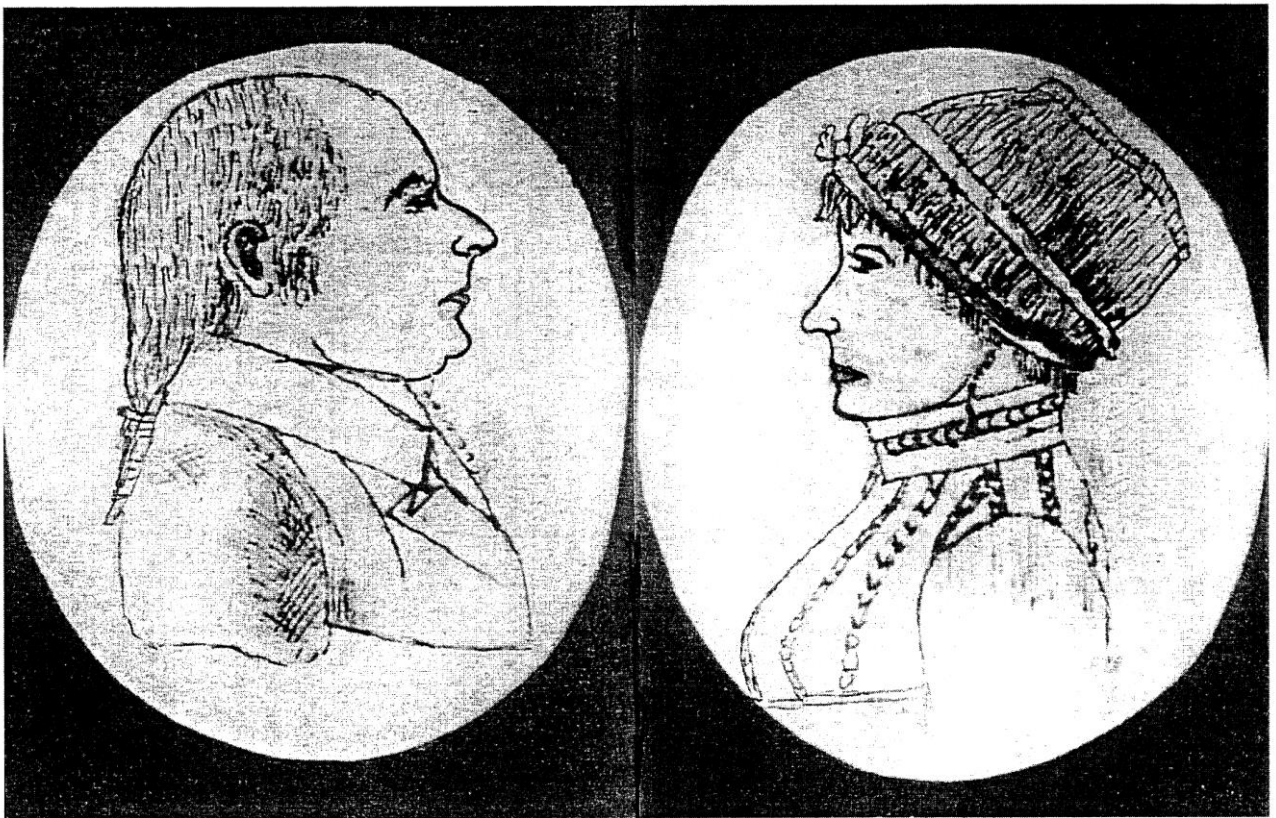


WILLIAM AND ADRIANA MOORE

1759 - 1848



William Moore (c. 1757-1837) en zijn echtgenote Adriana Heyliger (1764-1848)

Miniatures of William Moore and his wife Adriana Heyliger. These drawings are believed to have been the work of Abraham Heyliger (1711-1785), Adriana's grandfather.

Chapter 3.14 William and Adriana Moore

It is clear from Robert Semple's diary (Chapter 3.15) that William Moore, Robert's father-in-law, was born on 15th October 1759 and was living on the outskirts of Oranjestad, the main town of the island of St. Eustatius in the Netherlands Antilles, in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Other sources¹ indicate that William, a planter and merchant, was actually born on the island and died there in 1837.

