

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 35, JULY 1995

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.*

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year is passing by and we are nearly to our Annual General Meeting again. Our annual meeting and get together will be at 64 Mitford Street, Elwood and we hope to see you. The last few years have been hot, so we will be prepared to have lunch inside or outside depending on the weather.

At our annual meeting in 1994, we decided that we should try to increase the membership of the Society. We need to consolidate the Society, extending opportunities for networking and friendship to other members of the Clan and the related Sects.. Some of our members must have relatives who are not members and with some encouragement they might choose to belong. Having tried the 'cold call' approach through telephone books, we now favour the targeted personal approach. Extending membership is essential if the Society is to survive into the future, so we are interested in your ideas.

We have received information from Federation Press and Peter Gunnar, author of 'Good Iron Mac; the life of Australian Federation Father, Sir William McMillan KCMG' to be published in Australia late July 1995. Information on this book appears on Page 3 of the Newsletter.

My family recently decided that we should connect to the Internet. For those unfamiliar, with the Internet, it is a process of linking one's computer through to the international network of other computers. In my business, people increasingly ask me for my E-mail (Electronic Mail) address and so there was a business imperative for me to be connected. For those who might also have an E-Mail address, I can be contacted on libbymcm@oz-email.com.au.

I attended a course on the Internet. The teacher said that the best way to start learning was to simply 'surf' the Internet, browsing around looking for areas of interest. One can subscribe to Newsgroups of interest and then submit items of interest or queries on the topic to the Newsgroup and other members respond. There are important protocols for entering information and queries and as yet, I am simply reading - not entering the discussions myself. The ones that I have accessed so far are on Celtic music, culture and genealogy. The potential for sharing of information across the world in this way fascinates me and I intend to use the system when I gain the confidence to participate.

We have included a page describing the Society which could be shown to potential members. We have found that people are interested in the Newsletter as a communication link. If anyone wants to discuss the Society, please encourage them to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you about our membership drive. Good ideas would be like gold to us and we would value any suggestions, no matter how small.

Best wishes to you all.

Libby McMillan

ANNUAL PICNIC AND A.G.M.

Please make a diary note NOW - our picnic and A.G.M will be held on Sunday 22nd. October 1995 at the home of our President, Elizabeth McMillan at 64 Mitford Street, (corner Milton Street) ELWOOD. Reference Melway map 67- B 1. Please B.Y.O. food and drink. Hope to see you there.

NEW MEMBERS

A big welcome to Mrs. Gloria Wilks of Burrill Lake, N.S.W. Mrs. Judy Coates of Nowra Hill, N.S.W. and Mrs. Hazel McMillan of Ringwood East, Victoria who have joined our Clan. We sincerely trust you will enjoy our kinship and newsletters. We have 73 members as at 30th June 1995.

FURTHER AWARD FOR MEMBER

Max and I called in recently to see member Val Gaskell at "Ricketts Point Fine Foods" at 257 Bluff Rd., Sandringham. Val won the Dairy Industry of Aust. Association Award for 1994 and again in 1995 for her "Lemon Delicious" Ice cream. We purchased some "Lemon Delicious" and can vouch for its deliciousness! Val of course has many other flavours to tempt the palate.

CORRESPONDENCE

I certainly appreciate the letters members send me when forwarding their subscription. Although I have not met many of you I feel I know you from your letters. Your interest in the Newsletter gives me the encouragement I need to continue. Any items for the newsletter are greatly appreciated.

CLAN NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to the Clans who send us their Newsletters. These are of great interest and we are able to copy - with their permission - items that I am sure you enjoy reading.

MACMILLAN CLAN CENTRE NEWSLETTER

I recently received my copy of the above newsletter No.4, Spring 1995. There is to be an International Gathering at Finlaystone on the 13/15th September 1996. Any members planning a visit to Scotland next year will appreciate early news of this event and may be able to attend. Anyone interested may contact me for more information. The newsletter had news of the Clan Centre, Project Maol, an article on "Tracing your Scottish Ancestors" and other interesting items. Focus on Finlaystone gave several interesting happenings there.

I recently received information from John B. McMillan, President, Newsletter Editor and Publisher of the North American MacMillan Clan to let us know of the Clan MacMillan Conclave at Chautauqua, New York State U.S.A. on the 8th, 9th and 10th September 1995. Our Clan Chief George MacMillan, his wife Jane and Graeme McKenzie will be attending. Any member visiting U.S.A. at this time could contact me for more information.

