the Bruce.

In the *preface* to an edition of "Burke's British Peerage" Burke says in substance, that the two best family names in Great Britain are the Plantagenets and the MacDonalds, and that there are descendants of the latter family in America who can well claim to be of as noble descent as any in Great Britain. The MacAllisters having descended from the MacDonalds, as good, or as "blue" blood flows in their veins as flows in the veins of any people on the face of the earth. None surpass them as to nobility of ancestry, and for bravery and military history the MacDonalds, and their descendants, the MacAllisters, the MacIntyres and MacQueens are not equalled by any other family of which historians give an account.

As to the matter of the MacAllester *crest* the alleged "Old Student of Heraldic bearings," quoted in a recent issue of the New York Herald, was in error when he contended that the crest claimed was the crest of Charles MacAllester, of Loup, Esquire.

Authorities will show that the motto on Loup's crest is "*Fortiter*," and that in the hand is *an upright dirk*, instead of *cross, crosslet fitchel* as in the original MacAllester crest proper. The arm, hand, cross, crosslet fitchel and motto "Per Mare per Terras" in the MacAllister crest is the same as the original crest and motto of the first Lords (MacDonalds), of the Isles, which goes to confirm and prove the origin of the MacAllisters. The present MacAllaster of Glen Barr (Scot.) carries the original motto "Per Mare per Terras" as does also Keith MacDonald MacAllister, Esquire, of Inistrynich who by the way, always wears the MacAllester tartan. The foregoing notes on the origin of the McAllisters are from a recent research made for the late Ward McAllister, of New York City.

The name McAllister has assumed many changes in spelling since the formation of the new clan by Allaeter MacDonald in 1263. The emigrant and founder of the Pennsylvania branch of the family originally spelled his name McAlister, but since his arrival, its orthography has been changed according to the ideas of his descendants to McAllister, McAlister, Mc-