



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 32 JULY 1994

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

Elizabeth McMillan
19/15 Cochrane St.,
Nth. Brighton 3186 596 6645

Committee Members:

Joy McMillan
8 Aphrasia St.,
Geelong 3220
(052) 295 886

Vice-President

John McMillan 8 Aphrasia St.,
Geelong 3220 (052)295 886

Secretary

Steven McMillan 126 Morack Rd.,
Vermont Sth. 3133 801 5223

Kaeline Blake
11 Grace St.,
Melton South 3338
743 994

Treasurer

Archivist/Editor June Senior . 41 Lincoln Ave.,
Glen Waverley 3150 560 8746

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

As President, I receive the occasional correspondence from Clan members which adds an interesting dimension to the role and remind me of the integrated nature of the Clan wherever the members might be. A recent such letter came from Robert McMullen from Ontario Canada, in which he enclosed a chart showing the name variants, including the Septs, with a brief history to the Clan MacMillan and Septs. The chart (11" x 14") is available from the Chief of the Clan, George MacMillan at Finlaystone.

From time to time, we receive correspondence from Graeme Mackenzie who is the Clan Archivist and Genealogist at the Clan Centre in Finlaystone. In May he sent us a copy of the second Clan Centre Newsletter and news of the Clan events to be held in Scotland in 6-13th August 1994. The address of the Clan Centre is:

Macmillan Clan Centre
Finlaystone, Langbank,
Renfrewshire PA14 6TJ,
Scotland UK
Telephone: 0475 540285

In 27 March 1994, June and Max Senior organised our clan tent and we went to the Ringwood Highland Games. It was interesting to see the Clans who were present and to look at their displays, their banners and information. At the Annual General Meeting of the Council of Clans there was considerable discussion about the way in which the Clan societies could work to gain more members and to gain a higher profile in the community. The comparison was made between St Andrew's Day and St Patrick's Day and how the Irish are able to attract such interest in St Patrick's Day.

I continue to ponder on the issue of varying interest in the Clan Societies and in the potential for attracting new members. For people to be motivated to be members, it is important that they should see some benefit to them. For some people the benefit may be genealogical, for others, social and for others, it may simply be a tenuous link to times gone by. My reason for belonging is a growing interest in my family's heritage and the history of the Clan. The direct linkage to the Clan Centre and to the Chief of the Clan provides me with a sense of pride and a context in which I can consider the past, especially as it relates to how our families came to be in Australia. The migration issue interests me and is intensified in our family by my husband having come to Australia in the 1960's from an island in Greece.

As you can see from the name of the Society, we are a national society. However, the majority of the members are in Victoria where the Society began. We would welcome increased membership from within Victoria and from other states and territories and seek your comments on how we might market the Society to possible new members. It is inevitable to some degree, that a society based on voluntary membership and support, must limit its vision to its capacity to achieve within those resources. It would be interesting to hear from you, as members, as to why you have joined and what it is that you would want to gain from your membership.

The Clan Society has undertaken direct mail-outs, using telephone book listings, and the results for considerable effort have been only minimal. It may be worth considering a targeted approach to marketing the benefits of the Society. As we mentioned in the last newsletter, the Clan Centre is interested in receiving copies of telephone book listings of Macmillans (and other forms of the name and the Septs). If you can send any listings from your local area, we will send this information on to Scotland for you. The Committee members would welcome your ideas on how we can extend the membership of the Society at this time. Perhaps you have some family members who are not members whom we could contact. Please ring us or send us any of your ideas.

Our annual meeting in October will be an excellent time for us to reflect on the Purpose of our Society and to consider ways in which we can improve our services to members and gain more members. We encourage you to attend. If you are unable to attend, we would welcome your input and your ideas.

PICNIC AND A.G.M. - 16 OCTOBER 1994 NOON - 4.30P.M.

