

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Victoria)

Newsletter of March 1984

MACMILLAN

CREST BADGE : *A dexter and a sinister hand brandishing a two-handed sword, proper.*
MOTTO : *Miseris succurrere disco (I learn to succour the distressed).*
GAELIC NAME : *MacGhille-Mhaolain.*

Office Bearers:

President - Donald Macmillan c/- Scotch College, Hawthorn. 3122, 818 2859
Secretary - Steven McMillan 126 Morack Rd, Vermont Sth, 3133, 221 5223
Treasurer - John T. Macmillan 7 Annesley Crt, Mt Waverley, 3149, 277 6158
Archivist - John Ronald Macmillan 2 Trafalgar Rd, Camberwell. 3124, 82 5365

Committee Members:

Mac Francome 21 Talbot Cres., Kooyong, 3144, 20 2847
Patricia Sinclair 22 Haldane St, Beaumaris, 3193, 58 9455
Ann Asche 113 Centre Rd, East Brighton, 3186, 592 3045
Geva Macmillan c/- Scotch College, Hawthorn, 3122, 818 2859



FROM THE PRESIDENT

May I take this opportunity to send greetings and good wishes to all who have connections with, or interest in the Clan MacMillan and Scotland.

After a magnificent first gathering of the Clan on the banks of the Yarra in October 1982, we have settled down to some "steady consolidation". This is a euphemism for saying — "we haven't really made much progress — but we haven't actually gone backwards".

Our financial membership stands at 22 family and 19 individual members. While this is quite good, I feel it a little disappointing that we haven't been able to build on the wonderful feeling of goodwill and kinship that were so clearly evident at both the October river bank barbecues of 1982 and 1983.

Your committee has worked hard to promote the Clan MacMillan Society, but during 1983 we had very disappointing turnouts at the three functions we put on. The Annual General Meeting was very poorly attended; the meeting on March 17th was very poorly attended; the meeting on January 1st, at which Mr John Barth of the Genealogical Society gave a most interesting talk on ways of tracing and finding information on ancestors was also poorly attended and the numbers at the barbecue were only half those of the previous year.

We do not wish, or expect our clan society to become a high pressure organisation which adds further burdens to the shoulders of people who are already very busy. We want to keep our organisation 'low key' -but not so low that it never surfaces!.

Could it be that we have inherited the characteristics which historians tell us plagued our forbears?. It is written in various books on the Clans of Scotland that the MacMillan Clan was small, scattered, lacking cohesion and of little influence!.

I hope that we 20th century MACMILLANS can show that these comments no longer apply.

May I therefore make four requests.? I ask:

1. That as many as possible attend the Annual General meeting on March 27th at 8.00 p.m. (Tuesday)
2. That at the meeting, you tell us what you want from the society; what aspect of history; what activities you would like to see organised; the direction in which you would like to see the clan society move.
3. That we all make an effort to increase the membership of the society.(An application form is attached to an Ancestry Registration Form enclosed.)
4. That if you have any items of interest that you would like to share with us, bring them along to the various meetings, or send the information to the secretary for inclusion in the next newsletter, before July 31st 1984.

I do not wish to sound critical, querulous or demanding, but if we are going to have a Clan MacMillan Society, we should do it well. You can play your part by supporting the three fixtures for the year. This is all very low key, so the demands made are not great.

Continued..

I hope we will all display some real Scottish 'Get up and Go in 1984'!

I look forward to seeing a big turnout at the Annual General Meeting on March 27th at 8.00 p.m. at Scotch College, Dining Hall Annex. (Enter by gate at corner of Callantina and Glenferrie Rds. The Annex is the first building on your left! It will be well lit and easy to see).

At this meeting, Bob McMillan—Kay will tell us (with overhead slides for visual aids) how he researched the information and put together an excellent book on his family history. He also plans to bring along all his family photos, documents and memorabilia for all to see.

It is especially interesting to note that until 3½ years ago, Bob thought his real family surname was Kay, but in fact his father was a McMillan; a foster child. Bob will relate how he discovered this and how his discovery developed into a book. As well as this he found that his father had a sister and neither knew of the other's existence until 3 years ago.

It is a fascinating story and a fine achievement. Please come — and bring along some other members of the Clan and let's have a fascinating evening.

(SUPPER WILL BE SERVED)

Donald Macmillan
President

RECORDS OF ANCESTRY

See enclosed inset.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF THE CLAN (As extracted from an original letter from Mrs Jane MacMillan)

The President received a Christmas letter from George and Jane MacMillan, son and daughter-in-law of Sir Gordon MacMillan, Chief of the Clan, wishing all members of the Australian Clan compliments of the season. Sir Gordon, at 86 is still actively involved in the management of the estate, helped by George and Jane and other members of the family.

Their latest venture is to offer bed and breakfast to visiting MacMillans from overseas. In 1983 several concerts were held and as 1984 is Heritage Year in Britain, special displays and activities have been arranged.