On 30th September 1779, William married 15-year old Adriana Heyliger, the daughter of Elizabeth Molineux and Johannes Heyliger, (see Chapters 3.09 and 3.10 respectively). This event had lifelong unhappy consequences for the relationship between Adriana and her mother; the alleged reasons for this can be found in the following account taken from an historical article² in a West Indies newspaper, my precis of which is as follows:-

Elizabeth Molineux was born on St. Kitts but the family moved to Montserrat where she grew up, having a deprived childhood due to the financial difficulties of the family. In 1779, thinking money and security for her family were of first importance in any marriage, Elizabeth identified Charles Hagart of Banteskine, a wealthy middle-aged Scottish merchant from St. Thomas as a suitable husband for 15-year old Adriana. Adriana thought otherwise and eloped (to St. Eustatius?) with her true love, a "struggling Irish planter" named William Moore. They married in 1779. The jilted Charles Hagart obviously got over his disappointment because he married the 37-year old widow Elizabeth the following year. Relations between Adriana and her mother were difficult ever after. Although Elizabeth and her second husband returned to St Thomas, the situation appears to have festered for 35 years until Adriana decided to take her final farewells of her mother in 1815, five years in advance of Elizabeth's demise, sending her the following letter:-

"St. Eustatius. 24th July 1815

Dear Mother,

For the last time does your daughter take up the pen to address you. I am urged by no mercenary motive, but by feelings deeply wounded by injustice and unmerited neglect. Has my conduct ever brought a blush in your cheek for an unworthy daughter? Have I ever offended you except in the single instance of preferring the man I loved to one more wealthy? No, with truth I can say that I have never deliberately offended you. Why then have I been treated as I was a disgrace to you? Why then has the only surviving child of the man who sacrificed his fortune and his health for you and yours, been so cruelly forgotten and overlooked?

Mother, I no longer look for anything from you. But I think I have a right to remind you of a few facts which you seem to have forgotten. When my Father married you he was independent and had good expectations from his Parents. That independence, the portion which came to him on the death of his mother, and a great part of what he had a right to on the demise of his father, went to extricate your family in Montserrat out of their difficulties. The consequence was he left his children thousands poorer.

Of all my Father's fortune, you never gave me a penny piece. Even the few chairs, use of which you permitted me, my husband had to pay full value when you were about to quit the island. You disposed of many other fine things, property of my brothers, and I was not one dollar the better for it.

May I not with justice ask if Mr. Thomas Haggart is not more your child than I am; that you have made over all you are worth to him. I wish not for a farthing that he can justly call his. But the property which you possessed when you married his father, that I think I have a just and rightful title to, the more so, as he does not stand in need of it.

What I have written will probably displease you, but I owe it to myself and my children to recall these circumstances to your recollection. If you act justly to me and them, I shall be grateful. If not my poor children will, I trust, have enough to prevent them from becoming a burden upon their generous friends. In any event, they will never ask any favors from my selfish and ungenerous brother (Thos. Haggart).

Farewell Mother, my Children, I am convinced will ever show you the respect that is due to you. For myself, I shall never cease to remember that I have a Mother, though that Mother has forgotten that she has a Daughter. May you enjoy much health and happiness. May that son for whom I have been so unkindly neglected, be as attentive and affectionate as I would have been. This is the fervent wish of your still attached daughter.