June McMillan has very kindly offered to have our annual gathering at her home at 38 Parkhill Road, Kew again this year. (See Melway map 45/G5). As this is our only get-together for the year, I do hope you will be able to come and enjoy the friendly atmosphere that is always present among those who attend. Please bring your own food, drink and chair. Make it a family day and come along and meet your Committee. Even if you cannot join us for lunch you may have time to call in later and say hello. Bring any material you have on the MacMillan Clan or your family history which may be displayed and viewed by those attending. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

June Senior. Editor.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome three new members to our Clan. Barry McMillan of Toorak, Victoria; Colleen Brewer of Cundletown, N.S.W. and Ronald Baxter McMillan of Hurstbridge, Victoria. A very warm welcome and we sincerely trust you will enjoy our kinship and Newsletters.

SOCIETY FEES NOW DUE

Thank you to members who have paid their current subscription. As our current financial year ends 30th September 1994 those who have not yet paid will find another reminder with this Newsletter. It would be appreciated if you could pay as soon as possible to assist the Treasurer in bringing our accounts up to date before our Annual meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

I would like to thank members who have taken the time to write to me. I really enjoy your letters with comments and news for our publication, also family history items which we are able to print for you.

Bob McMillan-Kay was in Melbourne in April when Max and I were holidaying in Tasmania. Sorry to miss you Bob and thank you for the information you sent. Shirley Monahan and Verna McMillan enjoy receiving the Newsletter. Valmae McMillan sent family history items, one of which appears on page 4. Anne Asche kindly sent me a photo and article from the Melbourne Age, February 1994 on the re-enactment of Angus McMillan's trek through Gippsland. Thank you all for your interest and support.

June Senior Editor.

THANK YOU

Colin Campbell Macmillan of Ivanhoe has very kindly presented our Clan Society with the book "The Burke's Peerage World Book of MacMillans" which he recently purchased. Many thanks Colin for this edition to our archives.

Colin celebrated his 90th Birthday in March this year. Our belated Birthday Greetings Colin.

GEELONG CELTFEIS

Along with several other Clans Max & I attended the Geelong Celtfeis on Saturday 26th March this year. The weather was warm and sunny and we had an ideal spot under the trees in Johnstone Park. We were delighted to meet Joe and Jean Bell of Whittington, and John and Joy McMillan of Newtown who came along to see us.

CLAN NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to all Clans and Societies for forwarding their excellent magazines to us. These are very much appreciated

MCMILLAN FAMILY HISTORY

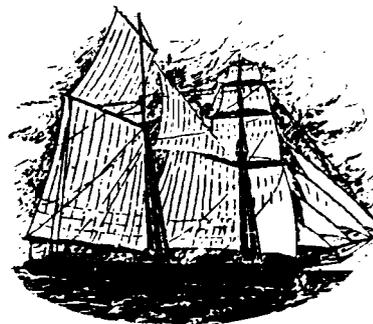
New member Ronald Baxter McMillan of Hurstbridge is seeking guidance in tracing his McMillan ancestors. He has sent us details of his family dating back to 18. 6.1868.

His great grandfather John McMillan was born in 1841 at Girvan, Scotland. John married Mary Catherine Thomas (born 1844 at Liverpool, England) on 18. 6.1868 at Terang, Victoria.

Their children were all born at Terang;

Ellenor Gimo	born 1869
Ravsit William	born 1870
Charles	born 1872
Robert Graham	born 1873
Christina Gabit	born 1875

Albert James, Ronald's grandfather was born 2.12.1876. Albert James's son, Harold Albert, was born on 27. 9.1909 at Fitzroy, Victoria.



MCMILLAN FAMILY HISTORY

The letter below was sent to me by Valmae & Lex McMillan. It was written to Charles McMillan (Lex's Gr. Great Grandfather) who migrated to Australia in the 1850's as a miner on the Ballarat goldfields.

Dear Uncle we received a letter from Kingston letting us know that they had a letter from you we were happy to hear that you were still living and enjoying good health for we never expected to hear from you any more we are all thankfull to the Lord to hear from you wonce more and hoping that we will not be so long in hearing from wone another if we are all living. I got the letter on the 10th and went over to grandfathers with it they was very glad to hear the unexpected news they was very unesey about you and it was all their talk whenever any of us went thir.