The house has been undergoing some repairs to the stonework and a MacMillan Coat of Arms will be carved on the front of the house. Donations to assist would be welcome. Finlaystone is at Langbank, Renfrewshire, about 45 minutes drive from Glasgow on the south bank of the Clyde and the beautiful gardens and woodlands are open to the public. Any MacMillans (or others) visiting Scotland are very welcome and will find much to interest them about the Clan and Scottish history. It is sometimes possible for young people to stay at Finlaystone in return for helping with work. Write to Mrs George MacMillan, but be prepared to work. It is an excellent way to begin a working holiday, although wages are not paid, you are treated as one of the family.

Geva Macmillan
Committee Member

Finlaystone
Langbank
Renfrewshire
PA14 6TJ
Tel. Langbank 047 554 285

17. 10. 83 .
mid night .

Dear Geva.

We hope you had a good gathering on Oct. the 9th and got our best wishes via Sue Higgs. We tried to get you about four times. Sorry not to speak to you but it gave us a thrill to imagine it ringing in your home.

George had intended to write to you but while sawing some posts he cut off a finger and they are trying to save another. He is in excellent form - says it doesn't hurt. The only problem is re learning to type. I am pushing a word processor.

CLAN GATHERING 1983

Sunday 9th October 1983 was again a perfect day for the second annual gathering and barbecue of the Clan MacMillan Society. The post-drought spring on the banks of the Yarra River at Scotch College were superb, a marked contrast with our first gathering in October 1982.

Our numbers were down on those of 1982, when George and Jane MacMillan were out from Scotland, but those who attended found the same warmth and remarkable feeling of kinship that had been present at our first gathering.

It was good to see faces which are now becoming very familiar and to catch up on the news of the past twelve months.

Our longest travelling clansmen were Frank and Pauline McMillan, who came from Linden Park, South Australia. They organised their holiday on order to be with us. It was great to see them.

The feeling of Scotland was enhanced by background music of bagpipes and some members wearing items in clan tartan. A stall from the house of Scotland in Balwyn enabled members to purchase items such as Clan badges, ties etc.

We can only hope that such friendship, warmth and kinship continue in future clan gatherings.

Donald Macmillan

President

A BOOK REVIEW

'THE McMILLAN AND McKIBBIN FAMILIES AND THEIR DESCENDANTS 1863 - 1983 By R.M.McMillan — Kay '. This book, recently purchased by the society for the archives section, is an excellent publication. It is filled with photographs, maps, certificates, shipping lists etc, and also generously supplied with family trees beside the text. There is no possibility of becoming confused, as each branch is treated separately.

The index is presented in an interesting and unusual way, with data relating to dates of birth, marriage etc for each member, totalling some 875 names in all. There is space left where dates, as yet unknown, can be later filled in when they are available. Each book owner can keep their own family records up to date.

The family pioneers were Neil and Margaret McMillan, who came from the Isle of Arran, and embarked for Australia from Liverpool in 1862 on the ship 'Great Tasmania', with their children - Flora, John, Duncan, Neil, William, Peter and Margaret. (another child, Archibald was born in Australia in October 1864). They settled in Stanley, Victoria, and after the children grew up, Neil and Margaret lived in Myrtleford, Murrumbidgee and finally Beechworth, where they both died. Neil died in 1917, aged 97 and Margaret in 1918, aged 96.

There is an interesting account of their first home in Stanley and how it was built, using hand made nails. We follow this home through from its builder, its changes through various owners to the present day, where it still stands.

Some surnames included in the McMillan branches are — Milne, Armstrong, Jordan, Trembearth, Pitches, and Davey.

The entire book is a pleasure to the eye; from the plain blue cover with gold block lettering, to the pleasant paper, clear type, well spaced text and interesting illustrations. Any reader could not fail to be impressed by this book and wish such a publication treating their family history. An amazing fact to note, is that it took only about three years from the beginning of the research until the publication of the book. This is incredible when looking at the wealth of information and detail.

For some researchers a lifetimes work.

Anne Asche

Committee Member



MACMILLAN FAMILY TREE

The enclosed MacMillan Family Tree is a copy from a book owned by Mr Colin McMillan of Ballarat. The book is titled 'The MacMillans and their Septs' by Somerled MacMillan. (a Presbyterian minister) Colin was fortunate enough to obtain this apparently rare book while in Scotland for the Gathering of the Clans at Edinburgh in 1977.



DATES TO REMEMBER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.....

March 27th, 8.00 p.m. at Scotch College.

THE RINGWOOD HIGHLAND CARNIVAL...A gala day for the Clans

Jubilee Park, Ringwood. Sunday April 1st 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Adults \$3.50, Children \$1.50, Family (2A,3C) \$7.50.

SWAPSHOP.....

An informal evening for all those members who would like to bring along their own research material, photos, etc and have discussions and swap information with other members.

Venue: Scotch College, 8.00 p.m. School House. June 26th

CLAN GATHERING AND BAR—B—CUE.....

October 21st 1984, from 12.00 noon. Yarra Bank, Scotch College. (Same venue as previously).