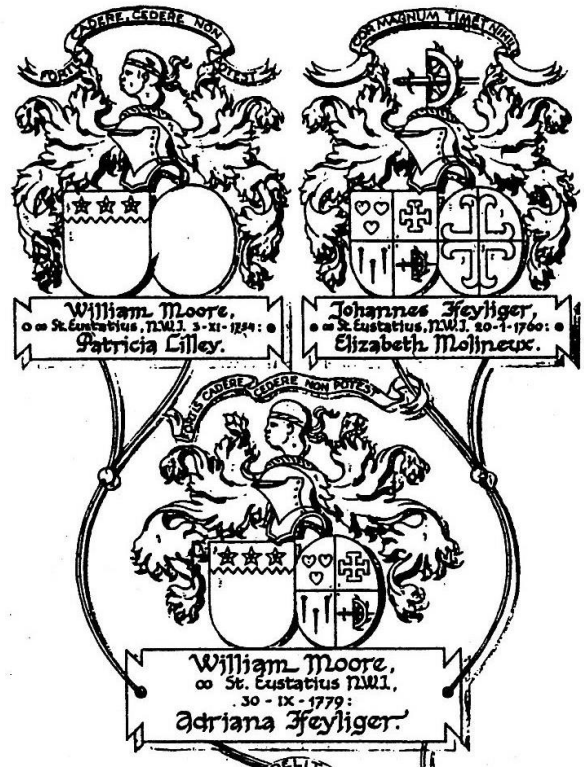
Adriana Moore”

Much of the newspaper article (ref.2) suggests to me that the journalist has deliberately spiced up the story. In truth, Montserrat was full of struggling Irishman, but I have my doubts that William Moore was one of them, particularly since we know he was born on St. Eustatius and anyway he appears to have had Scottish origins. Did he meet Adriana Heyliger on Montserrat and elope to St. Eustatius to marry as soon as Adriana reached 15? The “elopement” is dubious as St. Eustatius was the Heyliger family home, and Adriana’s father had returned there from Montserrat in 1771. I prefer to believe the accounts of Michael Calmeyer and J.N.MacInroy over that of a newspaper journalist, namely that William Moore was born on St. Eustatius, of a father who had been born in Dumfries. However there is no reason to question the text of Adriana’s letter to her mother. Upon Elizabeth Molineux’s eventual demise in 1820, her not inconsiderable estate was shared by Adriana Moore’s half-brother Thomas Campbell Hagart, her Moore grand-daughters Ann Hagart (and husband Robert), Jane McBean, Adriana Semple and Margret Ann Moore. Her daughter Adriana Moore and her grandsons were all disinherited. However a great-grand-daughter, Elizabeth MacInroy, received a legacy, suggesting that 78-year old Elizabeth Molineux (who was unable to remember the first name of grand-daughter Jane) was somewhat confused.

The Heyliger family website³ gives the impression that William Moore was entitled to claim descent from the earls of Drogheda on account of being in possession of a “charter” to this effect. The reality is more prosaic. At their wedding the couple were presented with a certificate which showed the coats of arms of the Moore and Heyliger families. The Moore family arms depicted were (allegedly) those of the earls of Drogheda. This information derives from the work of Michael Calmeyer⁴ who used the Dutch word “*oorkonde*” to describe the document presented to William and Adriana on their wedding day. This means something elaborate, ornate or decorated and not quite the same meaning as ‘certificate’; it appears in Google’s Dutch dictionary as “charter”. The newspaper article (ref.2) describes William Moore as a “*heritage obsessed*” Irishman, who, with the help of Mr. J. Hall, a St. Eustatius schoolmaster, created the Heyliger coat of arms themselves.

The Moore coat of arms was created from whatever William could remember of the arms of the earls of Drogheda; it resembles the arms of the Scottish Moore family rather more than those of the Irish or English Moore families.

I question the validity of William Moore's claim to be a descendant of the earls of Drogheda. Why would he have needed to draw the Moore arms from memory; his father was still alive in 1779, surely he would have known what the family coat of arms looked like? In 1779 William was 20 years old and as far as we know had spent those 20 years on St. Eustatius, so where would William's memories of the Moore arms have come from? Other than tracing the Semple family's folklore about the earls of Drogheda back to William Moore's wedding day in 1779, nothing has yet been proved. Nothing has been disproved yet either, although I confess to being considerably more sceptical now than I was before some of this information came to light.



