



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Victoria)

Newsletter No 8, September 1986

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

Our reputation is growing - even if it is not quite justified!.

I have received a letter from Betty Chessell of 255 Stanhill Drive, Chevron Island, Queensland 4217, who has asked us for help in tracing her Scottish forbears. Betty recently visited Finlaystone, where she was advised by Jane that we had a comprehensive record of the MacMillans (McMillans) in Australia!. Alas - I wish we did have such a record, but this is not quite true.

However, there is no reason why we should not become an exchange for such information to help Betty, whose great grandparents, Alexander and Jessie Forbes, were married at Bowmore in 1838. They must have migrated to New South Wales shortly afterwards because their first child was born at Cabramatta in 1839.

Betty's grandmother was born there in 1844. Does this fit in with the family trees of any of our members, or does it provide a missing piece of a jig-saw puzzle for your genealogical investigations?. If so, let Betty know, she would be delighted to hear from you.

Bob McMillan-Kay would be pleased to receive a copy of the family tree of any MacMillans (McMillans) for the archives, thus setting up the beginnings of our comprehensive history which Jane thinks we have already.

This is a direction in which we should move - a fascinating and worthwhile exercise in historical investigation.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Barbecue and Annual General Meeting on October 12th. Fine weather has already been ordered as usual.

Donald Macmillan
President



ADDITIONAL NEWSLETTERS

As mentioned in previous newsletter, we hoped to publish additional newsletters if there were sufficient funds and material. Well, at the present time we have both, so you can look forward to another newsletter some time before Christmas.

Some of the articles in that issue will include items obtained from books and newspapers regarding MacMillans and McMillans. This is a theme in use by the Clan MacMillan Society of North America. If any member notices any articles of interest like that could they please forward them on to me for inclusion in a later newsletter as someone is sure to find it of interest.

Bob McMillan-Kay
Archivist and Editor



A CHANCE MEETING OF McMILLANS

The year was 1950, month of September and on a cold wintry Sunday. I had been working building my house in Croydon. At the time I had not connected water to the block and after working all day I was and felt slightly grubby, of which I was very much aware. So I sat in a corner seat of the train carriage engrossed in a book.

When the train stopped at Box Hill Station a young couple entered and sat opposite me. As the journey progressed I could tell from their conversation that both came from Scotland and the brogue was Glasgow. Much as I would have wished to talk to them my appearance restricted me, until the train stopped at the Richmond Football Ground in the Jolimont Yards.

The young man asked me if that was the famous M.C.G. At that point I had to say no and proceeded to show him the main points of interest as we slowly approached Flinders Street Station. I also found out that they had only arrived that morning on a P.O. liner bound for Sydney. They explained to me that they really wanted to visit a person at North Williamstown but could not work out how to get there as it was not listed on the boards which were hung under the clocks at Flinders Street Station. They had then proceeded to Box Hill to an address they had been given.

I smiled and said that I lived in North Williamstown, explaining how the boards used on train routes only showed the final destination. The young lady meanwhile was fiddling in her handbag and kept saying, 'I know it is an unusual street name', where upon I said, 'Would it be Courtis Street?'. At that she stopped looking and said, yes. It is only a very small street perhaps I know the people, I replied. Where on she said, 'Would you know a Jim McMillan?'. 'Of course I do, you're talking to him'. At this both looked taken back and they said 'It cannot be, you are too young'. Would you know a Jessie Fleming?, I was asked. 'Of course I replied, she is my cousin.' Well then they gave me the uncles address as we left and said, 'When you pass through Melbourne look up my uncle'.

After some explaining on Flinders Street No4 Platform I convinced them they were really looking for my father and the confusion was that we both had the same name. After some deliberation they insisted I dine on the ship with them at Port Melbourne and then visit my parents, which we did and had a memorable two hours before we had to rush them to the station, escort them to Princes Pier. I'm afraid it cost Dad and I a taxi fare back to Williamstown, which in 1950 was quite an expensive trip.