After attending the Chautauqua Conclave, George and Jane are flying on to California to meet members of the Pacific Branch of the Clan, and to attend the Fresno Highland Games. They will also visit ex-President of the Nth. American Society, Dr Charles McMillan in Paris, Texas.

Good Iron Mac

The Life of Australian Federation Father Sir William McMillan KCMG

by Peter Gunnar

"This book is significant in a whole variety of ways. ... because it details the life and work of an Australian politician and businessman, Sir William McMillan, important in the history of NSW over a number of decades in the late nineteenth century and one of the 'Fathers' of Australia federation.

... Good biographies place their subjects in their times, and this book is no exception. The main thrust of the narrative is of course political. Gunnar traces in considerable and revealing detail McMillan's course both in the legislature of colonial NSW, as its Colonial Treasurer, and as Reid's deputy in the first Commonwealth parliament, principally as that *rara avis* of his day: a New South Welshman who was at once a Freetrader and a Conservative.

To develop the background for his public position, the political discussion is supported by a running account of McMillan's actions and fortunes as a merchant and businessman in the setting of late nineteenth and early twentieth century New South Wales. Much social and economic history is in the process conveyed. But there is also embedded here an intriguing personal story, which has, both in its early and its final stages, the stuff of which tragedy is made. ...

About the Author:

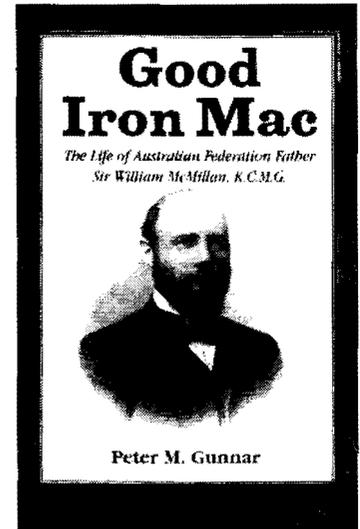
Peter Gunnar, raised in the United States, is the son of McMillan's daughter Jocelyn, who married an American and brought up two sons in Illinois. Through family connections, Gunnar became familiar with a privately produced memoir of McMillan's widowed second wife, *Brief Record of William McMillan KCMG*.

Intrigued both by the memoir itself and fired by the enthusiasm of the Australians who he showed it to during visits to Australia, Gunnar embarked on a voyage of discovery remarkable for a retired lawyer, judge and businessman who had not had occasion to write historical work before.

... To write coherently about his grandfather, Gunnar had to come to grips with a political system and a society in many important ways different to his own. That he has succeeded so well - on a number of issues bringing to his subject the fresh insights of an outsider - is in its way a notable example of a meeting of cultures through dedication to the need to *know*."

Taken from the Foreword by A W Martin, Australian National University

Good Iron Mac is being published at the end of July 1995 in hardback with a dustjacket and a section of photographs.



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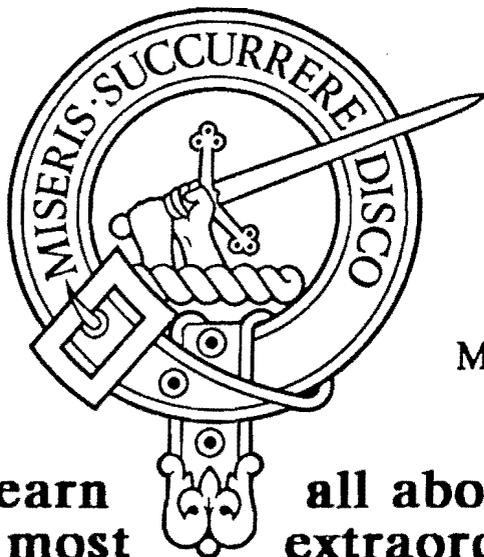
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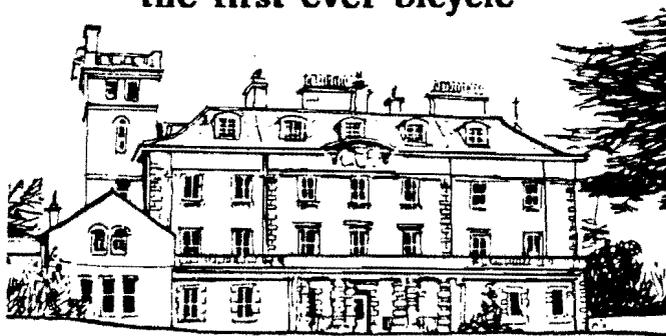
Meet the monk of Macbeth's family whose haircut
provided the name for this famous clan