That William Moore was a sugar plantation owner, however, is beyond doubt; and there must have been some connection with the Semples whose home was in Berbice on the South American mainland some 600 miles away. In January 1791 William purchased the 'de Goudsteen' ('The Golden Rock') sugar plantation with its estate house, sugar boiling plant, orchards and workforce. The purchase price⁵ was P.39,400, a large sum of money which came from Adriana's inheritance from her grandfather, Abraham Heyliger (1711-1785), who at the time of his death had been Governor of the Dutch islands of St. Eustatius, St. Maarten and Saba. In the summer of 1791 William had the estate valued; it comprised at that time 110 acres of which 67 acres were planted with sugar cane, 27 acres were lying fallow ready for the next season's planting and the remaining 14 acres were given over to fruit trees and kitchen garden, the whole being valued at P.46,093 & 6 reals. In addition there were 53 slaves, both male and female, valued in total at P.8,610 and animals valued at P.1,534, making the total value of the whole estate P.56,237 & 6 reals, set against which was a mortgage of P.22,540 & 6 reals granted in 1790 in favour of the inheritors of Abraham Heyliger. References to Golden Rock in Robert Semple's diary refer to the plantation and its house, however the name was also applied to the island as a whole in the 18th century because of the ability of the inhabitants to acquire riches by sugar production, arms smuggling and generally exploiting the position of the Netherlands in the wars between Britain, America and France (see Chapter 3.12). In 1781 the House of Commons in London heard Edmund Burke M.P. describe St. Eustatius as having "*prodigious wealth*"; it was indeed the Dubai or the Hong Kong of the second half of the eighteenth century.



The Lower Town, Oranjestad, in 1832. St. Eustatius recovered from its sacking by Admiral Rodney in 1781, and prospered until the collapse of the Dutch Republic in the mid 1790s. By 1832, with the Atlantic slave trade outlawed and the abolition of slavery in sight, the island was in decline. This view shows some of the 600 or so warehouses, some in ruins, where the islanders' property was impounded before being auctioned off by Rodney.

When French forces invaded the Netherlands in 1794, the Dutch Republic collapsed (see Chapter 3.13), and in April 1795 representatives of the French Revolutionary Government arrived in Oranjestad demanding that the islanders appoint representatives to consult with them on the island's changed situation as part of the Batavian Republic. William Moore was elected by the islanders to be on the 12-man committee. This was a disastrous situation for the islanders. The pro-French Estates General had won the argument with the pro-British Prince of Orange and agreements with the *ancien regime* had been signed in 1783. Now Louis XVI had gone to the guillotine and the new Batavian Republic was an ally of Britain's enemy - revolutionary France. Trade was bad because the arms smuggling business collapsed once the newly-independent USA was free to buy armaments on the open market, the slave trade had already been abolished in the Danish West Indies, the new French Republic was set to do the same, and there was an ongoing slave revolt in the French island of St. Domingue (Haiti). The islanders would have been most concerned for their livelihoods at the arrival of a French Government delegation and the appointment of a French Governor. William Moore must have been extremely anxious indeed, as his estate had been valued in excess of P.56,000 some four years earlier; he employed 53 slaves on the *De Goudsteen* estate alone, without whose labour the estate would quickly fall into rack and ruin and become almost worthless. However, the island was taken back by the British in April 1801 and the islanders then only had to worry about whether, and when, Britain would (1) abolish the slave trade, (2) abolish slavery, or (3) emancipate the slaves. Under the new British rule, William Moore became a member of the island's Council of Criminal and Civil Justice in May 1801. After Napoleon was defeated at the battle of Waterloo in 1815, peace returned to the West Indies, and St. Eustatius was returned permanently to the Netherlands in 1816.

