



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (AUST)

Newsletter No. 79 March 2010

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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President's Report for March, 2010

Members met for a luncheon recently at the Docklands as a social gathering. It was an opportunity to learn more of each others' interests. Then a week later, "Hurrah Hurrah" the rains came with unexpected force, and, in some localities, hailstones measuring 10cm across, which have caused extensive damage to property.

The next event is the Ringwood Highland Games on Sunday 11th April & we look forward to meeting members and friends at our tent on the edge of the ground. Members are invited to take part in the procession which starts at 1pm.

Some members may be interested in the following courses to be run by GSV in the city

Starting Your Family History Class:-

7 April, 5 May or 2 June 2010 -Wednesdays 10.30 am to 12.00 pm

Beginning Irish Family History Course:-

3 May, 17 May, 31 May & 21 June 2010 - Mondays 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Beginning Scottish Family History Course:-

10 May, 24 May & 7 June, 28 June 2010 - Mondays 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Please contact GSV on Ph: [03] 9662 4455 & Fax: [03] 9663 0841 email:gsv@gsv.org.au or on their website at <http://www.gsv.org.au/> for further information.

In the Clan MacMillan International Magazine Nov/Dec '09, there is an article on the relationship of the Clan Chattan Connection by Graeme MacKenzie about the movement of the Chattans from Ireland to Lochaber in 1215. The MacMillans were documented as ancestors of the Clan Chattan. Also the MacMillans had land in the same area as the Chattans. The 16 long Family Tree shows the relationship between the MacMillans and Clan Chattan.

This edition also shows photos of the Clan MacMillan Gathering and a description of the events in Edinburgh and around Finlaystone. Congratulations again to Chief George & Pauline for their successful planning. Still on the International scene the next event is the Gathering of CMSNA in Kingston, Ontario, Canada in June 2010, where, in conjunction there will be the next CTS Investiture Service.

June Danks



Patricia

Faye

Kaye

Myrna



June

Debra



Max



Janice



June

Mary-Anne



Ron & Gloria Baxter

The weather was a bit windy, but for those that attended the annual Clan Luncheon on Sunday 28th February at "The Berth" it was but a minor inconvenience as we all enjoyed the good food and the equally good company. Nice to meet up with everyone, especially Ron & Gloria and with a little bit of luck we'll all meet at the same place again next year.

SUBSCRIPTIONS



Subscriptions are now due and because of increased costs, have been increased to \$20.00 for 2009/2010. We only have 3 opportunities a year to remind members about their subscriptions, so please respond, and make the Treasurer's job that much easier. It would be appreciated if you could forward all monies to:

Mrs. J. Senior, 41 Lincoln Ave, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150.

Also, if you would like to receive this Newsletter by E-mail (a saving on postage costs), could you please include your E-mail address with your Subscription.

COMING EVENTS

The Border and Beyond **28th – 30th May, 2010.** Club Mulwala, Yarrawonga.

The 7th Victorian Family History State Conference

Presented by the Victorian Association of Family History Organizations in conjunction with Yarrawonga Family History Group.

For Further information please contact:

The Convenor, PO Box 10, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150 or e-mail: mullum36@bigpond.com

Refer also VAFHO website: www.vafho.org.au

National Celtic Festival **Queen's Birthday Weekend, 11th–14th June, 2010.** Portarlington.

For three jam-packed days and lively nights – music, dance, art, poetry, cuisine, even Gaelic languages. Enjoy the performances or be a part of festivities by joining in one of the many workshops on offer, anything from limerick writing to bagpipe playing!

For further information contact: <http://www.nationalcelticfestival.com/>

The Kirkin' o' the Tartan **Sunday, 4th July, 2010.** [11.00am] Scots Church, Melbourne.

Make sure that you BYO Lunch, because, as always, there'll be some entertainment in the Upper Hall.

The reason that we Scots commemorate on the nearest Sunday to 1st July is because after the Jacobite Rising in 1745, an Act of Proscription on the 1st August 1746 made wearing or putting on clothes commonly called Highland Clothes, wearing tartan, including tartan kilt, illegal. This Act, brought into force by the English Parliament, was one of a series of measures to crush the Highland and Gaelic culture.

On the 1st July 1782 this act was repealed by an Act of Abolition and Scots could again wear tartan kilts. However, during the intervening years, many Scots were driven from their land and emigrated from Scotland.

In Australia and several other countries, the 1st July is symbolic, and known as Tartan Day, commemorated with various Scottish events, one of which is a church service where different clans present their tartan to the minister.

