

The McLean family of Holywood

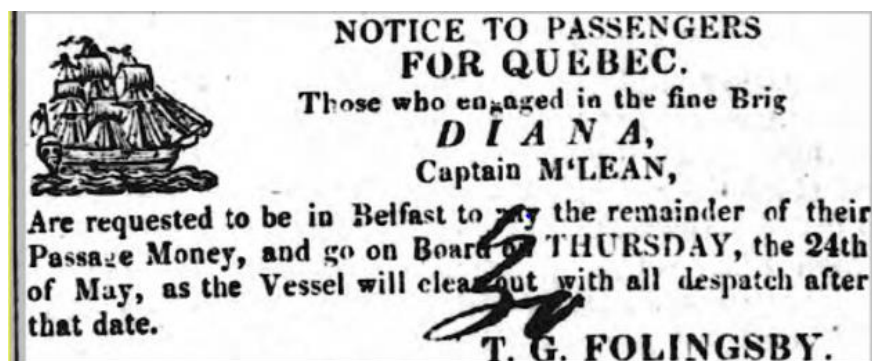


(photo courtesy of Nigel Henderson)

The imposing McLean monument in the Priory Graveyard traces the family tree of the McLean family in Holywood from 1821 to 1895. Although barely remembered today, all made a significant contribution to society in Northern Ireland – particularly in the legal and military spheres.

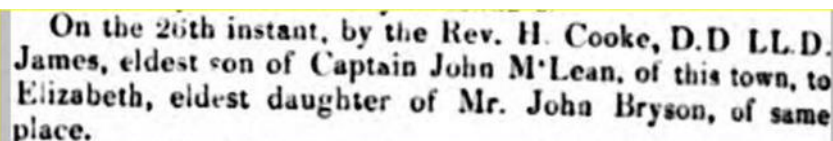
The monument was erected after the death of James McLean in 1892. It was a fitting tribute to a man who left assets of £20,986 - about £2.5million in current value. The monument is a curious mixture of architectural styles. It is mainly Romanesque in style with elaborate rounded arches and columns but with the addition of Celtic symbols and script.

The inscription on the headstone reveals that James was born 7 December 1821 in Stranraer, New Brunswick. It seems likely that his father, Captain John McLean, brought the family back to Belfast on one of his trans-Atlantic trips. This advertisement from the *Belfast Commercial Chronicle* of 19 May 1827 may be for one of his voyages.



James' younger brother, John, also became a sea captain.

As confirmed by the inscription on the headstone, James was married to Elizabeth Bryson. The *Belfast Commercial Chronicle* of 30 April 1843 carried the announcement of the marriage. Dr Henry Cooke was the famous minister of May Street Presbyterian Church in Belfast.



On the 26th instant, by the Rev. H. Cooke, D.D LL.D. James, eldest son of Captain John M'Lean, of this town, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. John Bryson, of same place.

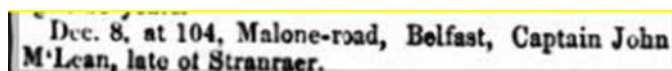
At this time James was already working as a clerk in the office of John Suffern. Three years later he was taken on as a solicitor's apprentice in the same firm at a salary of £150 per annum, officially admitted as a solicitor in 1851. (It was possible to qualify as a solicitor after 7 years' experience.)

Unfortunately, relations between James and his previous employer seem to have become very strained. In an extraordinary case heard in Belfast in March 1853, James represented his brother, John, who sued Suffern for non-payment of wages.ⁱ John McLean was the Captain of the *Rosalie*, of which John Suffern was part owner. John had apparently worked for him for 9 years and was paid £10 per month, reflecting his ability and experience.

The *Rosalie* was a cargo ship - in 1852 it carried Indian corn from Constantinople. During the case bitter personal attacks were made on James McLean's integrity since both brothers were employed by Suffern and there was a perceived conflict of interest.

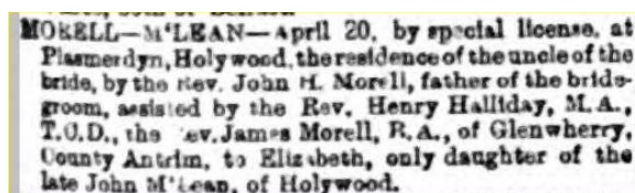
The case was complicated by Suffern's counter claim that he had incurred extra expense when the authorities in Queenstown had wrongly accused John of smuggling cigars found on board the *Rosalie* (apparently a gift from a shop's chandler and shared with Suffern). The second mate had apparently sailed the boat to Portsmouth without authority, possibly to deliver the rest of the cargo. Suffern had then dispatched James McLean and his father (also a captain) to bring the boat back. However, the jury found in favour of John McLean and awarded him £52.17. 2d plus 6d costs.

Captain John McLean, their father, seems to have died in 1862.ⁱⁱ

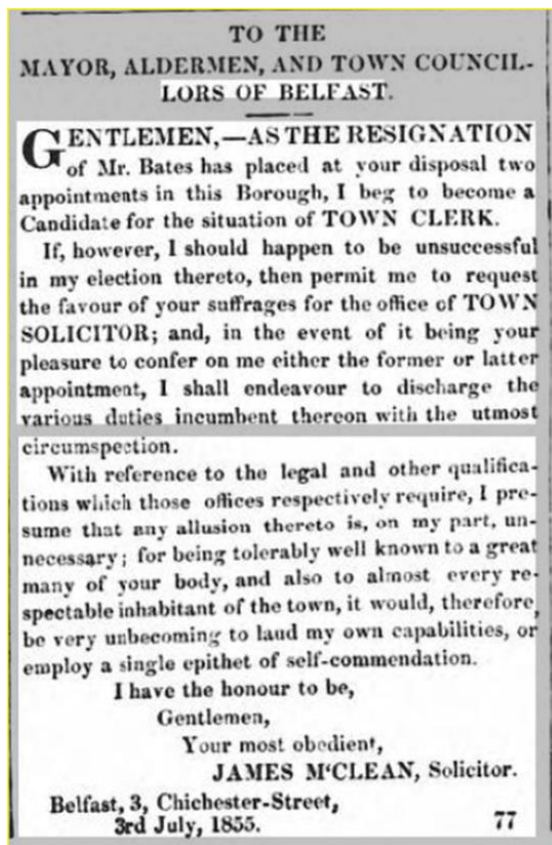


Dec. 8, at 104, Malone-road, Belfast, Captain John M'Lean, late of Stranraer.