William and Adriana Moore had thirteen children between 1781 and 1802, although five had already died when Robert Semple copied the records below from the Moore's family Bible during his visit to Golden Rock in April 1830 :-

- 1781 *James Moore born 21 January - died 9 February 1811*
- 1782 *Elizabeth Moore born 2 May*
- 1783 *Ann Patricia Moore born 30 September*
- 1784 *William C. Moore born 25 September - died 23 March 1815*
- 1785 *John Moore born 17 November - died 1797*
- 1787 *Adriana Moore born 25 January*
- 1789 *Jane Moore born 25 February*
- 1790 *Abraham Moore born 18 december - died 23 Nov. 1797*
- 1792 *Peter Moore born 18 October*
- 1795 *Mary Alitia Moore born 2 January - died 12 May 1808*
- 1797 *Margret Ann Moore born 12 January*
- 1799 *Raapzaat Heyliger Moore born 20 September*
- 1802 *Thomas Campbell Hagart Moore born 5 June*

The names of the last two children, Raapzaat Heyliger Moore and Thomas Campbell Hagart Moore, can be traced to ancestors or to other families on the island. Lucas Raapzaat and Charles Hagart can be found in the lists of the burghers of St. Eustatius earlier in the eighteenth century. Lucas Raapzaat was Raapzaat Moore's great-grandfather. Elizabeth Molineux's granddaughter Ann Patricia Moore married Charles Hagart's cousin Robert Hagart, so William and Adriana Moore's youngest child, Thomas (b.1802), is clearly named after his mother's half-brother Thomas Campbell Hagart. This is somewhat surprising considering Adriana's documented antipathy towards her "selfish and ungenerous" half-brother. No Moores appear in any of the Dutch records for the period 1688 to 1728 but appear for the first time in British records compiled by Admiral Rodney in 1781. The gap in the records between 1728 and 1781 is currently unexplained so it has not proved possible to determine when any member of the Moore family first settled on the island, although it is clear that they must have been well established there by 1759 when William Moore was born. Full details of the children of Adriana Moore (Mrs. Robert Semple) are to be found in Chapter 3.15, but in view of the extensive inter-marriage, and business connections, between the Moore family and the Semples, MacInroys and McBeans, I have recorded below any information that I have come across regarding descendants of any of Adriana Semple's eight siblings (i.e. cousins of the Semples) known to have been still alive at the time of Robert and Adriana's visit to St. Eustatius in 1830 :-

Raapzaat Moore (1799-1890). Plantation owner on St. Eustatius. Married 1829 to Feliciana Antonia Martins de Clarencieux (1805-1870), their children were:-

Patricia Moore (1837-)⁶

Adriana Wilhelmina Moore (1830-1927) married 1852 to Michael de Veer, district commissioner in Surinam⁷. Their daughter Jane Ann de Veer (1871-1966) married 1893 Johan Hendrik Calmeyer (1854 – 1924), a master mariner. Their son, Michael Rudolph Hendrik Calmeyer, (b. 1895) was a Lieut.-General in the Dutch Army and a prominent Dutch politician.

Peter Moore (1792-1830). Married 1815 Marie Francoise Adelaide Serane (1798-1885), known by the name Adele, an eloped nun from Guadeloupe, daughter of the Sieur Joseph Serane (de Fleault?) and grand-daughter of Marquis Serane (de Fleault, a French Admiral?), and his wife Madame Seranette (de Fleault). Peter allegedly died in 1830 while on an exploring trip in the S. American jungle, which may explain the cryptic entry in Robert Semple's diary on 27th April 1830 "...had a good deal of confab with Raapzaat about Peter and Thomas..." (see Chapter 3.15). Of their nine children :-

Harriet Adriana Moore, married 1839 to Ewen Philip Cameron, a doctor in Berbice. Died Talisker, Isle of Skye, 1862.

Eliza Moore, married 1844 to Charles Sherlock and moved to Liverpool.

William Henry Moore, died unmarried.

Margaret Anne Moore, married 1844 to Donald Charles Cameron, brother of Ewen Cameron and emigrated to Australia in 1853, settling in Toowoomba, Queensland where some of her descendants live to this day⁸. Margaret was partly brought up in Scotland by her aunt, the widowed Elizabeth MacInroy, an uncanny parallel with the circumstances of Eliza Semple who was brought up in Berbice after 1830 by her aunt Jane McBean.

Jane Moore, died in infancy.