Looking back on it all now it was really a most remarkable experience and goes to show that the world is a very small place and with todays travel it is really getting smaller.

Incidentally, there was a friendship which grew up between my parents and these people until they went back to Scotland and then Canada.

Jim McMillan
Committee Member



CLAN SOCIETY MEMBERS OVERSEAS

John T. Macmillan, our Treasurer, his wife and family are presently overseas in Europe for a period of about 3 months. As far as I know they will be returning some time before the AGM.

We hope that they have a successful trip. On their return I will ask John to write an account of their visit to Scotland for our next newsletter. They also plan to visit Finlaystone and call in on our new Clan Chief, George MacMillan, his wife, Jane and their family.

CORRESPONDENCE

We wish to acknowledge a donation of \$10.00 from Bill Gibson of the House of Scotland. His business advertisement appears in our newsletter on page 3. Also, in conjunction with payment of fees we received some notes and letters from the following:

Julianne Rauert	Gordon Hugh MacMillan
John Alexander McMillan	Malcolm Macmillan
Mrs E.D.J.Macmillan	Ronald William McMillan
Ian and Glenda Russell	Allan Jeffrey McMillan
Margaret Close	

A copy of the May 1986 Newsletter of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America was received from my counterpart, John B.McMillan of Ontario, Canada.

SLIDE AND TALK ON SCOTTISH TOUR

For those who were unable or forgot to come along to the talk and slide night on 3rd June 1986 missed an excellent evening.

Presented by Max and June Senior, this was a truly professional presentation, and I'm not being biased because June is a cousin either. The timing of the audio-visual technique they used gave me the impression that they have done it many times before. The quality of the slides was of such a high standard that it gave you the feeling you were actually there in Scotland.

Personally I felt a bit out of place, having been the only person present on the night who had never been to Scotland. Several members who attended were able to recall visiting areas that Max and June had photographed.

On behalf on all those who attended on the night, we wish to pass on our official 'Thank You' to both Max and June for their time and effort in presenting the talk and slide night about their Scottish tour.

CLAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

As I have mentioned in a previous newsletter I would compile a list of our society members, which is enclosed as an insert in this newsletter.

I took it upon myself to contact all members listed in our book living in the suburban area. On speaking to them all by telephone I was able to establish whether or not they still resided at the same location and/or whether they wished to continue with the society as a financial member. Many were unfinancial, and some still are, so if those who have not since passed on their overdue fees, could they do so at their earliest convenience. It would be greatly appreciated.

John Macmillan, our Treasurer, kindly contacted all our country and interstate members by mail for the same purpose. As a result of our efforts we have now many more financial members as well as some new members, which is a result of some people passing out notices that I prepared some time ago.

On behalf of John and myself I wish to thank all those people who kindly sent in their overdue fees to either myself or John, and in some cases Steven McMillan, our Secretary. We also welcome all of the new members to our society.

Should anyone like some copies of the notice describing our society and its aims, please write to or telephone me and I will send you the necessary copies you require.

'A special note on membership'. Annual fees are due at our Clan Society Barbecue and Annual General Meeting held in October of each year. I hope this clears up any misunderstanding as to the due date. Payment can be made on the day or through the mail if you are unable to attend. Fees are \$5.00 per individual or family.

Now that our financial situation is a little stronger we hope to purchase any available books on MacMillans should we be able to obtain them. If anyone knows of any publication about MacMillans and where to obtain a copy please contact me or forward the details in the mail.

Over the past year we have recruited several new members and their families. On behalf of the committee we wish to welcome them all to our small clan and hope they enjoy our newsletters, gatherings and kinship. The new members are as listed below. I hope that I haven't missed any.!

