

## David Macklefish, “Lord Mayor of London”

Sometime around 1690, a merchant named David Macklefish arrived in newly established London Town. Macklefish, a Scotsman, was clearly a prominent individual in the early history of the town, owning more lots than any other resident during this period, and lending his name to the principal east-west street along the peninsula.

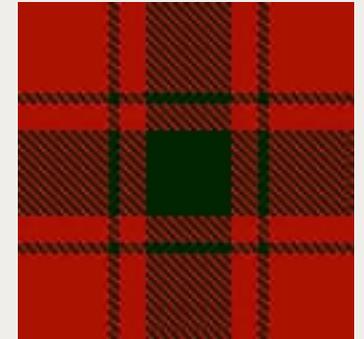
In a commercial transaction, dated 1709, David Macklefish referred to himself as the “Lord Mayor of London.” Although some historians have maintained that the title was unofficial, simply recognizing Macklefish’s leadership in the community, the existence of Mayor’s Court at London Town suggests instead that the position was real.

London Town Lot 74, which bounded on Fish and Macklefish streets, appears to have been owned by David Macklefish, who lived on nearby Lot 49 until his death in 1711. Subsequently, his daughter Jane Macklefish Burgess and her husband John Burgess sold the property to Stephen West in 1723.



The 20 by 20-foot “earthfast” or post-in-ground tenement structure discovered on Lot 74 was apparently built to satisfy the conditions of taking up lots in London, which specified a 20-foot building be erected in order to maintain ownership. Presumably it was either rented, or was occupied by indentured servants or slaves.

Many of the McElfreshes in the United States can trace their ancestry to David Macklefish, “Lord Mayor of London.” Not surprisingly, there are several variants of the McElfresh name, including: Macklefish, Maclefish, McElfish, McLefresh, McKelfresh, and McLish. The McElfreshes have been adopted, so to speak, by the Clan Donald and thus may claim the MacDonald of Sleat tartan and crest.



MacDonald of Sleat Tartan

### Origin: The McElfresh Name

MACLEFRISH, MACLEFRISK, A hebridean surname. Probably from M’Gille Brish, “son of the servant of (S.) Bricius.” Bricius was a Gaulish saint of the fifth century, and his name was a favorite personal name from 1100 to 1300. There was a culdee of this name, and a later Bricius (Brice) was bishop of Moray (1203-1222). Donald MacIleresch in Ulleray, North Uist, is recorded in 1718, and probably M’Illfrice of the Edinburgh Marriage records (1669) is the same name. Janet M’Lefrish in the parish of Shotts and Isabel M’Ilfreish in Torphichen are recorded in 1710. (From *Surnames of Scotland, Their Origin, Meaning, and History*, by George F. Black, Ph.D., The New York Library, 1962).

This distinguished family line has lent generous support toward the production of this 2005 calendar. For more information on McElfresh genealogy please refer to the family web site address, [www.mcelfresh.ws](http://www.mcelfresh.ws).