Maria Patricia Moore. Married 1846 to Robert Bridges and moved to England, subsequently emigrating to Australia in the late 1880s to join her sister Margaret Anne in Toowoomba.

Philip Moore, died unmarried.

Seranette Moore, married name Adams.

A son who died in infancy.

The widowed Adele moved to Liverpool to live with her widowed daughter Eliza Sherlock and her family and later, after Eliza's death, she moved to London with her Sherlock grandchildren to live with her daughter Maria Bridges and family and her neice Adriana Hagart in St. Pancras. She died in Islington in 1885. Photographs or portraits of the following people can be found in books by Daniel Hart⁹ and Margaret Reeves¹⁰ :-

- Marquis Serane de Fleault
- Madame Seranette de Fleault
- Joseph Serane de Fleault
- Marie Francoise Adelaide Serane (Mrs. Peter Moore)
- Maria Patricia Moore
- Donald Charles Cameron
- Margaret Anne Moore (Mrs. Donald Cameron)
- Elizabeth Moore (Mrs. James MacInroy)

Elizabeth Moore (1782-1870). Married, aged 15, to James MacInroy of Lude (1759-1825) on Christmas Day 1797 in Glasgow. James MacInroy and Robert Semple were partners in MacInroy Semple & Co. of New Amsterdam, Murray, Parker & Co. of Glasgow and other companies described in more detail in Chapter 3.19. James and Elizabeth returned to Scotland, where James was known in Blair Atholl as "the pirate" on account of his (alleged) activities as a privateer in the West Indies¹¹. The American War of Independence (1775-83) and the Fourth Anglo-Dutch War (1780-84) referred to in Chapter 3.12 would have given James MacInroy ample opportunity to engage, quite legally, in plundering of American, Dutch, French and Spanish merchant ships in the Caribbean. James MacInroy was chief of MacInroy of Lude, a sept of the Clan Donnachaidh, and became one of the principal landowners in Perthshire after he purchased a large estate in Blair Atholl

to add to the family's existing landholdings in the area. Although sold in 1939, the whole, some 16,000 acres, including Lude House, and is adjacent to the Duke of Atholl's Blair Castle estate. Both James (d.1825) and Elizabeth (d. Edinburgh 1870) were buried in the MacInroy family plot in the churchyard of the Episcopal Church of St. Adamnan, Kilmavoenig, on the Lude estate overlooking the village of Bridge of Tilt. Buried with them in their vault are their first daughter Elizabeth and their youngest son Charles Hagart MacInroy.

James and Elizabeth's children were:-

James Patrick MacInroy (1799-1878), who succeeded to (purchased?) the Lude estate and succeeded his father as Baron MacInroy of Lude.

Elizabeth MacInroy I, born 10 Jan.1801, died Glasgow 4 Jan.1808

Adriana MacInroy, born 26 Jan.1803, married in 1826 to Lieutenant General Sir John Macdonald of Dalchosnie, a veteran of the Battle of Waterloo. They purchased the Dunalastair estate, the historic home of the chiefs of the Clan Donnachaidh, and built a large mansion, now ruined, which can still be seen on the estate off the B846 between Tummel Bridge and Kinloch Rannoch. The gardener's cottage is now a bed and breakfast establishment (www.thegardensdunalastair.co.uk).

Lady MacDonald died, a widow, at Barnfield, near Southampton on 7 Nov.1872. In her will she appointed as her sole executor Lachlan McBean, a Glasgow Merchant who I assume to be her cousin, i.e. the son of her aunt Jane (Moore) and uncle, Duncan McBean. The will can be found in the Scottish Registrar General's records under ref. SC49/31/96 and is a long affair (29 pp). While it gives an idea of the affluent lifestyle of Sir John and Lady MacDonald at Dunalastair, with references to footmen, grooms, factors on the estate etc., there is an obvious mystery surrounding the fate of the Dunalastair estate itself. Adriana appears to have been in dispute with her son, John Alan MacDonald, over entitlement to the estate (valued at £5000), the estate had been sequestrated and her lawyers had lodged a claim under a pre-nuptial contract between Sir John and Adriana on their marriage in 1826. With £5000 in dispute, and the will potentially subject to revision, the valuation of the remainder of Adriana's estate was £3120.60.



