



A curious name which is strictly speaking not one of the commonest names in Mull, but so much is it tied to a particular area in the Ross of Mull that if this little book travels anywhere, and finds a Rose, it should cause much happiness. Of course there are real Roses, from Kilravock, in the north east of Scotland who may have been the ancestors of our Mull Roses, but it is rather nice to think of a Ross branch of Roses! The patriarchal figure seems to have been Alexander Ross, tenant in **Saorphin** in the duke of Argyll's census of 1779. Alexander was 70, and his only son David only 16. Alexander's wife is not named, but she had four maids, which is quite a lot for a family of three. You might think that **Ardchiavaig** is quite far from Saorphin, but in those days a track linked Shiaba and Scoor and Saorphin to Ardchiavaig. In Ardchiavaig, in the same census, dwelt Donald Ross, tenant, 53, with sons William, 13, Archibald, 11, and Donald, 8. There was a wife, and two daughters, and a servant man, John McLucass. This too seems a prosperous family. These were all the Roses in Mull. How they came there I do not know. But in 1785, another Rose, Eugene, was born at Killiechronan, or perhaps it was 1780 (the date is derived from Eugene's death in 1855). Eugene seems a delightfully decadent and stylish name for Mull. In Gaelic it was Uisdean. In 1817 we find him in **Suidhe**, near Bunessan, marrying a girl from Tiree called Flora Sinclair, who of



course, on her marriage, would be Flora Rose. By 1831 Eugene and Flora had Catherine, Donald, Mary, Ann, Alexander, and twins Neil and Annabella. William Rose who was 13 in 1779, later had a natural son Alexander Rose, who married Marion Black, and had children in **Iona**. Eugene's father, David Rose and his wife Catherine Macdonald lived in Suidhe having at least four other children, John, James, Annabella and Mary. James Rose, (1797-1874) married Marion Maclean in Ardfenaig in 1836, when he was an agricultural labourer and she took in washing, but somewhere about 1845 he became the beadle, and from then on was called by this name alone - Seumas Am Maor. It is difficult to establish the cousinly relationships of the Roses, but they all used the same Christian names. A second Eugene, born in 1804, lived in **Ardtun**, and was a boat carpenter. He was a Gaelic poet, and wrote a *Lament for the Factor Mor* (the duke of Argylls hated agent at Ardfenaig) which was in fact deadly satire. He remained unmarried, living in Bunessan with his mother, Mary Rose. Hugh Rose, a shoemaker in Tiree in 1851 was a Mull man. Isabella Rose (c.1787-1831) married Donald Macphail, a miller in Bunessan. She was the mother of Lachlan Macphail, (1827-1882) a merchant in Bunessan who married Mary Macphail in Glenbyre in 1867, daughter of John Macphail and Isabella Stewart. Ann Rose (1833-1921) was born in Iona, daughter of Alexander Rose, tailor there, and married Dugald Stewart. They are both buried at Lovat, Bruce County, Ontario.