Dear Uncle they are geeting very frail they was troubled so much about you that it almost put them in the grave they are well at present. Father and Mother is well and all the rest of the family there is seven alive four boys and three girls. Uncle Peter is well and hasnt got a wife yet. Uncle Duncan McGill and Aunt Margaret is well and all the family - boys and 3 girls Uncle Donald and wife and family is well there is nine girls and four boys.

Uncle Duncan and wife and family is well but they are about sixty miles from us they were all well when we herd from them they have 3 girls and 6 boys.

I wrote a letter to let them hear about you and Iam going to give them a visit at the New Year if all is well.

I hope you will write as soon as this will come to hand and you will let us know if you saw Aunt Alisabeth and Aunt Janet.

You would not know me now but you will remember when I used to smoke your pipe. You will excuse this short letter you will get all the particulars in the next if this will come to your hand. Father and Mother and all the rest of the family joins me in kindest love to you and your beloved and family. Grandfather is going to write soon.

Iam Your Affectionate Nephew

Archibald McMillan Son of your dear Brother John.

(No punctuation and some spelling errors, just as letter was written).

Valmae has sent more family history which I will print next Newsletter.

New member Colleen Brewer has sent me the following family history:

William McMillan and Euphemia Yett's son Alexander born 1810, married Agnes Cameron in 1831 at Glasgow Scotland. Their children were: Jane christened 1834, Isabella c. 1835, John c. 1837, William c. 1838, Alexander c. 1839 at Cambusland Lanarkshire, Scotland. Agnes bap. 1841, Donald b. 1844, Euphemia b. 1849, Hugh b. 1845, Lennox b. 1853, all at Hamilton Lanarkshire, Scotland. Also stated to have had children Robert, Daniel, Thomas.

Alexander c. 1839 married Christina Armour at Garnethill near Glasgow in 1861. Their children were: Agnes, John Henry, William, Wilhemina all born in Tasmania. Eldest child Agnes married her father's brother Hugh in 1879 in Tasmania. Hugh died 1884 in the Armidale area of N.S.W. Agnes then married Hugh's brother Lennox. Lennox and Agnes are my great grandparents. The parents of this family Alexander McMillan and Agnes Cameron are buried at Armidale N.S.W.

From Colleen Brewer.

AE FOND MEMORY OF FINLAYSTONE

"The ancient pile by the Clyde lies in the shadows of Robert Burn's world, yet its owner was responsible for the poet genius's rapid rise to fame

There are a couple of conundrums concerning Finlaystone, the least recognised but probably single most important great house of Scotland in the career of Robert Burns.

The first is why those who organise such things have ignored Finlaystone, sitting just off the M8 near Langbank on the Clyde, as a port of call on any of the traditional Burns routes or trails?

Somehow the ancient Renfrewshire pile, dating back to the fourteenth century, does not seem to fit into the geographical pattern which keeps Burns and his life well away to the south and west.

And yet without Finlaystone's owner, James Cunninghame, 14th Earl of Glencairn, it is doubtful if the poet's name would have spread so quickly among society and the cognoscenti, allowing him to keep his pen surging away during the bleakest period of his life, just when he was about to pack it all in and head for the West Indies.

Perhaps it is the pure gentility and non-pushiness of the owner of Finlaystone, clan chief George MacMillan, the MacMillan of MacMillan, which keeps Finlaystone in the shadows of the Burns world, remaining as it has been for years, simply a place of fine gardens and craft shops, with the big house open to the public only on Sunday afternoons in summer.

"I suppose the main problem is that we are not in Ayrshire or Dumfriesshire where most of Burns activities were located," says the MacMillan.

"And I suppose that while the Earl of Glencairn lived here, having had to sell his Ayrshire estate at Kilmaurs, people still regard his family as Ayrshire, forgetting that it owned half of Renfrewshire as well."

Part of the problem may also be that the earldom died out in the same year as Burns himself.

Tradition, handed down by succeeding generations of owners, says that Burns visited the earl at Finlaystone some time after their first meeting in Edinburgh in 1786 and, during his stay, inscribed his signature with a diamond ring, given to him by the earl, upon a windowpane.

The next puzzle then arises. After his signature he scratched a date-1768. Even a non-mathematician can work out that this would have meant that he was only nine years old at the time.

