



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 36, NOVEMBER 1995

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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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year is passing by and we have once again had our Annual General Meeting. Our Annual Meeting and get together was at our home this year and we were glad to welcome those who were able to attend. We were particularly pleased to welcome June McMillan, who has in previous years provided her home for the meeting. October is such a difficult month to predict the weather. This year it rained all day and was quite cold, whereas last year we had to be inside because it was so hot and even in the shade it was unbearable outside.

During the meeting, the office bearers were elected, reports were given by office bearers for the last 12 months and we discussed the issues of increasing membership, attendance at various 'Highland' functions, the image and relevance of clan societies, and the Clan Centre at Finlaystone. We expressed appreciation to our office bearers and in particular to June Senior who produces and edits the Newsletter, which is a very time consuming role. It is worth noting how the Newsletter is valued by members. Also, June coordinates the information sharing and archives for the Society. Her role is critical to the success of the Society, and the Annual Meeting expressed appreciation for her continued interest and time commitment on behalf of us all. I would wish to express my appreciation to all the members of the Committee for their willingness to participate.

Once again we discussed the future directions for the Society and the issue of membership. As a volunteer organisation we are conscious of the differing commitments of members and the level of interest varying according to what motivates people to belong. We discussed the issues of fellowship, but were of the view that the major issue that brings people together is the common history of the Clan and the Septs and the associated genealogical interest.

We are proud of our connection in the 20th Century to the Clan, and to our Clan Chief, George MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap lives at 'Finlaystone', Langbank near Glasgow. Clan MacMillan members visiting Scotland are welcome to visit the Clan Centre at Finlaystone. The Clan Centre employs a historian and genealogist, Graeme Mackenzie, who is coordinating the work of the Clan Centre, managing the archives of the Clan and through Project Maol (MacMillan Ancestry On Line), he is producing a data base of Clan genealogical information. This connection to our shared past and the potential for access by us all in the present seems to me to be a major strength of our Clan Society.

Also, the Society belongs to the Victorian Council of Clans and members attend various Highland games providing information to people who are interested. Max and June Senior attend the Ringwood Games each year, with the 'Society' tent and would welcome your company on the day.

In 1996, we intend to target membership once more. Also we hope that you as members will take on that role, as well. If each one of us could enlist the membership of one other, we would be able to consolidate our Society for the future. If anyone has any ideas, please contact any of the Committee members who would welcome input on this most important matter. Of course, we would welcome any input from members on the Society and I know that June Senior would welcome any articles and inclusions for the Newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Elizabeth McMillan.

SOCIETY FEES NOW DUE

Our subscription of \$10.00 for 1995/1996 is now due. It would be appreciated if this amount could be sent to Treasurer June Senior at 41 Lincoln Ave., Glen Waverley, Vic. 3150 as soon as possible.

NEW MEMBERS

A big welcome to Mrs Morag Huggins, R.M.B.1260, Ancona, Victoria and Mrs Jenny Williams, "Yoorana, R.M.B. 8910 Omeo Highway, Sarsfield, Victoria. We trust Morag and Jenny will enjoy our kinship and newsletters.

CLAN CHIEF'S LETTER

I received a letter from our Clan Chief George MacMillan early November thanking us very much for the donation of Aust.\$233.69 to the Clan Centre at Finlaystone for the last financial year.

The big news from Finlaystone was that George and Jane's eldest son Arthur and his wife Barbara had a baby boy on October 27. He is to be called Rory. I have sent our congratulations and best wishes from the Clan MacMillan Society (Aust) members.

SPREADING NEWS OF OUR SOCIETY

In a move to let McMillans know of our existence, during the year I contacted Genealogical Societies in each State and sent them our information sheet about our Clan. I asked if they could print some (or all) of the information provided. I believe it has appeared in "The Ancestor" Newsletter of the Gen.Society of Victoria.

I have also received a letter from Alan Campbell, Convenor, Scottish Special Interest Group, W.A.Genealogical Society Inc. My letter had been given to him so I will be in touch with him very soon.

This was one way I felt we may reach more people.

We have only had one new member from the information sheet we included with our July newsletter. Many of our members tell me in their letters how much they enjoy our newsletter but regret they do not have the time to be more involved. Perhaps this would be an area they could help the committee and our Clan in a very practical way by signing up a new member- hopefully one of their family-. Our children lead very busy lives also, but if they have some interest and knowledge of their own family history early in their lives, when they are older they hopefully will always take an interest in their heritage.

