



## MCNAUGHTONS IN JAMAICA

**By James Macnaughton**

As I mentioned in my book [\*A History of the Clan Macnachtan\*](#) (Amazon 2013), Scotland's greatest export has been considerable numbers of its own people. In the book, I cover emigration to Britain's former colonies such as America, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. However, there is another beautiful and fascinating island in the Caribbean which plays an important part in the Clan diaspora: Jamaica. It is a small island at 4,240 square miles, only 1/7<sup>th</sup> the size of Scotland, but with 3 million inhabitants. This makes it much more heavily populated than Scotland (5.2 million in 30,420 square miles). Of these 91% are of African descent, a result of large numbers of slaves who worked in the sugar plantations in the 17-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Many of these slaves took on the surnames of the plantation overseers/owners for whom they worked, or with whom the women slaves had children, and this is where one of the connections with Clan Macnachtan started.

The Scots arrived on the island in three main waves. Firstly, in 1655, they arrived as prisoners of war following Cromwell's campaigns against Scottish Covenanters. They were sold as indentured servants to the English landowners who had assumed power in Jamaica in 1663. Some of these Scots helped to survey the island and to divide it into slave plantations in 1707. Also in 1707, Col. John Campbell, originally from Glenlyon in Perthshire, brought some of the survivors of the Darien Expedition to St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, and set up an important settlement there. This followed the disastrous failure of the settlement in Darien on the Panama isthmus, which bankrupted Scotland. Secondly, in 1716, following the failure of the first Jacobite rebellion, after the defeat at the battle of Preston, 700 Scottish prisoners were sold as slaves to West Indian merchants. They were sent from Liverpool on the *Two Brothers*, and a Duncan McNaughton was one of them. The third wave was sent over in 1745-46 after the defeat of the Jacobites under Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden. Some of these Scots eventually became plantation overseers/owners, and with the consolidation into much larger land holdings prospered during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries with the massive cultivation of sugar cane.



In 1748 the Aberdeen Journal reported that John McNaughton had been convicted of theft and banished to Jamaica. He sailed on the *Amity of Glasgow* from Port Glasgow in November 1748.

**Workers on sugar cane plantation.**

By 1755, 30% of the island's land holdings were held by absentee English landlords, who left the

running of their estates to their Scottish/Irish overseers. By this time, Scots formed 1/3 of Jamaica's white population. After the abolition of slavery in 1833, more Scots were encouraged to come to Jamaica to increase the white population. Some of those had been forced out of their homes in the infamous Clearances of that period.

My interest in researching the McNaughtons of Jamaica was stimulated by a relative – Rev. Malcolm Macnaughton – who was recently on the island doing church work for the Church of England. He noticed the name McNaughton cropping up quite frequently. He was led to believe that some of these McNaughtons were the descendants of plantation overseers from Glenlyon in Perthshire, Scotland, whose slaves carried the surname.

Browsing through websites about Jamaica and its people has provided much information on the McNaughtons. The earliest date refers to a slave called William McNaughton. He belonged to a Mr. John McIntosh of St James, who died in 1799. In 1803 the Supreme Court referred to the extant Will of Thomas McNaughton of St. Thomas, in the east of the island. In 1811, the widow of M. I. Kingston, one Catherine McNaughton, died and was buried in the Kingston Parish Churchyard.

In 1822, under a manumission dating 1821-25, James McNaughton and Helen McNaughton were detailed. In 1831, the Jamaica Almanac mentions Frances G. McNaughton, Glenlyon 11/15 Slavers/Stock in the County of Cornwall, Parish of St. James. In 1832, the Jamaica Almanac lists under the return of Givings for March Quarter 1831, Mary E. McNaughton, Guardian of Harty (6) and Executrix of C. Morrison (6).

Under Registers and Wills, it records in the Parish of St. Catherine – Caleb Campbell to manage for Eliza McNaughton and Clarence Christie – natural children. In 1835, the Montego Bay Circuit mentions John McNaughton and Eliza Reid residing at Flint River (4/5/1835). In the 1851 British census listing people born in the West Indies, Nancy McNaughton (31) from Moulin in Perthshire, Scotland, was born in Jamaica.

In the modern era, Dr Maurice McNaughton is Principal of the Mona School of Business and Management, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston 7, Jamaica, West Indies. He and a colleague, Dr Haniph A. Catchman, set up the first commercial Internet Service Provider in Jamaica, now known worldwide as JOL-Jamaica Online. From its inception, Jamaica Online has always encouraged educational use of the internet to help the youth of Jamaica. They developed into a hardware and software company, as well as consulting services, and have aimed to minimize overheads. This has maintained low cost services to help ordinary Jamaicans and small businesses. JOL was the first ISP to advocate

the use of the "jm" suffix rather than US-like domains. JOL was also the first Caribbean ISP to offer dial-up services to the internet in the US and in Canada, thus reaching out to Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica beyond the shores of the island. JOL now offers email, a Webchat Room and a number of mailing lists such as Jamaica Today. More information about Dr McNaughton can be found on <http://www.jol.com.jm/about.html>.

**Jamar Rolando McNaughton Jr, Reggae Artist known professionally as "Chronixx".**



Another interesting member of our Clan is Jamar Rolando McNaughton Jr, a Jamaican reggae artist known as Chronixx. His lyrical content revolves around anti-war themes, romantic declarations, and resilience. From 2012, when he performed at the Reggae Sumfest in Kingston, he went on in 2013 to have hits with "Smile Jamaica" and "Here Comes Trouble". He toured the UK, the United States and Kenya, where he has a large fan base. In 2014, he did a concert in Central Park, New York, attended by over 5,000 spectators. He also appeared on the *Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* on NBC. In October 2014, he won awards for Best Song ("Smile Jamaica") and Best Music Video ("Here Comes Trouble") at the 33<sup>rd</sup>. International Reggae and World Music Awards. He produces his own CDs with ZincFence Recordz. In January 2015, Chronixx appeared on "Belly of the Beast", a song which featured on American rapper Joey Badass' debut album B.4Da\$\$.

Matthew McNaughton is a young Jamaican making waves as Executive Director of the Slash Roots Foundation, an innovative initiative which seeks to make Caribbean governments more open, participatory, and agile. The fellowship imbeds teams of technologists within government agencies to drive these principles in designing and delivering public services. Matthew was also an Open Innovation and Development Consultant at the World Bank.

Showing how diverse members of our Clan are in the creative arts, Everton McNaughton, also known as El Morton, is a Shoe Designer in Port Antonio, Jamaica.

On the female side of the Clan, Lianne McNaughton is a young Jamaican who played for the Jamaican Netball Team in the 13-18 age group, and is now a software developer and agility health SCRUM master, with a track and field scholarship to UNO.

We have a richly varied selection of members of our Clan who are citizens of Jamaica. They may well discover that they have fascinating family pedigrees leading back to the Highlands of Scotland, once they start researching into them.

#### SOURCES:

1. Magazine – "Who do you think you are?"-Summer 2015, Article on Jamaica.
2. [www.jol.com.jm/about.html](http://www.jol.com.jm/about.html) - About Jamaica Online. Dr Maurice McNaughton
3. <http://old.jamaica-gleaner.com/pages/history/story0063.html>
4. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chronixx> - Jamar Rolando McNaughton Jr., Reggae Musician.
- 5 <http://jm.linkedin.com/pub/matthew-mcnaughton/1a/813/693>