It was on a recent wild January night, straight out of Tam O'Shanter, that I visited the old building, standing high above the Glasgow-Greenock road, to examine the riddles of Finlaystone.

Upstairs in the pine-panelled room where the poet was wined and dined by the earl, the MacMillan and I examined the finely engraved signature.

He then showed me two wine bottle seals each bearing the name Glencairn and the date 1768.

"It has always been assumed that Burns was having fun with the date on the bottles they were drinking from" he said. "The first seal was always associated with the signature and the second was found in the garden in the sixties. We can only assume that a previous Glencairn had laid in a good stock of '68."

Burns, in an emotional turmoil mainly brought about by his various romantic entanglements, including one with Mary Campbell along the road in Greenock, had been ready to embark for the Caribbean when a series of developments changed his mind.

Almost simultaneously it seems four things happened. Mary Campbell died tragically, thus, in the most sad and ironic of ways, removing a possible bigamy problem; Alexander Dalziel, factor at Finlaystone drew the earl's attention to the Kilmarnock edition; Dr Thomas Blacklock, the blind scholar and poet, wrote praising his work and inviting him to Edinburgh and, it is said, Dalrymple of Orangefield who was married into the Glencairn family gave him a letter of introduction to the earl.

Continued.....

The earl immediately recognised the poet's talent and introduced him to his society friends. The Duchess of Gordon was one, Henry Erskine, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, was another, as was William Creech, the publisher who was to handle the first Edinburgh edition and, incidentally prove to be an extremely slow payer.

Largely through Glencairn's championing of Burns the whole of the Caledonia Hunt membership, to whom the publication is dedicated, ordered copies of the Edinburgh edition, Glencairn himself taking 25.

From then on the earl became Burns main patron and a close friend, so much so that the poet wrote: "The noble Earl of Glencairn, to whom I owe more than any man on earth, does me the honour of giving me his strictures; his hints with respect to impropriety or indelicacy. I follow them implicitly."

The earl, who later also assisted Burns in acquiring his post as an exciseman, never experienced good health and in 1790 went to Portugal to seek relief. He died on this return on January 30, 1791, at Falmouth. Burns wrote to Dalziel: "God knows what I have suffered at the loss of my best friend, my first and dearest patron and benefactor, the man to whom I owe all that I am and have."

Graham of Gartmore inherited Finlaystone on the death of his cousin, the 15th Earl, in 1796, the same year of the death of Burns. Although the earldom had died the Grahams were married into the Cunninghames and the family name became Cunninghame Graham. One noted scion of the family was Don Roberto Cunninghame Graham, the adventurer and great nationalist who was born at Finlaystone.

In 1863 Colonel Carrick Buchanan of Drumpellier, whose family gave its name to Glasgow's Buchanan Street, bought the estate and leased, then sold, it to George J Kidston of the Clyde Shipping Company, great grandfather of the present MacMillan of MacMillan.

The house is full of curios, including marble pillars installed by architect J.J. Burnet. "He designed the King Edward VII wing of the British Museum and some say the pillars were surplus to his requirements there said the MacMillan with a quiet smile.

There is also an 1804 letter from Lord Nelson aboard Victory to one of the MacMillan's naval ancestors who had written requesting a position. Outside in the grounds there is a yew tree under which, it is said, in 1556 John Knox dispensed the sacrament of the Lord's supper to the staff of the mansion, having first done so inside to the 5th Earl of Glencairn and his family.

And, of course, there's that Burns signature dated 1768, a curio indeed. There's nothing curious, however, about the final dedication penned to his late friend of Finlaystone. Burns was faithful to all those who sponsored him, allowing them a piece of the immortality which would be his through his divine talent. He wrote:

The bridgroom may forget the bride	The mother may forget the child
Was made his wedded wife yestreen;	that smiled so sweetly on her knee;
The monarch may forget the crown	But I'll remember thee, Glencairn
That on his head an hour has been:	And a' that thou hast done for me!

Perhaps this year on January 30, five days after the nation has once more toasted its poet genius, it should also raise its glass to the man who more than anyone helped to promote that genius, and remember the house on the Clyde which was his country home.

By Graham Williams.