It is unclear what became of James' brother John, though he may have been the Captain John McLean who was later appointed Superintendent of the Belfast Sailors' Home in Corporation Street. He had certainly died before 1880 when his daughter, Elizabeth, married Rev James Morell of Glenwherry Presbyterian Church at James' home in Holywood.ⁱⁱⁱ Sadly she died from typhoid six months later.



MORELL—M'LEAN—April 20, by special license, at Plasmerdyn, Holywood, the residence of the uncle of the bride, by the Rev. John H. Morell, father of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev. Henry Halliday, M.A., T.O.D., the Rev. James Morell, R.A., of Glenwherry, County Antrim, to Elizabeth, only daughter of the late John M'Lean, of Holywood.



James McLean set up in practice as a solicitor in Arthur Street and seems to have enjoyed considerable success. He was undoubtedly ambitious. In July 1855 he published an open letter in the *Northern Whig* explaining why he was uniquely qualified to be appointed as either Town Clerk or Town Solicitor. Seemingly the Council did not share his view and he was unsuccessful.

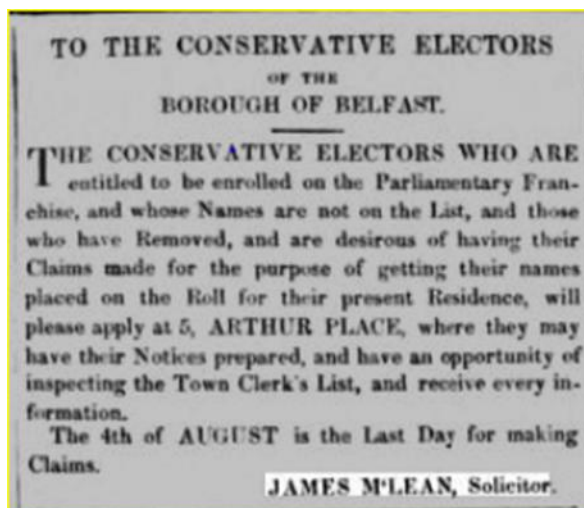
James was active in representing those opposed to the relaxation of laws regulating public houses. The *Belfast Newsletter* of 23 May 1856 reported that in a ceremony attended by 30-40 overseers of public houses, James McLean had been presented with several valuable books “for the purpose of marking the high sense they entertain of his able and successful advocacy of the great cause of moral reform.”

James subsequently went into partnership with James Boyle in 1866. The firm became known as McLean, Boyle, and McLean, when his eldest son James joined the practice in 1869. His youngest son, Robert Edward, also joined the practice. The partnership was dissolved in February 1891 with the retirement of James Boyle. The firm changed the name again to James McLean and Son in 1888 when his son James became a Resident Magistrate.

In 1868 James was appointed Sessional Crown Solicitor for Co Antrim, an appointment in the gift of the Lord Lieutenant, with a salary of £1,500 a year. The *Newry Commercial Telegraph* of 2 March 1867 quoted a glowing testimonial from the ex-Mayor of Belfast, Mr Mullan:

“I can confidently assert that I know of no appointment which would give equal satisfaction to all creeds and parties in this county. Your professional fitness and long experience is too well known to require any remark from me: but I can say your thorough knowledge of all commercial and social matters affecting this great community with your ability, integrity, and gentlemanly bearing, eminently fit you for the office you seek.”

Although James had lived on the Malone Road in Belfast, by 1857 he was leasing 8 acres at Ballykeel on the outskirts of Holywood. He lived in the exclusive area known as Plasmerdyn on Church Road, Holywood. James also acted as a Town Commissioner in Holywood in the 1880s.