RECORDS OF ANCESTORS

The society plans to establish a register of members' ancestry in Scotland and seeks your co-operation in this project.

The resultant register will list the ancestral origin of all the society members.

This register, apart from being a valuable record, will be a useful document for any member interested in tracing possible family connections with other society members.

A copy of the register, when complete, will be published in the society newsletter and updated from time to time.

In order that this project can be commenced, we ask you, the member/s to fill in the form below to the best of your knowledge and return it as soon as practicable to;

Clan MacMillan Society Archivist
Mr John R. Macmillan
2 Trafalgar Rd
Camberwell, 3124
Victoria.

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THE CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Victoria)

REGISTRATION OF ANCESTRY

Surname of Member: _____ Christian Names: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

DETAILS OF ANCESTRY

Surname of Ancestor: _____ Christian Names: _____

Embarkation Date: _____ Arrival Date: _____ Name of Ship: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____ Settled in: _____

Location in Scotland — Town/Hamlet: _____ County: _____

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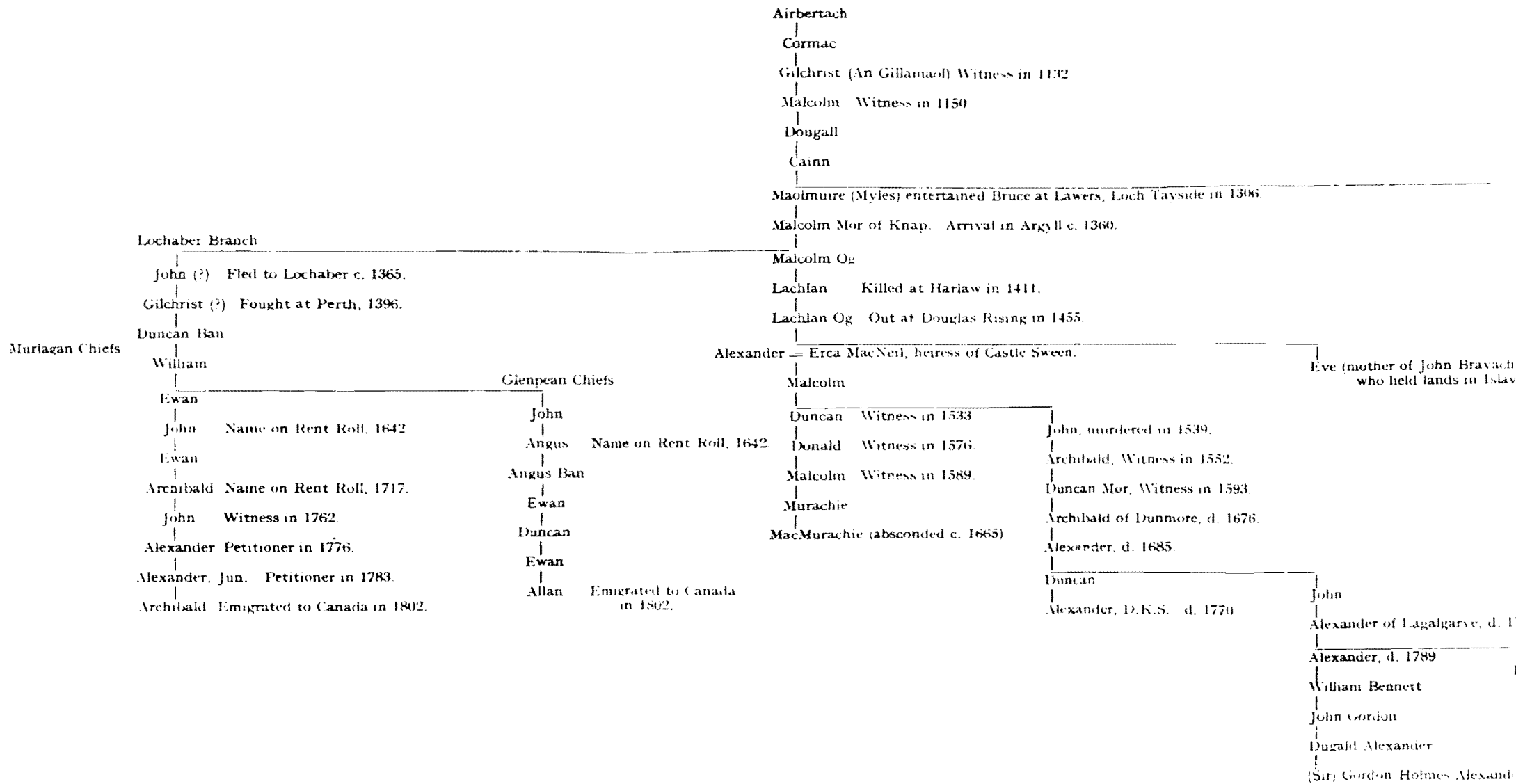
CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY	Family/Individual
SUBSCRIPTION 1984/1985	\$5.00 \$2.00

Surname: _____ Christian Names: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

THE MACMILLAN FAMILY TREE



THE MACMILLAN FAMILY TREE