Geoff CraigStanley, Victoria
Jim and Joan LangBright, Victoria
Beryl PitchesBright, Victoria
Margaret CloseFinley, NSW
Ronald McMillanRingwood East, Victoria
David McMillanMount Martha, Victoria
Allan J. McMillanGreat Western, Victoria

Bob McMillan-Kay
Archivist and Editor

DECEASED MEMBER

We wish to notify all members of the death some year of so ago of a Clan Society Member, Jean Refrey. Jean was a distant cousin of Steven McMillan, our Secretary.



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THE LIFE OF ANGUS McMILLAN (continued)

Angus was not impressed with Sydney. The town was hot and dusty, soldiers swaggered everywhere-this was a military town with sentries everywhere in front of Government buildings, there were the convicts who were dressed in yellow gear. The settlers seemed half starved and produce was poor.

Both became anxious to leave Sydney to visit Lachlan Macalister who resided at Clifton near Picton about 50 miles south west of Sydney. By luck they discovered a settler who was travelling in that direction. Both of them thought he was probably an ex-convict. During the trip he talked about the now famous MacArthur family. The settler then let them off and gave directions how to reach Lachlan Macalister's homestead at Clifton.

The meeting between McMillan and Macalister was a turning point in the young Scot's life. He knew that the migrant from Skye had made good, but he was not prepared for the man himself or the luxury of his surroundings while walking up the long drive. Angus was impressed by the air of prosperity which was about them. Macalister greeted them with the courteous restraint characteristic of the Scot. They exchanged views and McMillan had an opportunity of appraising the man whose life was to intertwine with his. Lachlan Macalister retained his upright military bearing. Every act was performed in the manner of a soldier accustomed to command. Angus seemed to have been greatly impressed by this man. Angus thought to himself, 'Here is someone who knows what he wants and who will leave no stone unturned until he gets it. He can be affable and pleasant with the manners of a gentleman, but underneath he can be hard and ruthless.'

Angus however, was not over awed by his presence. Like his father, he believed in equality, and the fact that Macalister was the master of broad acres and herds and convicts whereas he had nothing did not influence him. Macalister, despite his outward restraint, warmed to the keen young Scot.

As they talked, his mind was active as to how he could use the mature young migrant. He told Angus 'I could do with a reliable overseer, I feel that you would be a person I could trust who would supervise the men and free me to make plans and keep records, would you be interested?'. Angus was excited about the offer, but his Scottish caution forbade him to accept too quickly. The remuneration was to be £35 per year and rations. The contract was sealed with a drink and they shook hands. Angus would start work immediately on Macalister's Goulburn Station.

Macalister had gained by selection and purchase, some 20,000 acres and was a citizen of standing. He owned a quarry and had other business interests. He had been a Magistrate for some years. At various intervals, kinsmen from Skye had come to the colony to share in his enterprises. However, all these activities were overshadowed by his interests with the Macarthurs with whom Macalister had developed a lasting friendship, with a military background as a common link.

John Macarthur had been a Lieutenant in the New South Wales Corps when it was formed in 1789. His quarrelsome and rapid rise had brought him to a position in the colony of great influence and his development of Spanish Merinos was to be the foundation of Australia's pastoral wealth. He died in 1834.

McMillan threw himself into work with energy and enthusiasm realising that this was the only cure for loneliness and homesickness. After a year he could crack a whip, make damper, tell long yarns about camping, watching and driving cattle.

(to be continued) Taken from the book by Kenneth Cox 'Angus McMillan Pathfinder' with his permission.

Steven McMillan
Secretary



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ANNUAL BARBECUE

Please don't forget our combined Annual General Meeting and Barbecue on Sunday 12th October 1986. The venue is at the usual location on the banks of the Yarra River in the grounds of Scotch College, Hawthorn. Entrance via Morrison Street. Commences at 12.00 noon. Bring your own food and drinks. Tables and chairs will be provided. Annual fees are due on the day and payment of overdue fees would also be appreciated.

Let's try and improve on our attendance figures as well as our membership. Friends are most welcome.

Bob McMillan-Kay
Archivist and Editor