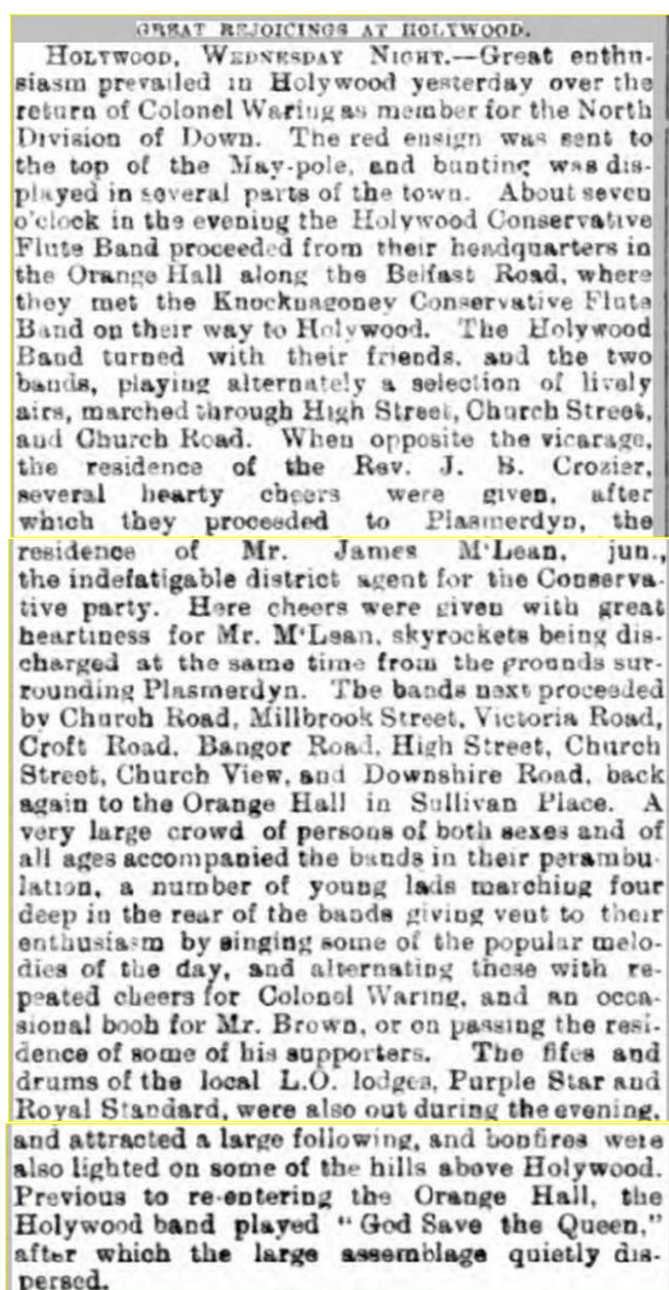


In addition to his legal practice, James took a keen interest in politics. He became highly active in registering Conservative voters.^{iv}

James McLean was elected as a Conservative in September 1862, with 207 votes, to fill a vacancy on the council for the Smithfield Ward at a time when Sir Charles Lanyon was Mayor of Belfast.

In 1885 his son James acted as election agent for the strongly anti Home Rule candidate, Colonel Waring, who was returned as MP for North Down in 1885. The *Belfast Weekly News*

of 5 December 1885 described the scenes of jubilation in Holywood.



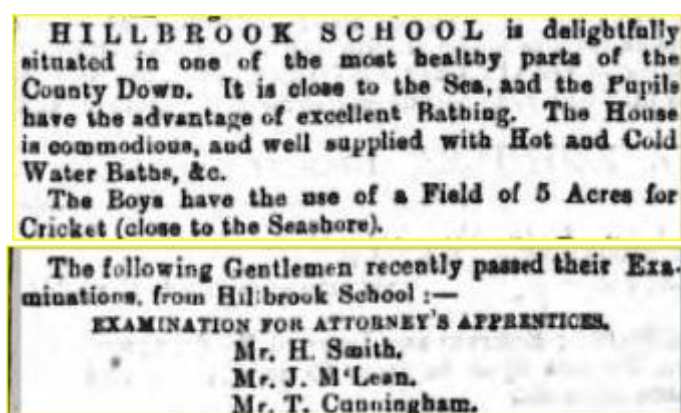
James died on 17 November 1892, aged 71. In his will he made provision for his wife Elizabeth (Bryson), sons John, Robert Edward and daughter Mary Elizabeth but excluded his eldest son James. In his opinion James was already well provided for!

The *Belfast Newsletter* of 21 November 1892 reported on the large funeral which took place in First Holywood Presbyterian Church on Bangor Road and noted that the flag on the Maypole was flown at half-mast.

Later all four of James' children are interred with him.

James (1847 - 1916)

James' eldest son attended Hillbrook School, close to his home at Holywood and run by John Turpin, MA. An advertisement published in the *Northern Whig* of 16 July 1864 extolled its virtues:



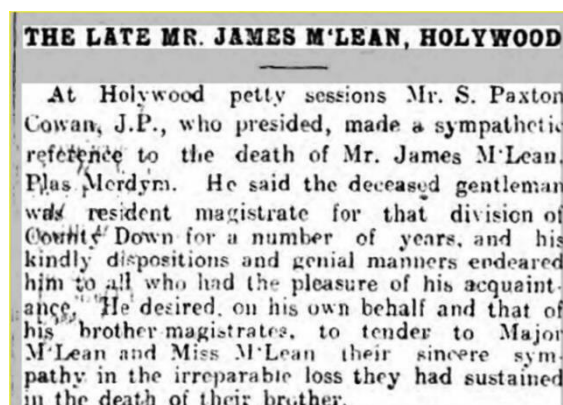
James subsequently qualified as a solicitor in 1869 and joined his father's firm. In December 1888 he was appointed Resident Magistrate in Tuam, Co Galway, where he remained for the next nine years. On his transfer to Monaghan, the *Tuam Herald* described him as "*a good fellow all round.*"

One of his most celebrated cases was that of Joseph Fee of Clones. In December 1903 Fee was brought before James at a special court, charged with "*wilfully and feloniously murdering a man whose remains are not yet identified.*"^v The victim was discovered in a manure heap belonging to Fee and was subsequently identified as a man who been missing for several months. As an RM, McLean was only involved in the preliminary stages of the case, but no doubt followed it closely. Fee had three trials but was eventually found guilty by a jury and hanged in Armagh.

After six years in Monaghan, James was transferred to North Down. By 1900 he had returned to live at Plasmerdyn with his mother and sister Mary Elizabeth. His mother died in 1901. On his retirement in September 1911, James presented with an illuminated address, a solid silver tea tray and two salvers by his fellow magistrates.^{vi} He was elected to the Holywood Urban District Council where he was appointed Chairman in 1912. He resigned in January 1916, planning to go into partnership with his brother Robert Edward who was solicitor to the Council and also serving in the army. Unfortunately, James died three months later at Plasmerdyn on 14 April 1916.

James did not marry until he was 39. His choice was Matilda McCombe, the widow of a Holywood solicitor, William Walter McCombe. They married in London in 1888, just before he took up office in Tuam. Her only surviving son from her first marriage died in 1891. She seems to have preferred to live in England, spending her latter years in Bailey's Hotel, London. They had no children. On his death she donated £50 to sponsor the "James McLean Bed" in the Ulster Volunteer Force Hospital^{vii}. Matilda died in Sussex in 1941.