Overgrown ruins of the estate house, Dunalastair, August 2013

William MacInroy, born 28 Aug. 1804, died

Elizabeth MacInroy II, born 20 May 1808 – the “great-grandchild” referred to in the Will of Elizabeth Molineux (see Chapter 3.11, Appendix ‘A’).

Charles Hagart MacInroy. Born 21st June 1810, died Glasgow 13th March 1819.

Note. The MacInroy family line is now extinct; descendants of William and Adriana Moore with the surname Hessling are a Dutch branch of the MacInroy family living in the Netherlands, being descendants of Olga MacInroy and Hendrikus Hessling. Their son, Jan Nicolaas MacInroy Hessling, claimed and was awarded the title of Baron MacInroy of Lude. He heads the sept in the Clan Donnachaidh and although known locally as Nicky Hessling, he writes under the name of J. N. MacInroy of Lude.

Ann Patricia Moore¹² (1783 - 1858). Married (1799) Robert Hagart of Tourhouskie, cousin of Charles Hagart of Banteskine, the second husband of her maternal grandmother Elizabeth Molineux, i.e. she married the cousin of her mother’s stepfather. Anne died in 1858 at Mayfield House, Moffat, Dumfriesshire. Robert and Ann had at least 12 children, the first five born in Govan:-

William (1800-1874) is the William referred to in the Will of his great-grandmother Elizabeth Molineux.

Robert (1802-1894)

Elizabeth (1803-1832) is the “Betsy” referred to in the Will of her great-grandmother Elizabeth Molineux.

Adriana (1805-1902) moved to London to live with her cousin Adele Moore and Adele’s daughter Maria Bridges.

Charles (1811-1878)

Henry(1813-1888). Born in Glasgow.

Thomas Campbell (1814-1899). Born in Lanark.

Maria Patricia (1817-1893). Born in Glasgow.

Peter (1818-1886) Born in Glasgow.

Ann Elizabeth (1819-1895).

Archibald (1821-1906). Born in Lanark.

Charlotte (1829-). Born in Edinburgh.

Jane Moore (1789 -). Married (date ?) Duncan McBean, the son of William McBean of MacInroy, Sandbach, MacBean & Co. (see Chapter 3.19)

Margret Ann Moore (1797 -). Not to be confused with her niece Margaret Anne Moore, the daughter of Peter Moore. No information.

Thomas Campbell Hagart Moore (1802 -). No information.

References.

- ¹ Een Hooglandse familie met West-Indische connecties. J. N. MacInroy of Lude. Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie, The Hague, Netherlands. Jaarboek 1973, pp. 58-77.
- ² I. Paiewonsky. "History Column". Virgin Islands Daily News, July 21, 1975. pp 6 & 19.
- ³ Heyliger family website: www.heyligerfamily.org
- ⁴ Het geslacht Heyliger: planters, reders en regenten op de Bovenwindische Antillen. M.R.H. Calmeyer 1973
Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie, The Hague, Netherlands, JaarDeel 27:97-18 p.167.
- ⁵ The P symbol refers to the Spanish dollar, also called a peso, at the time the main currency in use in the Americas. The original Calmeyer document uses the term "*P. v. 8*" (pieces of eight), which is the same thing – a silver coin worth eight reals.
- ⁶ Nederland's adelsboek 1903 p.256
- ⁷ Nederland's patriciaat 1910 pp.285, 289
- ⁸ The Camerons' website is -----.au.
- ⁹ Daniel Hart. Fido and Friends. Brisbane 2005. ISBN 0646445006
- ¹⁰ Margaret Reeves. Strange Bird on the Lagoon. Boolarong Publications, Brisbane 1985. ISBN 0908175057.
- ¹¹ James Mackay. Clans and Tartans. Thunder Bay Press, San Diego, Calif.
- ¹² Private communication from Margaret Mitchell (nee Hagart), Perth, W. Australia.