Trace his descendants scattered in branches from the
Mull of Galloway to the Butt of Lewis

Study the famous Celtic cross erected by one of the
fifteenth century chiefs at Kilmory in Knap

See "McMillan's Velocipede" -
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*Enjoy the lovely
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historic home,
where John Knox
and Robert Burns
were entertained
by the onetime
owners, the Earls
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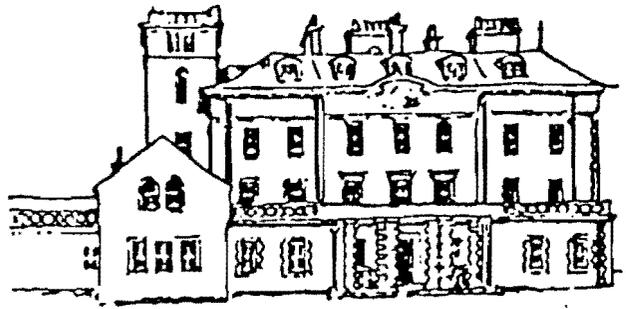


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Celtic Tree Tea Room open 11.00am - 5.00pm summer, & winter weekends



FINLAYSTONE HOUSE

THE HOME OF THREE FAMILIES OVER SIX CENTURIES

- 1373 Robert 11 confirmed Sir John de Danyelstoun in possession of Finlaystoun. It is assumed that there was a castle here. Sir John's sister was Robert 11's mother-in-law, and grandmother of Robert 111, from whom British sovereigns are descended. Hence the Dennistons' boast that 'Kings come of us, not we of kings'. His son, Sir Robert de Danyelstoun became keeper of Dumbarton Castle
- 1399 When he dies, his property was divided between his two daughters: NEWARK Castle went to Elizabeth, who had married Sir Robert Maxwell; and Finlaystone (and much else, including Glencairn) to Margaret, who married Sir William Cunningham (heir to an old Ayrshire family).
- 1405 Sir William's grandson, Alexander Cunningham, became the
- 1488 first EARL OF GLENCAIRN.
Of the fifteen Earls of Glencairn, three were governors of Dumbarton, and three others deserve special mention:
- 1547 Alexander, 5th Earl of Glencairn (the Good Earl), succeeded his father. Like him, he was an outspoken supporter of the Reformation.
- 1556 He entertained John Knox here. Knox gave communion to him and his household in the manner of the Reformed Church under the yew tree on the west side of the house. (The tree was moved to its present position in 1900).
- 1610-1664 William, 9th Earl, supported Charles 1 and 11. In 1665, having harassed Cromwell's general Monk, he was betrayed and imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, and narrowly escaped execution. At the Restoration, Charles 11 made him Lord High Chancellor of Scotland 'in consideration of the great and eminent services of this noble peer, who had an equal talent both for camp and court'. He is buried in St. Giles' Cathedral.
- 1749-1792 James, 14th Earl, was said by Burns to have rescued him from wretchedness and from exile. Burns left evidence of having dined here, by scratching his name on a window-pane. He called his son James Glencairn, after the Earl, and wrote a long lament for him when he died.
- 1760 THE HOUSE, which in 1710 was described as a 'noble great building round a court', was given its present 18th century facade. Some of the earlier thick walls are embedded in the present house.
- 1796 On the death of John, 15th Earl, Finlaystone went to the grandson of the 12th Earl, Robert Graham of Gartmore. It remained in this family until
- 1862 William Cunningham-Graham sold it and returned to Gartmore. (His descendent, Admiral Sir Angus Cunningham-Graham, lives immediately opposite Finlaystone on the north bank of the Clyde).
- 1863 Sir David Carrick-Buchanan bought the house and added the square tower and the kitchen wing. He was Master of the Lanark & Renfrew Hunt.
- 1867 George Jardine Kidston rented the house, and bought it after fifteen years
- 1900 He commissioned Sir John James Burnett to restyle the house. This involved adding a storey for the butler and nursery (he had nine children) and redesigning much of the interior. Largely as a result, the house is designated a historic building.



Through his daughter Lilian (who married Richard Blakiston-Houston) and her daughter Marian (who married Gen. Sir Gordon MacMillan) the house passed to its present owners.

