

NAME: McLEAN, William James **PARISH: Uig (B.235/g/1)** **ENTERED SERVICE: 1 June 1859**
[“Big Bear” or “Straight Tongue”] **PLACE OF BIRTH: Isle of Lewis, Rothshire**

DATES: b. 27 Oct. 1841
d. 12 Nov. 1929

Appointments & Service

Outfit Year*:	Position:	Post:	District:	HBCA Reference:
<i>*An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May</i>				
1859	Sailed for York Factory on the <i>Prince of Wales</i>			<i>The Beaver</i> , Dec. 1929 p. 315
1859-1861	Apprentice Clerk	York Factory	York	<i>The Beaver</i> , Dec. 1921 p. 6
1861-1863	Apprentice Clerk	Lower Fort Garry	Red River	B.239/k/3 pp. 228, 250
1863-1864	Apprentice Clerk	Fort Norman	McKenzie River	B.239/k/3 p. 264
1864-1873	Clerk-in-charge	Fort aux Liards	McKenzie River	B.239/k/3 pp. 286, 308, 329, 351, 375, 405, 431; B.239/g/48, 49
1873-1877	Clerk-in-charge	Fort Qu’Appelle	Swan River	B.235/g/1; B.235/k/1 fos. 5d, 16, 25d
1877-1880	Junior Chief Trader	Fort Qu’Appelle	Swan River	B.235/k/1 fos. 36, 44d, 60
1880-1882	Chief Trader	Fort Qu’Appelle	Swan River	B.235/k/1 fos. 73, 85
1882-1883	Chief Trader	Fort Ellice	Swan River	B.235/k/1 fos. 95
1883-1884	Chief Trader	Ile-a-la-Crosse	English River	B.235/k/1 fo. 102
1884-1885	Chief Trader	Fort Pitt	Saskatchewan	D.38/1 fo. 46
<i>*1885 Taken prisoner by Big Bear into the wilderness of Northern Saskatchewan during the North West Rebellion and held captive for 63 days (E.218: “Reminiscences of the Tragic Events at Frog Lake and in Fort Pitt...” by W.J. McLean and E.9/28 fos. 448-456: a deposition concerning events at Fort Pitt, 1885; “The Adventures of Kitty: Extracts from Journals of Katharine McLean published in the Nor’Wester, Centennial Edition, Vol. 100 No. 1 15 July 1970)</i>				
1885-1886	Chief Trader	Fort Alexander	Lake Winnipeg	<i>The Beaver</i> , Dec. 1921 p. 7
1886-1892	Chief Trader in charge of District	Lower Fort Garry	Lake Winnipeg	B.303/c/1; B.303/b/4-7
1892, 1 June	Retired			D.21/10 fo. 87; A.31/8 fo. 11
1921	He was living in Winnipeg, active with the Department of Indian Affairs “the epitome of the old school of Hudson’s Bay officer...straight as a ramrod, faultlessly groomed and with a stride and smile of a youth.”			<i>The Beaver</i> , Dec. 1921 p. 7
1929, 12 November	Died in Winnipeg			<i>The Beaver</i> , Dec. 1929 p. 315

W.J. McLean, “Notes and observations of travels in the Athabasca and Slave Lake regions in 1899”, *Historical & Scientific Society of Manitoba Transactions* No. 58, 1901 (7 pp.)

Parents: Ann McRae and Angus McLean of Gisla, Lewis (Search File, Genealogical Table)

Wife: Helen Hunter Murray, daughter of Alexander Hunter Murray (Obit. for Helen Murray McLean, *Winnipeg Free Press*, 23 Jan. 1979)

Children: Amelia (b. ca. 1867); Eliza; Katharine “Kitty” (b. ca. 1871); John; William; John; Duncan (b. 19 Feb. 1877 at Fort Qu’Appelle); Helen “Sappomin”; Freda; Lillian; Hunter Murray (b. at Lower Fort Garry after 1886, d. 20 January 1979) Search File, Obit. *Winnipeg Free Press*, 23 January 1979; Larry. [11 children in 1889 (B.303/e/2)]

Search File “McLean, W.J.”