The *Belfast Newsletter* of 29 April 1916 reported the tributes paid to James McLean at the Holywood Petty Sessions.



John (1850 - 1894)

John was born on 19 September 1850. He attended Wellington Academy in Belfast (where he was awarded a prize for spelling and derivation in 1862) and Trinity College and, unlike his father and brother, chose to become a barrister. He was called to the Bar in January 1873. Six years later he married Mary Swan, whose father was Assistant Commissary General Frederick G Swan. They settled in Dublin, where most of their 7 children were born.

In the late 1880s John decided to change course and become a solicitor. He completed his solicitors' exams in 1889 and returned to Holywood soon afterwards. He bought a house known as Athelstane in Demesne Road, Holywood. When it later was put on the market in 1921, it was described as "*a delightfully situated detached villa residence...with almost half an acre of land.*" John's father died two years later, leaving him his properties in Cape Street and Garnet Street, Belfast.

Sadly, John died 30 July 1894 from Bright's Disease, aged only 43. He left a widow and 6 surviving children, the youngest aged only 3 months. In the 1901 census Mary was still living in Holywood with the eldest daughter, Mabel, and the two youngest children. The older sons were at boarding school in England and Ileen Mary was working as a governess.

In 1905 John's widow, Mary, emigrated to Canada with Florence, the youngest child. She married Arthur Prowse in Canada a year later. She was later joined by three of the children: Victor James in 1904, Gordon in 1909 and Mabel in 1910. All made their permanent home in Canada, although Gordon later moved to Los Angeles, where he worked as a Police officer employed by 20th Century Fox. He was the only McLean to have male heirs.

Mary Elizabeth (1857 - 1945)

Mary Elizabeth never married. She died 20 May 1945 at Plasmerdyn, having outlived her siblings. Her nephew Herbert Smellie was the executor of her will.

Robert Edward (1859 - 1936)

Like his older brother, Robert Edward was educated at Hillbrook Boarding and Day School in Holywood initially, where he was awarded a prize in June 1870^{viii}. They were two of the “500 sons of merchants and professional gentlemen” the school boasted of having educated.^{ix} He subsequently attended Inst and received his law degree from Trinity College, Dublin. After being sworn in as a solicitor on 11 February 1884, he joined his father’s firm in Belfast.

Robert Edward was also a very accomplished sportsman. In 1876 he captained the Inst team to victory in the very first Ulster Schools Challenge Cup final against Methody. He later was captain of the Dublin University side and played for Ireland between 1881 and 1885 as a three-quarter back. Robert was also a keen cricketer and golfer.

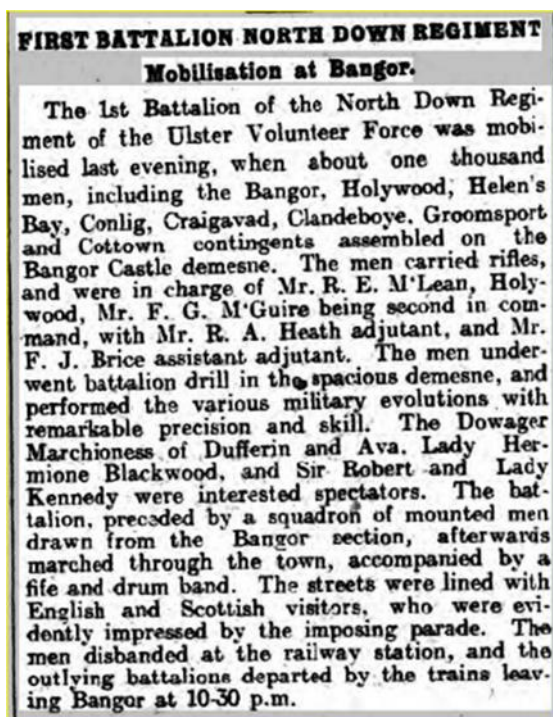
His obituary also reveals that he followed in his father’s footsteps as legal adviser for the Belfast Water Commissioners.^x He represented them for about 50 years and was instrumental in getting several Acts of Parliament passed, both at Westminster and at Stormont. In addition, he served as solicitor to Holywood Urban District Council.

Robert Edward married Mary Arminella Garratt of Holywood in 1896. They had two sons: James and Joseph Richard Garratt, named after both grandfathers, as well as a daughter Mary Elizabeth. In September 1895 Robert Edward invited tenders for the building of a houses and stables at Plasmerdyn, designed by the architect G.L.W. Blount.^{xi}

However, by 1906 the McLeans had moved to Mertoun Hall, a large property at Knocknagoney. It was the original Mansion House of the Harrison estate. The Esporta Sports and Leisure Complex is now located on the site of the original Mertoun Hall, while the Maryfield complex includes the original stable block. Morris May, Stormont Minister of Education, was one of the last private owners.

Robert Edward, like his father, was a Unionist and was active in local politics. The *North Down Herald and County Down Independent* of 1 December 1899 reported that at a public meeting held in the Holywood Town Hall in support of soldiers fighting in the Transvaal, Robert Edward seconded the motion:

“That, while we deplore war and earnestly desire to live at peace with all men, we are of the opinion that our government is justified in its course of action in the present crisis and is bound to defend the rights and liberties of our fellow countrymen in South Africa.” He was elected to a committee to organise funds to send out a supply of tobacco to the troops.



A staunch Unionist, Robert Edward was President of Holywood Unionist Club for several years. He became involved with the Ulster Volunteer Force from its formation. He was commander of the 1st Battalion of the North Down Regiment of the UVF and involved in training the volunteers. Manoeuvres were carried out at Clondeboy.

The *Belfast Newsletter* of 14 July 1914 reported enthusiastically on the parade by a thousand men in Bangor demesne under the command of R E McLean of Holywood.