The majority of our members are middle-aged to elderly and although we gain new members, we also lose members for various reasons-mainly through ill-health- so our numbers do not grow.

Please give this suggestion your support in the New Year and see if we can increase our membership, and more importantly interest younger members of our family in our Clan so that in years to come they will continue what was started in 1982 by the foundation committee members.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO ALL

My very best wishes to all members. From your letters during the year I know several of you do not enjoy good health. My New Year wish is that you all find 1996 a good year and that your health improves so that you may enjoy a better life.

June Senior.

FAMILY HISTORY

Our secretary Steven McMillan has given me the following information. As well as being of special interest to members of the same family tree as Steven, I am sure other members will be very interested to read how the 1841 census was compiled:

Details of a letter I received on September 20th from Barrie Robertson who is doing some research for me in Scotland. This will be of some interests to our members who belong to the same group as myself.

Dear Mr. McMillan, Re your McMillan ancestors.

I had said I was ordering the 1841 census for Girvan to see how the information on it would compare with the information you already had from the 1851 census. The film duly came to hand and on it I found the following:-

<i>Street</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Where born</i>
<i>Old</i>	<i>Joseph McMillan</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>HLW</i>	<i>I</i>
<i>Old</i>	<i>Jannet McMillan..</i>	<i>20</i>		<i>Y.</i>
<i>.Old</i>	<i>William McMillan</i>	<i>5</i>		<i>N</i>
<i>Old</i>	<i>Robert McMillan</i>	<i>3</i>		<i>Y</i>

I will explain exactly what the above means so far as AGE, OCCUPATION and WHEREBORN is concerned.

In the 1841 census the adult ages were ROUNDED DOWN TO THE NEAREST FIVE YEARS (thus as the present age on the 1851 census were shown as 39 and 33 they would be expected to be aged 29 and 23 on the 1841 census. BUT ON BEING ROUNDED DOWN TO THE NEAREST FIVE YEARS THEY ARE SHOWN AS 25 and 20)....

Children's ages on the 1841 census were shown as the real age and so they agree with those shown on the 1851 census but you will see that Robert's age difference is 9 years and not the expected 10 years, but that will be because of how his birthday fell, for the two censuses were not taken at the same time of each year.

Joseph's occupation shown as HLW means HAND LOOM WEAVER which is the same as the 1851 census.

On the 1841 census the details on the WHEREBORN column mean:-

I means Ireland, which agrees with the 1851 census for Joseph.

Y means born in the same county (in this case Ayrshire which agrees with the 1851 census for Jannet. The "y" is for "yes".

N means not born in the same county which agrees with the 1851 census for William as he is shown there as being born in GLASGOW... "N" is for "NO".

Y means born in the same county which agrees with the 1851 census for Robert "Y" is for YES.

The remaining children shown on the 1851 census were of course not born until after the 1841 census.

From this 1841 census then we still have it that JOSEPH MCMILLAN was born in IRELAND.

In an attempt to find something more about him which could lead to naming the place or district in which he was born I have had a look at the IRISH records but I have not found anything. I must point out though that in the troubles in Ireland in the early part of this century (1920) ALMOST ONE HALF OF THE RECORDS WERE DESTROYED which was a great loss. This loss really does cause problems in researching Irish records but I will do what can.

Yours Faithfully

Barrie Robertson

ARRAN'S OUT OF THIS WORLD

Scotland's southernmost island has spiritual echoes of an ancient past as well as some golfing, writes James Bedding in the "Herald Sun" November 17, 1995

In the bog stand six circles of stones, lonely and haunting. Some are nearly submerged in the peat; others, like Fingal's Cauldron Seat, two concentric circles of giant granite boulders, have stones rising more than six metres.

Thousands of years old, no one knows exactly who made them or why. But there, eerie and evocative, looking across the water to the hills of Argyll, the stones bear witness to the ancient spiritual riches of the Scottish island of ARRAN.

Since the builders of the stone circles lived here, many others have recognised their special powers. The Irish Celts, who came in the early 6th. Century, believed Arran was a manifestation of the Otherworld, where immortal souls went, after death.