SCAC's Annual Luncheon **Sunday, 10th October, 2010.** Ringwood East.

The Annual Luncheon of Clans [a Scottish get together] is to be held again at the Karrylyka Reception and Entertainment Centre, Mines Rd., East Ringwood. For further information please contact: Robert Stewart by phone on 9891 6450 or by E-mail: randjstewart@optusnet.com.au

Annual General Meeting **Sunday 24th October, 2010.** South Yarra.

Our A.G.M. will again be held on Sunday 24th October, at Soroptimist House, 383 Toorak Rd., South Yarra from noon till 4 p.m. So bring your lunch and meet your fellow Clan members. Tea & Coffee will be provided. [Melways ref 2M, B6].

Ringwood Highland Gathering 2010



The Clan was again represented at the Ringwood Highland Games, with the tent very busy after lunch. The day started out like it did last year, fine at home but showers forecast. However before the gates were opened there was a heavy downpour resulting in quite a lot of water trapped in the roof of our tent, which had sagged under the weight, consequently it was a very wet beginning to the day. After resetting the tent we proceeded to prepare for the day ahead. It was almost a complete re-run of last year, the showers turned up as if pre-ordained at the commencement of the "Parade of Clans". I guess it could be considered typical Scottish weather. It seemed that the numbers attending the Games were well down on last year and maybe this was because of the inconsistent weather. It was good to catch up with all those that did brave the elements.



Correspondence

[This is an extract of an e-mail sent to me that I thought could be of some interest to other members of the Clan. ed]



".....First, keep in mind that spelling variations are a fact when researching anywhere in Ireland. Many folks were illiterate, and the person who recorded the records, spelt names as they thought they should be spelt, or often from the way the surname 'sounded'. When I discover my LOVE's & ROBINSON's (married couple) were from Co. Tyrone I had to begin with the process of elimination. I did finally find them in the parish of Donagheady, Townlands of Castmellan and Gortmellon....."

Some of my favorite on line web-sites to help with research are our community web-site for the mailing list <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cotyroneireland/index.html>

This site has the 1796 flax growers, the tithe applotment books and Griffiths Valuation.

<http://www.failteromhat.com/>

To start your search you need to find out which parish has the surnames you seek. As a lot of people married within their own parish, this can be important (but it is not always the case) and an example is as follows:

A search of one of my subscription databases turns up no 'McMILLIAN's in 1796 and only 1 'McMillan', [another spelling is McMILLEN] in the Parish of Derryloran. However from the above web-site in 1796 we find:

| | | |
|----------|-----------|------------------|
| M'Mullan | Charles | Dromore |
| M'Mullan | Charles | Longfield East |
| M'Mullan | Daniel | Bodoney Upper |
| M'Mullan | Hugh | Killeeshill |
| M'Mullan | James | Aghaloo |
| M'Mullan | James | Dromore |
| M'Mullan | James | Errigal Keerogue |
| M'Mullen | Andrew | Clonfeacle |
| M'Mullen | Francis | Clonfeacle |
| M'Mullen | James | Aghaloo |
| M'Mullen | James | Clonfeacle |
| M'Mullen | John | Clonfeacle |
| M'Mullen | William | Clonfeacle |
| M'Mullin | Elizabeth | Ardstraw |

.....I also found a McMILLAN in the Parish of Donaghmore

.....There are 'MILLIGAN's' buried in Clogher, 'McMILLEN & MacMILLIN' in Derryloran, 'McMILLAN' in Donaghmore,

Therefore we have narrowed it down somewhat, requesting 'look-up' or searching 'on-line' in the Tithe Applotment books and Griffiths Valuation will also help.

Although a bit more information is needed regarding this, Forenames would be great!

Some of my favorite 'on line' web-sites to help with research are as follows:

<http://www.breadyancestry.com/index.php?id=3>

<http://www.proni.gov.uk/>

http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/will_calendars.htm

<http://www.ulsterancestry.com/>

<http://www.scottmcalpine.com/genealogy2.html>

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~econnolly/index.html>

<http://www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php?board=78.0>

<http://www.nationalarchives.ie/>

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#start>

<http://www.ancestryireland.com/index.php>

<http://www.fourcourtspress.ie/>

<http://www.historyfromheadstones.com/index.php?tyrone&denomination=C>

<http://www.groireland.ie/>

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html>

<http://www.cyndislist.com/ireland.htm>

Surnames are RODGERS, McMILLIAN, & LEONARD and they all came to Massachusetts by way of Canada. The RODGERS & McMILLIAN arrived in St. John's, New Brunswick, Canada in 1823 and LEONARD was in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in 1840.