The handwritten Roll of Honour of the First Battalion also lists Robert Edward's nephew RRB McLean.



(courtesy of Nigel Henderson)

The McLeans in the First and Second World Wars

The parish church in Holywood has commemorated seven family members who served in both wars, including two who were killed in action.



(photo courtesy of Barry Niblock)

Robert Edward McLean and his sons

Robert Edward (RIR)

**13TH BATTALION R.I. RIFLES.
DOWN VOLUNTEERS.**

AS THE ABOVE REGIMENT MAY BE leaving this country in a short time on active service, it is felt that something should now be done to organise a system by which the men may be supplied from time to time as required with those articles which would add to their comfort under the trying conditions which we are afraid they will experience. It has been decided to form a depôt for the receipt and despatch of contributions of clothing, money, &c., sent from the different parts of County Down. It is hoped that this will prevent overlapping and ensure an equal distribution among the men of the Regiment. The following will act as committee:—
 Mrs. SAVAGE, Cushendall, County Antrim.
 Mrs. PERCEVAL MAXWELL, Finnebrogue, Downpatrick, County Down.
 Mrs. R. E. McLEAN, Mertoun Hall, Holywood, County Down.
 Mrs. BRUCE, Cuan, Comber, County Down.
 Mrs. W. UPRICHARD, Elmfield, Gilford, County Down.
 Mrs. BURROUGHS, care of Messrs. Brice & Son, Main Street, Bangor, County Down.
 In order to further the above scheme, organisers of work parties and other friends are asked to co-operate by communicating with the Hon. Sec.,
 Miss LEAH GARRATT,
 HELEN'S BAY, County Down.

Robert Edward enlisted with the 13th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles on the outbreak of war but continued to train men at the camps at Clandeboye.

His wife, Mary Arminella, and his sister-in-law Leah Garratt were active on a committee organising home comforts for the troops.

A later advertisement suggested that a lightweight waterproof cape costing 6s.3d would make a most acceptable present for troops and invited orders.

In February 1915, the *Gazette* reported his appointment as temporary Captain.

13th Battalion (County, Down)—
 Temporary Captain Robert Edward McLean to be temporary Major. Dated 1st February, 1915.

The *Belfast Newsletter* of 9 June 1915 reported that all the volunteers from the Holywood district, who had joined Kitchener's Army, were entertained to tea in the Town Hall on the eve of their departure. They were led by Colonel McCammon, Major R E McLean and Sergeant-Major Briggs. The volunteers were welcomed by Robert Edward's brother James McLean, JP, then Chairman of the council, who praised those who had volunteered but urged those who were still hesitating to come forward.

The *Belfast Newsletter* of 2 March 1916 announced that Robert McLean of the 1st County Down Volunteers, who had been doing duty at Clandeboye, had been attached for duty to the 18th (reserve) Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles. He saw service in France, Belgium and Italy. In February 1917, the Gazette reported his appointment as Temporary Major.

During 1917 Major McLean took part in a number of court martials in N Ireland which suggests that he was not then serving abroad. In July 1918 Major RE McLean was transferred to the General List. At the end of the war, he was awarded two medals – the Victory and British medals.

2nd Lieutenant Joseph R G McLean (A & S H)



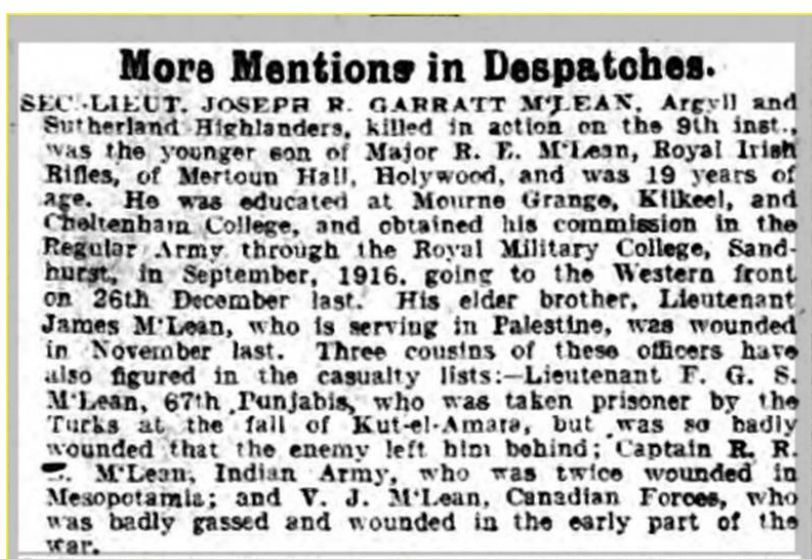
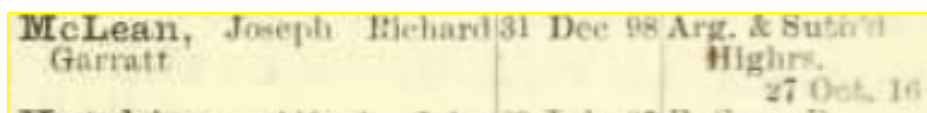
Joseph Richard Garratt McLean was Robert Edward's younger son, born 31 December 1898. In 1911 he was a pupil at a small boarding school, Mourne Grange, run by Mr Allen Carey in Kilkeel with the aim of preparing boys for public school. The boys wore a royal blue blazer with white edging

and a dark blue cap with the badge of the Carey family.^{xii}

An advertisement placed in the *Newsletter* of 25 June 1900 stated that "... *the healthy climate is particularly suited for delicate boys.*" One famous ex-pupil was the Conservative politician Michael Heseltine who attended in the 1940s.



Joseph later attended Cheltenham College. In April 1916 he passed the exams for a military cadetship. After training at Sandhurst, he had enlisted with the Argyll and Sutherland Regiment. He died on 9 May 1918, less than 5 months after going to the Western Front.