Arran is the southernmost of the Scottish islands, those historic, weather-beaten punctuation marks at the very outermost fringe of Europe.

Studded with ancient standing stones, the mountainsides smudged with purple heather blossoms in summer and haunted by the plaintive cries of curlews and the bark of rutting stags, this is the raw, prehistoric edge of Europe.

If you had to choose just one island to visit, Arran is a good bet. Sitting squarely on the geological fault that divides Scotland into the jagged, mountainous Highlands and the soft, rolling peat-covered Lowlands, Arran, just thirty-two kilometres long, has sandy beaches to the south.

The craggy northern section of Arran is a landscape of spiky granite peaks. Here patient walkers can spot golden eagles wheeling above the bleak, unpopulated valleys, or red deer picking their way across the scree below Goat Fell, the highest peak.

So mild is the climate that the fringes of the eighty-eight kilometres of coastline are dotted with palm trees and subtropical plants.

The meadows, moors and hedgerows are full of the remains of the island's rich history. No matter where you explore, you keep coming across whiffs of Celtic legend in the bracing northern air.

Suppose you're on a golfing holiday, touring the seven courses squeezed on the island- three of nine holes, three of eighteen and one of twelve, just to be different. Even when golfing you can't avoid the past.

The twelve hole course is at Blackwaterfoot, near the cave where, in 1306, Robert the Bruce supposedly watched his spider.

The fourth green at Lamlash course has a spectacular view over the superb natural shelter of Lamlash Bay, where King Haakon of Norway sheltered his fleet in 1263, and five-year old Mary Queen of Scots stayed on her way to France in 1548.

And behind the nine hole course at Machrie stand those stone circles, like giant tees.

Touring around the road that loops the island, history is never far away. There is the thirteenth Century shell of Lochranza Castle, made famous by Sir Walter Scott in LORD OF THE ISLES, and now an eerie ruin at the mouth of the bay.



Left, a mailbox on Arran is carved with ancient symbols. According to the early Celts, the island was where immortal souls went after death.



McMillan admired the firmness with which Tyers had established control over the lawless elements at Port Albert and Tarraville. He had been ruthless with the sly grog shanty owners and the smugglers. Licence fees were collected regularly from the squatters and he settled boundary disputes.

With the assistance of his friend Dr Arbuckle, and by his own efforts, McMillan was able to recruit sufficient labour - some of it temporary - to enable him to create a station at Bushy Park of which he was justifiably proud.

From the funds loaned by Arbuckle, he acquired sheep and cattle and with his duties dictated by seasonable changes, his life settled into a busy round of activities, during which boredom or loneliness were furthest from his mind.

Cattle, whose quality was a byword among the locals, were shipped regularly from Port Albert. Frequently Angus drove the cattle himself, since this gave Angus the opportunity to see Arbuckle himself at Tarraville, and obtain stores and equipment from the local store which had been set up by a firm in Melbourne.

McMillan maintained his relationship with the Macallister family, which had taken the lion share of the spoils after their overseer had discovered Port Albert. The Clan had acted quickly and stepped in and taken out the necessary licences. With the nephews Matthew and Ronald Macallister, Angus was on friendly terms often meeting them at Port Albert or in stock musters. Lachlan Macallister preferred to remain in Camden rather than spending time in Gippsland

TO BE CONTINUED

McMillan's lack of command created rift between two Scots

In the past two weeks I wrote about McMillan's first five explorations toward a route to Corner Inlet.

This week I will complete the series, with his eventual success.

On July 18, 1840 McMillan was establishing a new run somewhere near the lakes for Macalister.

A Lieutenant Ross, RN, arrived with a letter from Macalister appointing him to be in charge of McMillan's next trip.

This opened a rift between the two Scots which never really healed.

Not unreasonably, McMillan felt that Macalister had demoted him, for the benefit of Macalister's friend, Ross.

The seaman was to prove to be no leader at all, but McMillan obeyed his employer.

The party moved off with loaded packhorses, all the men on foot, except Ross, who was on Clifton, McMillan's favourite horse!

They went down the known track to the Macalister, crossed the Thomson well above its junction with the Latrobe and went on until they met the Latrobe at a place which they called Snake Ridge but which later became Rosedale.

At this point Ross decided to return, as he said he had to be back in Sydney by a certain date!