A friend of mine from Scotland sent me the above article "Ae fond memory of Finlaystone" which appeared in a Glasgow newspaper in January 1994.

June Senior.

HISTORY OF THE MACMILLAN CLAN

PART 5

It has already been stated that the king had a dual purpose in carrying out his sinister designs against the Celtic Church.

Firstly he had his eyes on the wealth of the ancient Church of Scotland which he was quick to seize for the express purpose of erecting Roman Catholic cathedrals and abbeys throughout the land. This is evident from the way in which he drew up a charter for his new abbey of Holyrood, thus depriving the Celtic Church of St.Cuthbert's of her rights in order to maintain this new place of worship.

The Rev. J.C. Carrick in his book "Ancient Abbeys and Churches of Scotland" has this to say about the new charter:- "The light cast upon history by this charter of David I reveals the fact that, prior to the absorption of St.Cuthbert's (which owned the Celtic ecclesiastical authority, not the Roman) into Holyrood Abbey by the king, that church was about the wealthiest in Scotland, and the parish was the widest in the southern part of the kingdom. The parish really consisted of Edinburgh (all save the Castle Parish of St.Giles) and all the surrounding district including Corstorphine and Liberton. The port and half of the fisheries belonged to it; the village of Newhaven was another rich possession. Early in David I's reign, Macbeth of Liberton, gave tithes and offerings of Legbernard(now unknown) to the Church of St. Cuthbert. In a word, prior to the intrusion of the Church of Rome into Scotland through royal Patronage and Power, St.Cuthbert's Edinburgh, was by far the wealthiest, widest, and greatest of the Parishes of the Celtic Church in Scotland. Little wonder, therefore, that David I having resolved to the end the Culdee Church through the introduction of Roman Catholic Priest, rites, and authority, should cast his eyes on the rich prize of the Culdee Church.

Accordingly, as in the case of St. Andrews, and hundreds of other cases throughout Scotland, the Culdees of St.Cuthbert's were extinguished, and this ancient ecclesiastical institution - probably the greatest in the Celtic Church - was made a vicarage under the great new Roman Abbey of Holyrood".

Secondly, apart from the king's strong Roman Catholic bias, he was fully aware of the partiality of the Culdee clergy towards the mornmaers of Moray in their support of Donald Ban as the rightful claimant to the Scottish throne, and later, at the time of the Moray risings, when Somerled contested the right of this province in favour of his nephews.

To be continued.....

ANGUS MCMILLAN - PATHFINDER (CONT'D)

Sly grog establishments increased rapidly, and Arbuckle and McMillan with settlers of similar ideals, despaired of the future of the district. McMillan, in particular, was deeply concerned at the illegal methods by which some notorious squatters made money. Runs were not fenced, and it was common practice for sheep and cattle to be stolen and driven to hidden gullies. Here clean skins were branded or brands were altered. Not only were squatters faced by a primitive lonely life, but by labour difficulties and cattle thieves.

While sympathetic to the Aborigines, McMillan realised that these also must be numbered amongst the problems. In 1838- the year of McMillan's arrival in the Colony- Gipps had appointed a Protector of Aborigines to each of the four districts into which Port Phillip had been divided. This was considered by most squatters a futile attempt to deal with a desperate situation.

This was the year of the Myall Creek drama, where a party of white men at their wit's end to stop the blacks stealing stock and menacing isolated shepherds, rounded up a number of Aborigines, slaughtered them and buried the bodies. Eleven were tried for murder but acquitted. Gipps, believing that a firm stand was necessary to make both black and white realise that Aborigines were entitled to justice, ordered a re-trial. Seven were found guilty and sentenced to be hanged. The outcry astonished Gipps, who was determined to remain firm and carry out the sentences. The seven men were hanged. The incident undoubtedly brought about a change of attitude towards the treatment of Aborigines.

To be continued.....

COMING EVENTS

Saturday October 22, Broadford Scottish Festival.

Sunday November 27, St Andrews Day Service at the Shrine 1.45 pm. followed by Highland Dancing display and afternoon tea at the Army Signals Depot, Albert Rd, South Melbourne.

Saturday December 3, Daylesford Highland Gathering, Victoria Park, D'ford.



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