THE GROUNDS, which in the time of the Glencairns 'had many pleasant avenues with numerous plantings of various trees', were replanned by Mr. Kidston, and have been extended and enriched by Lady MacMillan.

FAMILY HISTORY

Judy Coates of Nowra Hill has sent me the following history on her family:

Hugh McMillan born approx 1789 in Inverness Shire Scotland. His parents were John McMillan and Catherine McMillan nee Gilles.

HUGH McMillan married Mary McDonald approx 1844. They had 8 children- Mary, Angus, Duncan, John, Catherine, Donald, Annie and Ronald.

Hugh came to Australia approx 1852. His wife Mary died in 1870.

Hugh died in 1881 aged 92, at Mansfield, Victoria.

All the above information was taken from the death certificate of Hugh McMillan. The information was given by his youngest son Ronald who could not write and signed his name with an X.

It is unclear as to whether all of the children came to Australia with Hugh.

I am told by the Mansfield Historical Society that 3 of the children did come to Australia with Hugh. These were Ronald, Duncan and Donald. I am also told that:-

1. Ronald arrived at the age of 14 years and could not speak English - only Gaelic.
2. Duncan married around 1822 to a Johanna Robertson. They had 6 children - Malcolm (who stayed in Scotland) Ronald, Mary, Archibald, Hugh and Annie. None of these children ever married.

Duncan died in 1915 at "Glencoe", Mansfield aged 93.

3. Donald McMillan born approx 1831 married Mary McKenzie, daughter of Alex McKenzie of Bundalong, Victoria. They lived at Mansfield for a few years, then moved to the Upper King River district, later they moved to Melbourne where, on the 27th October 1906 Donald died. Donald and Mary had twelve children - Ronald, Flora, John, Unnamed Female, Malcolm, Ewan, Mary Flora, Christina Rachael, Jessie Alexandria, May Nicholas, Archibald Kenneth, Flora Anne. At least four died in infancy.

4. Ronald married Elizabeth McDiarmed in approx. 1856. Both were aged about 16 yrs. (This is Judy's family line).

Their marriage as well as 14 of their 16 children was never registered.

Their children were:- Isabella, John, Elizabeth, Donald, Hugh (Both these boys drowned in Howes Creek in 1874 aged 11 and 12). Angus, (my great grandfather) Mary, Christina, Harriett, Ronald, Hugh, Donald, Annie, Robert John Blume (who died aged 2 in 1888) and Ruby.

Elizabeth died aged 48 after giving birth to their last child from exhaustion.

Ronald died in 1912 at Mansfield aged 76, leaving 9 of his 16 children still alive.

Angus (my great grandfather) married Wilhelmina Mary Boyd on the 12th January 1897 at Yarrawonga. They had 15 children:- William Edmund 1897, Eva May 1898, Angus 1899, Albert Ronald 1900, Wilhelmina Mary 1901, Ellen Elizabeth 1903, John 1904, Janes Edward 1906, Francis & Arthur 1907 (Twins died a month after birth) George Joseph 1909, Johanna 1910 (my Grandmother) Robert Edward 1912, Christina 1915, Lillian Francis 1920.

Angus was a drover, he died on 6th July 1951. Wilhelmina died 20th November 1951. It is said that she died from a broken heart. Both are buried in the Yarrawonga Cemetery along with the twins in a family grave.

My grandmother, Johanna married George Stanley Jackson (known as Stan) at Benalla on 16th August 1930. Their two children were Stanley James born 7th July 1931 and Jean Francis born 25th Sept, 1933 (my Mother). George Stanley died 20th Sept., 1983 after suffering from Motor-Neurone Disease. Johanna died on 8th October 1989 after a long fight with cancer. She was very proud of her Scottish Heritage.

My Mother Jean Francis Jackson married Clarence Swanston Riches on the 4th June 1955. Their four children - Carmel Maree born 29th August 1956, Judith Anne born 9th June 1958, Brian Frances born 16th September 1961, Noel John born 2nd October 1962.

I am Judith Anne and I married Stephen Coates on the 27th August 1982. We have three children:- Erin Jean born 6th August 1984, David Lynden born 2nd December 1986, and Patrick Lenard (Paddie) born 4th May 1988.

This is currently an up to date listing of a long and involved line of McMillans.

As Ronald and Elizabeth did not register the births of their children it has made the search very difficult and time consuming for me.