**SARAH MATILDA O'MALLEY [GOODCHILD, BLACK, O'MEARA]
APPROX 1823—1914 & RICHARD SMITH**

Whether you count it serendipity or the agency of the Old Folks, giving a helping hand from above when it amuses them, finding the Famine Rock on Williamstown Strand was one of my grand pleasures discovered since moving to Williamstown eighteen months ago. Touched by the wording, it was a profound moment since my great great grandmother was one of these Irish Famine Orphan Girls commemorated through her arrival on the Pemberton on 14 May 1849. Feeling as though my life had completed another circle, I felt proud to discover Williamstown was the first place in Australia to have such a memorial.

At the last Sunday of November each year (won't you join us?), a simple but moving ceremony is held at Famine Rock to commemorate the Irish Famine Orphan Girls. The plaque reads:

“In memory of one million people who died in Ireland during the Great Hunger of 1845-1852. In praise of the courage of tens of thousands of dispossessed Irish who sailed to Hobsons Bay to build a new life. In sorrow for the dispossession of the Bunurong and Woiworung people but in a spirit of reconciliation. In solidarity with all those who suffer hunger today.”

The Rock is basalt or bluestone as it is known, quarried from Deer Park. The suburb was named after an actual deer park of early local landowners, the famously horsey Chirnsides, who wanted to make this area, the West of Melbourne, the racehorse capital of the world. The inaugural Famine Rock ceremony was opened by Richard O'Brien, the Irish Ambassador, in 1998.

From the wreck of Ireland during the Great Famine, one million Irish died from a population of which went from eight million to six and a half million in the decade from 1841, comparable to any Holocaust horror. The worst of all famines there, the potato blight was at its fiercest between 1847 - 1852.

Thousands travelled on “coffin ships” to America, a more affordable journey, and one that was not as far from home as the Antipodes. Four thousand Orphan Girls were sent to Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide, 1721 girls coming to work in Melbourne, with Sarah O'Malley being one of some twenty girls travelling further afield on the brig Raven to Portland, from the Pemberton, a month after arrival.

In Hobson's Bay, the arrival of shiploads of Irish Orphan Girls spanned December 1848 until March 1850. The ships were:

- 6 December 1848 Lady Kennaway
- 14 May 1849 Pemberton
- 9 August 1849 New Liverpool
- 10 January 1850 Diadem
- 25 February 1850 Derwent
- 31 March 1850 Eliza Caroline

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Provided with clothing and a prayer book, in the hope they would learn to read with shipboard classes, it is hard not to think merely recovering some health and poise on the trip out was not achievement enough for them.



Expected to be adults ready to work in the labouring and wife shortages of the new colony, these were girls who had been on the literal brink of destruction, undeserving of The Argus' fulminating slander as bedraggled, immoral slatterns. When folk had to sell or barter their clothes for their next meal, calling them "barefooted little country beggars" was sadistic.

Recorded as ranging in age from thirteen to nineteen, in truth some were girls as young as nine or ten. Expectations were unfair, since many were untrained for their new occupations and debased by the grind of poverty and the fears of the self-righteous. Their wages also reflect a lowered regard.

Surprisingly, relatively little has been written about this dark period so far. Up to 1850, the Irish formed a quarter of all Australian emigrants, forced or otherwise. Like the refugees and boat people of today, they were feared in a knee-jerk reaction for the potential diminishment of resources and dilution of customs held dear by earlier arrivals.

There was enough food being produced in Ireland at the time to feed her people, but it was being funnelled almost exclusively for export to England. Victims of persecution stemming from actions of Henry VIII and Cromwell, the Irish could neither attend school legally, bequeath land nor take public office unless converting from Roman Catholicism to Protestantism.

The further consequences were a rising population and decreasing land holdings, suited only to potatoes, since grains, not only expensive to buy, needed more acreage & machinery.

This was exacerbated by the Gregory clause in the Poor Law Legislation, which meant giving up any and all land before any poor relief was granted to individuals or families, in or out of the workhouse. Of which institution, the actual mission statement was to make the conditions and treatment within its walls repellent to all but the most desperate.

There is a kind of maxim of historians that generations must pass away in the march to one hundred and fifty years, after contentious events, before more facets of the truth can emerge from an examination of zeitgeist and long-cupboarded skeletons.

As was the direct knowledge of the presence of convict ancestors subsumed into the past, to re-emerge later with a more subtle understanding of complexities, initially the shameful Irish incidents were submerged into the subconscious of newly forming Australian families as too dreadful to be discussed.