(Belfast Newsletter 24 May 1918)

His father applied for his Victory Medal and received his personal effects, which included the sum of 3s 1d.

He is commemorated on a panel in the Tyne Cot memorial in Belgium as well as in the parish church at Holywood, St Philip and St James.



(photo courtesy of Barry Niblock)

The *Northern Whig* of 25 April 1921 reported that the magnificent memorial tablet in the church was unveiled by his father, Major R E McLean. The names of the 42 fallen parishioners are inscribed on a white marble plaque, surrounded by a carved gypsum border. In the corners of the frame are carvings representing Faith, Hope, Love and Peace, surmounted by the motto "Faithful Unto Death."



(Photo © Albert Bridge (cc-by-sa/2.0))

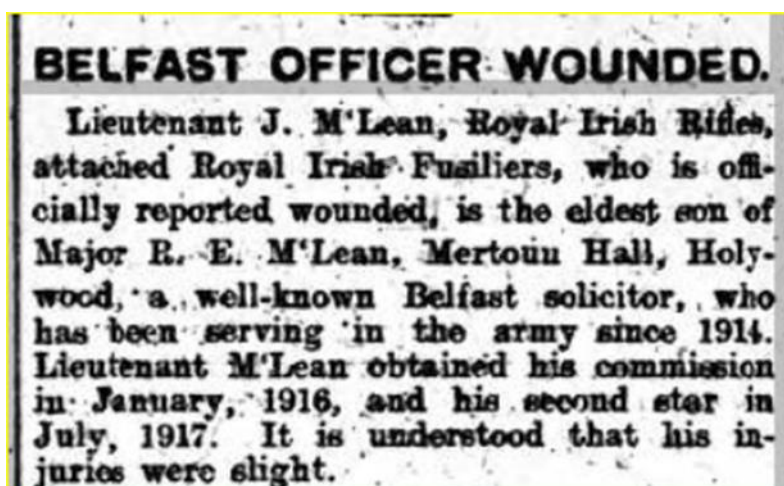
Major McLean was also chair of a committee set up to organise a public war memorial in Holywood to commemorate the 108 from the district who died. In August 1919 they selected the design by Leonard S Merrifield of Chelsea, which created a 6-foot statue in bronze of a soldier on guard, mounted on a base of Portland stone. The names were inscribed on a bronze plaque on the base.

The memorial was unveiled at a public ceremony in November 1923, when Commandant W Webster read aloud the names. This was preceded by a service in the parish Church. Major

McLean led a parade of ex-Servicemen of the district, accompanied by the Royal Standard Flute Band.

James McLean (RIR)

James was Robert Edward's older son born 16 May 1897. He also attended Mourne Grange prep school in Kilkeel. He obtained his commission with his father's regiment in January 1916, soon after leaving school. James was attached to the Royal Irish Fusiliers and was deployed in Palestine where he was wounded in November 1917.



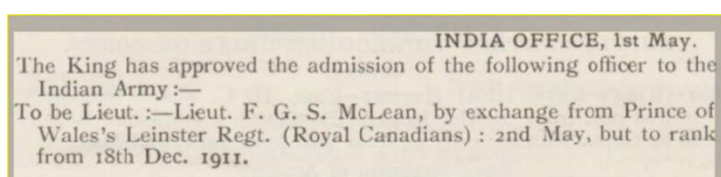
Northern Whig, 14 January 1918

Unlike the rest of the family, James had no interest in pursuing a legal career. He sailed on the *Ceramic* to South Africa on 29 August 1931, intending to farm. Curiously, he was accompanied by his cousin Frederick. At the time of his father's death in 1936 he was living in Southern Rhodesia. He died at Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) on 24 February 1948. Evidently James was no longer a farmer but was employed in the Posts and Telegraph Department. He was still single and living at the Midlands Hotel. Apparently, he been suffering from gallstones and a perforated duodenal ulcer. He is buried in the Gwelo Cemetery.

John McLean's sons

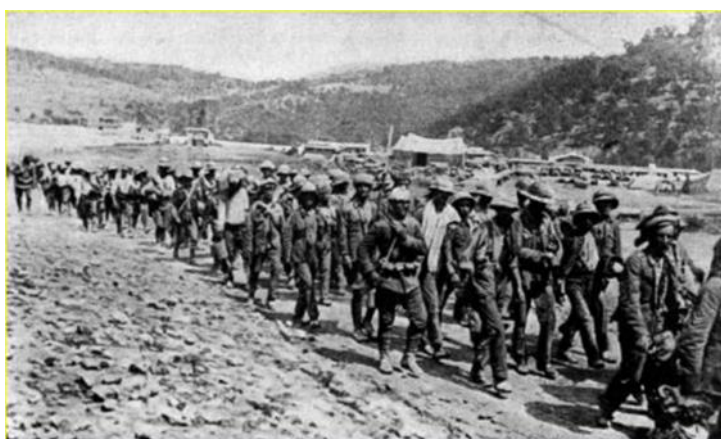
Frederick Garratt Swan McLean (67th Punjabis, Indian Army)

Frederick George Swan McLean was the son of John McLean and nephew of Robert Edward, born in 1899. Frederick clearly intended to make his career in the army. After attending Sandhurst, he enlisted in the Leinster Regiment in September 1909. At the end of that year he was posted to India, where he spent the next two years. By 1911 he was a Second Lieutenant, serving with 2nd Battalion the Leinster Regiment in Jullundur in the Punjab. He was fluent in Hindustani. He later transferred to the Indian Army.



Frederick joined the 19th Punjabis, an infantry regiment of the British Indian Army. They were sent to Mesopotamia in November 1914, principally to protect the Abadan oil refineries, vital for the supply of petroleum to the Royal Navy. He was wounded in the advance on Baghdad on 3 December 1915 and again on 7 December 1915 four days later.