ANGUS MCMILLAN (PATHFINDER)

JUNE 1995 (CONTINUED)

McMillan, looking at his future from his own point of view considered the years ahead with optimism. At age 34, he was in the prime of life and longed for work on Bushy Park. Beyond the Avon he could see the mountains over which he had toiled. The land was well grassed and, with stock at reasonable prices, he could now afford to purchase and fatten his cattle for disposal on the Tasmanian market. If Dr. Arbuckle could recruit labour he could carry improvements-erect more huts for men and equipment and stockyards.

Despite the isolation, he loved the bush and the independent free life. He had become used to the primitive conditions, the monotonous diet of mutton and damper, the lack of news and culture. With his short pipe to which he had become addicted, and his daily dose of whiskey, he had moments of peace and even happiness. With his distant neighbours, in particular W. Odell Raymond, he had a good relationship, and his friendship with Arbuckle ripened into a bond which was to last a lifetime. He was on good terms with Commissioner C.J. Tyers, despite his preference towards Strzelecki's names in preference to his own, a bias which was over-ruled by Sir Thomas Mitchell. Although appointed in September 1843, when Gippsland was proclaimed a district, Tyers was unable to reach Port Albert by sea until 13th. January 1844, after several attempts with an escort of natives and border police to travel overland.

TO BE CONTINUED...

FAMILY HISTORY

Gloria Wilks has sent me her family history - Gloria is hopeful someone in the Clan may be able to help her discover the family of John McMillan (born approx. 1797 - details below.)

Ewan/Evan Cameron (born 1775) married Helen McDonnell (born 1778) at Tomcrasky, Glen Moriston in Invernesshire. Ewan died 1828 - Helen died 1861.

Their daughter Ann was born at Tomcrasky 16th. Nov. 1806. She married John McMillan (born approx. 1797) at Glen Moriston Church, Urquhart Parish.

John was a Society Schoolmaster. The Society was for "Propagating Christian Knowledge in the Highlands". John and Ann had 8 children recorded as born there before moving to BLAICH, Argyleshire on the shore of Loch Eil. Their 9th. child, Hughina (Gloria's great Grandmother) was born there. The family moved to the other side of the loch to Fassfurn (or Fassiefern) before migrating to Christchurch New Zealand in 1859 on the "Regina".

John died 11th May 1865. The only son who survived to adulthood-Ewen, died in 1868.

Gloria contacted Graeme McKenzie at the MacMillan Clan Centre. Graeme had "noted" John because it was quite unusual to find an educated McMillan in the Glen Urquhart-Glen Moriston area during those very early years. Graeme was unable to ascertain John McMillans family for Gloria.

In the 1851 Blaich census two of the children were absent from home. As they were not with their Cameron grandparents there is a chance they may have been visiting McMillan family.

Gloria wonders if someone in our Society may have the children listed in the 1851 Census in their records. The children were Ewen McMillan - aged 11 years, and Helen McMillan aged 16 years. The only child who did not migrate was Helen, who married Donald Macpherson of Ceannacroc, Lochaber. She died in 1929 in her nineties. Gloria is hoping someone reading of this family may be able to help her.

HISTORY OF THE CLAN MACMILLAN (PART 8)

The MacMillans and other native families formed a confederacy against the invader, just as the ancient Caledonians had done before them when confronted by the Roman legions. This alliance may have been the nucleus of what was to become known at a later date as the Clan Chattan confederacy. No doubt, the MacMillans were among the ring-leaders in this rebellion, who with certain families, were removed from their homes as a precaution against further risings.

In 1160 Malcolm IV began his ruthless campaign which he executed with the utmost vigour. Three times that year he invaded Galloway until he brought it into direct feudal subjection, and sent Fergus, the prince of Galloway, to end his days in the monastery of Holyrood. Moray, also, is said to have entered where he performed radical feats in vigorous fashion as regards the disposal of the native population; for according to Fordun, the early Scottish chronicler, he "removed them all from the land of their birth, and scattered them throughout the other districts of Scotland, both beyond the hills and on this side thereof, so that not even a native lived there, and he installed therein his own peaceful people". Now, while it is true that the main families of Moray were evacuated, it is hardly possible to believe that Malcolm had the entire native population removed. If this actually happened, then quite a number began to filter back at an early date. Needless to say, some were removed farther north, as in the case of the Clan Morgan (the Mackays).

TO BE CONTINUED...



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