And yet, here we are grateful testament to the strength and foresight, even when in extremis, of these courageous and resilient girls.

**SARAH MATILDA O'MALLEY [GOODCHILD, BLACK, O'MEARA]
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My great great grandmother Sarah O'Malley was one of these girls & arrived on the second ship to Melbourne, the Pemberton 14 May 1849. She came out too, with two (?) family friends the Bowen and Bohan girls on the same ship. She left from twelve months in the workhouse at Roscrea in County Tipperary, being it seems originally from County Limerick. After a month in Melbourne along with about ten other Irish Orphan Girls, Sarah took passage on the brig Raven. She went to work for the James Allisons in Portland, (his sisters had a school in Portland & his father was Surgeon Superintendent on the Shackamaxon).

Staying with the Allisons, who were expecting their third child, for sixteen months, probably as housemaid and nursemaid, if not more, her place was taken subsequently by another Orphan girl, Mary Casey from the New Liverpool.

Next we hear, her suitor is Richard Smith, possibly the R Smith who came over from Van Diemon's Land in 1847 with the Hentys, if not from England

itself. Him she married in Portland in 1850, where their first child, John was born two years later.

Whatever the surnames, Sarah and Richard's children were John, Edward, Elizabeth, Mary Jane, Ellen, Henry Clarke and Charles Clarke Smith/Smyth, whose birthplaces ranged from Woodford, Yangery, Tower Hill to Koroit.

The 1856 electoral roll of the Villiers Division cites Richard Smith as a (wood) splitter, a householder in Yangery, near Koroit. Sometime between the birth of their last child Charles in 1870, and 1874, Richard was dead. Anecdotally, he was hit by lightning, but any reportage and his death certificate remain obscure.

By the mid 1870s, widowed Sarah won two blocks land through a land ballot at Yarpturk, near Koroit. The acreage now is part of the Warrnambool Regional Airport runway.

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In spite of these details, Sarah has always been cloaked by mystery. Her portrait clearly shows a well-dressed black clad woman, with leg-o-mutton sleeves characteristic of the 1890s. Her face is clothed in stoicism, a kind of acceptance through remote, solidified grief, head up and eyes pensively directed downwards. The downward pull of mouth suggests a certain severity of outlook and determination.

A few months before her death, she told her son Charles she was actually born in Derbyshire, and her original name was Goodchild (also on one of her children's birth certificates). Another son has certified her maiden name as "Black". Although four children outlived her, she bequeathed all her estate to Charles, her youngest, who was afflicted by epilepsy. This disease was misunderstood, being considered a sign of the taint of madness, rather than interruptions and glitches in the electrical circuits of the brain.

We can almost certainly discount the tale she was the first white woman to see a whale in Portland Bay. Particularly as it has been a whale migration waystation to and from Antarctica, and site of whaling operations long prior to the 1830s and Hentys, so it is hard to credit, but they do say, "stranger things have happened at sea".

Supposedly Sarah came to Melbourne during Black Thursday of February 1851, though this is only possible if it was not her inaugural visit. Though surrounded once again by the protective liquidity of the sea, still it would have been an eerie and instinctively frightening voyage, since as far away as Northern Tasmania was smoke-shrouded from Victoria ablaze.

Although, supposedly, my great great grandmother's father and two uncles fought in the Peninsula Wars in Spain against Napoleon in the 1830s, I have found no connection back in Britain so far. It is likely they were British veterans from Wellington's campaigns. Upon news of the three men's death in battle, her mother apparently went into a decline and died of a broken heart.

Her mother's people may have been O'Malley's in Limerick. There are stories of emigrants occasionally taking only living relatives' name so it was easier to be found in future. Or perhaps her father left barracks from Ireland.

A family story says she came out to Australia as a seven year old with family friends, the Bowens.

In actuality, Sarah was seventeen. Perhaps that seven year old mark was related to the time of her mother's death, which left her alone, and there was a morph of information to when she came out on the Pemberton with Bowen/Bohan.

But however elusive those who went before us are, how much we owe our pioneers.



A THOUGHTFUL SCOTTISH HUSBAND?

Did you hear about the thoughtful Scotsman who was heading out to the pub?

He turned to his wee wife before leaving and said, 'Margaret - put your hat and coat on lassie.'

She replied, 'Awe Jock that's nice - are you taking me to the pub with you?'

'Nah', Jock replied, 'I'm switching the central heating off while I'm out.'



If unclaimed, please return to:

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (AUSTRALIA)

41 Lincoln Ave, Glen Waverley Vic. 3150