They were almost in sight of the coast and they still had four weeks supplies. McMillan must have been furious.

On October 10, 1840



GIPPSLAND HISTORY

BY JOHN WELLS

McMillan disregarded Macalister's orders to form no new stations and moved 500 head of cattle down to the Avon.

Here he began what was the first cattle station of any permanence in Gippsland, at Bushy Park, near Boisdale.

Soon after this, Colin Macalister, Lachlan's nephew, arrived and again McMillan was relegated from command.

The younger Macalister led an expedition out and crossed the Latrobe (still called the Glengarry) a little upstream of Rosedale.

The party cut its way through the timber of the ranges south of Rosedale and stopped within twenty miles of Corner Inlet!

McMillan was dismayed and incensed.

Macalister's reason? Like Ross, he had to be back in Sydney by a certain date!

At Clifton Morass, named for McMillan's horse, the party was attacked by aborigines.

McMillan and Doctor Arbuckle, who was to become a legend in his own right, were able to drive them off without loss of life on either side.

This was the man who is now regarded (by a few) as a cold-blooded murderer of aborigines.

16 miles out from Numbla-Munjie they heard that

the station was under attack from the natives.

McMillan withdrew with the whole party to Bushy Park, the Commissioner for Crown Lands (Monaro) having been unable to provide any support or protection.

On December 22, 1840 the aborigines attacked Bushy Park and this time one of their leaders was shot.

McMillan had laid down his rifle and had persuaded the aborigine to lay down his spear.

As McMillan approached the native picked up his spear between his toes without McMillan seeing this happen.

One of the white men saw it, though, and shot the aborigine dead. The others fled.

A drayload of provisions arrived from Macalister, with a letter ordering McMillan to abandon the search for a southern port as it was obviously impossible to find one.

The naval officer Ross and young Colin Macalister had obviously reported unfavourably, perhaps to cover their own failures.

McMillan decided that Macalister could do the other things with his orders.

He and his men decided to make one last try.

They moved past Rosedale and camped on Merri-man's Creek at Willung on

February 9, 1841.

On the night of the 11th they camped on Bruthen Creek, which flows through Woodside, and on the 12th they arrived at the then-unnamed Tarra River.

On February 14, 1841 they found the Albert River and followed it down to the coast.

They arrived at what is now known as the Old Port, where there were seven feet of water at low tide.

This was known for a time as McMillan's Bay, I believe.

It has silted up so much now that it is hard to believe that ships capable of sailing the strait could tie up to the bank, but it was so.

After many tries, with little encouragement, and eventually under orders to quit, McMillan had kept alive his dream of a southern outlet for Gippsland-bred cattle.

He had made seven journeys of exploration and he had eventually opened a way from Omeco down the Lakes, and he had found a way to get cattle onto ships in good condition.

He had marked a dray route from the Monaro to Port Albert and James Lawrence had actually brought a dray down over every foot of the journey.

We tend to bash people like McMillan in retrospect.

That is a reflection of our stature, not theirs.

The man was a hero and we are in his debt. His example of determination, loyalty and simple willingness to work hard is one we could do well to follow.

This is the third and final article about explorer Angus McMillan by John Wells. The articles were published in a West Gippsland newspaper and kindly given to me by Norma Morrison of the Morrison Clan Australia Inc.,

For articles 1 & 2 reference Newsletters - November 1994 & March 1995.

HISTORY OF THE CLAN MACMILLAN PART 9

The MacHeth family likely escaped transportation by fleeing to the wilds of Badenoch, where they were to prove a potent force as the ancestors of Clan Chattan. The ancestors of the warlike Macleans were driven from their ancestral home at Dochgarroch and sought asylum and protection in Lorn where they continued for a time as retainers of the powerful MacDougalls. Later, when they rose to power, they ousted the MacKinnons from their hereditary birth place, thus possessing the greater part of Mull.

The MacNaughtons are said to have been given a portion of the crown lands at Strathtay and began to extend their estates westward around Loch Awe.

The MacMillans, likewise, were brought farther south where they were land around Loch Tay. King David 1 and his successor may have had some satisfaction in granting their "own peaceful people" those large estates which originally belonged to the ancient nobility of Moray, but that was the price they had to pay for earlier service rendered by those Anglo-Saxon knights who had been called in to crush a serious rising.

TO BE CONTINUED



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