With heavy casualties suffered by both sides, the British force, under General Townshend, retreated to the small city of Kut-el-Amara. Here the British and Indian troops were quickly surrounded by a newly reinforced Turkish army of 80,000 men. The town was besieged for five months by the Turks before being forced to surrender. The prisoners were marched hundreds of miles into the Ottoman Empire under dreadful conditions. According to newspaper reports, Frederick was so badly wounded he was left behind, which ironically probably saved his life. He was part of a prisoner exchange in 1916 and taken to hospital in India.



Although promoted to major on 8 May 1918 and attached to the 67th Punjabis, it seems likely that, for health reasons, a long-term military career was no longer possible. He returned home from Bombay on the *SS China* on 15 June 1923, giving his address as Plasmerdyn, Hollywood. Four years later, he qualified as solicitor, joining his uncle's law firm now at 71 High Street, Belfast.

On 21 December 1933, he was invited to formally open the new cinema in Hollywood, built at a cost of £5,000. The owner, Mr John Turner, pledged to supply the town with "*wholesome entertainment*." The first film screened was "*The Silver Dollar*."

In 1934 Frederick was appointed a Resident Magistrate. In the same year he married Violet Garrett, also from Hollywood and the daughter of Hugh Littlewood Garrett. Her father was well known as the managing director of Dunville and Co and President of Distillery Football Club. Hugh had succeeded Robert Edward as President of Hollywood Unionist Association but had resigned over the thorny issue of temperance. Hugh died in 1925.

Major McLean and his wife had no children. He retired in January 1954 and he and his wife moved to Goose Field, Aldeburgh, England, where he died on 25 July 1956. His wife died in 1968.

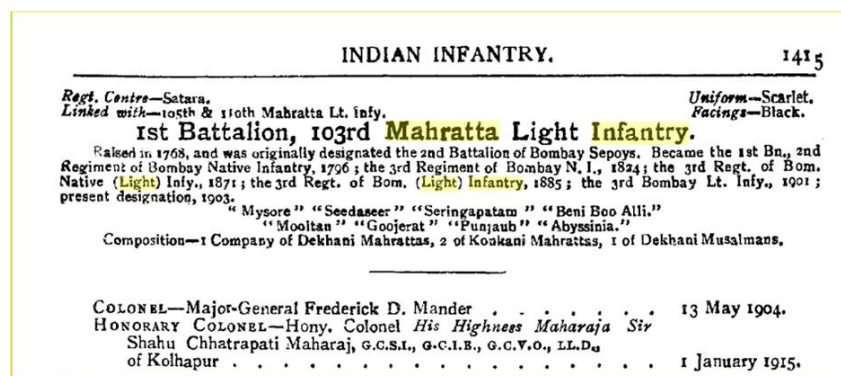


(Ballymena Observer 03 August 1956)

Robert Reginald Balfour McLean (Mahratta Light infantry, Indian Army)

Robert was born in 1892 and educated at a boarding school in Somerset, followed by Sandhurst.

In 1912 the Army Lists include him as a Second Lieutenant with the Leinster Regiment, but he resigned in September 1913 to join the Mahratta Light Infantry and attained the rank of Captain.



Robert was twice wounded in Mesopotamia, but his injuries seem not to have been serious. His regiment also took part in the siege of Kut-el-Mar. He spent some time in Hollywood and joined the Masons in June 1918.



Robert married Aida Mary Sullivan in Cork in 1919 and returned to India two weeks later. That shows dedication! He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and spent the remainder of his military career in Secunderabad, India.

They had one child, Eileen Mary, born in Bombay. In 1945 she married Major Thomas Weguelin of the Royal Army service Corps in Secunderabad.

Robert and Aida returned to Tonbridge Wells in Kent. In retirement, Robert became involved in Conservative politics. He was elected to represent Chevening on Sevenoaks RDC in April 1947. Aida died in October of that year. Robert resigned from the Council and moved to out of the area the following year. Robert remained active in the British Legion and was President of the Hawkhurst Branch. He died in 1964 in Kent. The Weguelins also returned to England and Eileen died in Hampshire in 2006.

Victor James Francis McLean (Alberta Dragoons)

Unlike his two brothers, Victor had not planned a military career. Victor was born in 1887. He emigrated to Canada in 1904, intending to join his older brother Gordon and his mother. However, with the outbreak of war, he followed their example. On 23 September 1914 he enlisted with the 19th Alberta Dragoons, which formed part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Victor gave his occupation as “contractor foreman”. He nominated his brother Gordon in Fiske, Saskatchewan as his next of kin. In his will he left everything to his mother Mary, now also living in Fiske.

Victor served in France with the Canadian Light Horse. In 1915 he was injured when his horse fell into a shell hole and crushed him as it rolled over. Later he was gassed on two occasions. In 1917 he was given permission to marry Gladys Shayer whom he met while convalescing – and changed his will!



Victor was discharged on 22 September 1919, with the rank of Sergeant. He returned to Alberta in 1919, where he and Gladys set up home. They had no children.

Victor was also active in the Progressive Conservative party. As a member of the Corps of Commissionaires watchmen, he narrowly escaped being shot by a gunman in July 1950.^{xiii} He died 15 April 1968 near Winnipeg.

CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE War Service Badge Class "A" No. **403610**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that No. 1976 (Rank) A/Sgt
 Name (in full) Victor James McLean enlisted in
 the Nineteenth Alberta Dragoons
 CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE at Valcartier on the Twenty-third
 day of September 1914
 HE served in France Canadian Light Horse
 and is now discharged from the service by reason of Demobilization.
Medical Unfitness.

THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS SOLDIER on the DATE below is as follows:

Age <u>31 years</u>	Marks or Scars <u>Scar left</u>
Height <u>6 ft 2 in</u>	<u>forearm and left</u>
Complexion <u>Fair</u>	<u>eye</u>
Eyes <u>Hazel</u>	
Hair <u>Fair</u>	

V. J. McLean
 Signature of Soldier

[Signature]
 Issuing Officer

Date of Discharge
22-9-19

Rank
Sgt

Date 14-9-19 1919

N.B.—As no duplicate of this Certificate will be issued, any person finding same is requested to forward it in an unstamped envelope to the Secretary, Militia Council, Ottawa, Canada.

M.F.R. 39A.
 1049-D.P.-300M-11-18.
 H.Q. 1772-39-882.



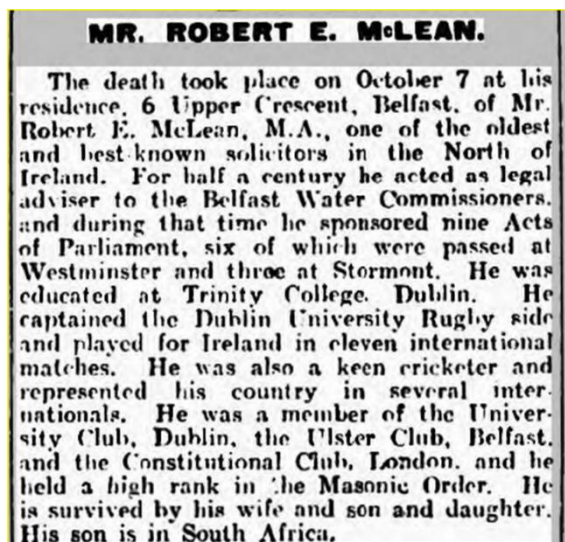
Post war

Major R E McLean and his wife continued to play an important role in the community. Mary had been active during the war in the women's suffrage movement, being elected President of the Hollywood Society. When women were granted the right to vote after the war, she

became an enthusiastic and generous supporter of the USPCA. Robert Edward was active in the British Legion, the Masonic Order, the Unionist Party and as a vestry man in the parish church. On 4 July 1931, the *North Down Herald and County Down Independent* reported that Major McLean had generously presented Holywood LOL 785 with a side drum used at the Siege of Derry.

Robert Edward was selected as one of six Unionist candidates to contest the elections for the local council in 1920 but was unsuccessful. He continued his legal practice, where he was joined in 1927 by his nephew Frederick.

In 1933 the McLeans bought 6, Upper Crescent, Belfast, a large terrace house, for £675. Robert Edward died there on 7 October 1936.



His funeral was private which seems unusual for such a well-known figure but followed the pattern set his brother. It was reported that the flag at the Belfast Water Commissioners was flown at half-mast as a mark of respect. He had been associated with them for almost 50 years. Following his death, his widow and daughter returned to live in Demesne Road, Holywood.

Second World War

One of the casualties of the Second World War was John McLean 's grandson, Captain John F Smellie. In 1910, Ileen Mary McLean married Nicholas Sarens Herbert Smellie, a bank official. They had met when she was working as a governess. They had two sons, John Frederick, and

Herbert. John (known as Jack) was born 21 January 1914 in Cork, where his father was working. Later the family moved to Ealing, Middlesex.



After her husband's death in 1922, Ileen remarried Ernest Wood in England but returned to live at Lindisfarne, Demesne Road, Holywood with her two sons. The boys were unmarried.

John Frederick studied law at Queen's University, Belfast and qualified as a solicitor. He was also active in the Scouts movement at Holywood.

John joined the Northumberland Hussars, Royal Artillery on 30th November 1940, transferring to The Glider Pilot Regiment on 17th September 1942. He took part in the Normandy Landings as part of Operation Tonga.

John died on 23rd September 1944 during Operation Market Garden. He was the Officer Commanding of 4 Flight, B Squadron, No. 1 Wing. He is buried at Arnhem.

His grave bears the inscription:

Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 1 Thess. IV.14.



SMELLIE, Capt. JOHN FREDERICK, 158421. 1st Wing, Glider Pilot Regt., A.A.C. 23rd September, 1944. Age 30. Son of N. S. H. Smellie, and of Ileen M. Smellie, of Holywood, Co. Down, Northern Ireland. 6. A. 4.



(photo courtesy of Barry Niblock)

Jack is commemorated on plaques in the Royal Courts of Justice, Belfast, Queen's University, Holywood Parish Church and on the McLean family monument in the Priory Graveyard at Holywood as well as the War Memorial in Holywood.



Robert Edward's wife died 24 June 1956 in Belfast City Hospital. She had returned to live with her daughter at 83 Demesne Road, Holywood.

The death of their daughter Mary Elizabeth (Molly) on 30 October 1985 marked the end of an era. She was the last of the McLean line. The memorial in the old Priory Graveyard fittingly began with James McLean born in 1821 and ended with the death in 1985 of his granddaughter Mary Elizabeth, whose name was inscribed on a plaque added to the stone base

The inscription at the top reads:

"I will ransom them from the power of the grave

I will redeem them from death."

Hosea 13:14



ⁱ Belfast Mercury, 11 March 1853

ⁱⁱ Waterford Mail, 10 December 1862

ⁱⁱⁱ Belfast Telegraph, 21 April 1880

^{iv} Belfast Mercury, 31 July 1856

^v Northern Whig, 17 December 1903

^{vi} North Down Herald and County Down Independent, 29 September 1911

^{vii} Belfast News-Letter 08 December 1916

^{viii} Belfast Newsletter, 25 June 1870

^{ix} Northern Whig, 30 July 1878

^x Belfast Newsletter, 08 October 1936

^{xi} Belfast Newsletter 26 September 1895

^{xii} <https://www.newry.ie/newry-100-years-ago/mourne-grange-school-1900-1971>

^{xiii} Winnipeg Tribune, 17 July 1950