



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 38, JULY 1996

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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 issue of genealogy is one of great interest to many members of the Clan Society. I recently met with a friend who has decided to investigate her family origins. I was interested to hear how she is approaching this complex task. The following encapsulates our discussion and may be of interest to others, like me who have only a general understanding of these matters. I am sure that we have members who could expand upon this and provide us all with insights into how to succeed.

Her first advice was to start with yourself and your immediate family. Then you work your way back to the first person in your family who came to Australia. Even if your parents are dead, you can find out a lot from your birth certificate, together with their birth, death and marriage certificates. You can find out when they were married and who were the witnesses. These people might be able to provide you with additional information about your own family. In the newspapers (eg through the *Argus Index*), you may find an obituary about a family member, articles about weddings and deaths. These articles could provide anecdotal information about your family members and their friends. You then search further back.

A most important issue is how to locate birth, marriage and death certificates. You can do that in Australia by requesting a copy from the appropriate Public Records Office, citing the relevant record number. They will search for you, but charge twice the amount. You can find out the number for yourself by searching by date and name on their microfiche of births death and marriage. You then insert the record number on a form from the PO and send away for the certificate. In the case of records for last century, there is now a CD-ROM, *Victorian Pioneers Index*, which you search for the appropriate record and its number and then order copy in the same way. It becomes more complicated when you are searching for records overseas and interstate. Many states have their early records on CD-ROM and later records on microfiche, which are accessible through some of the local libraries. Good family history collections can be found in Victoria at the Kew and Cheltenham Public Libraries, and at the State Library.

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For overseas records, a good source of information is the *International Genealogical Index* which has been put together by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Where local Bishops have allowed, the Mormons have filmed parish records which go back to 1500. These are available on a set of CD-ROMs from libraries. If you can identify the record's number, you send your request for a copy to Salt Lake City. This is provided for only 25 cents per record. Some of the local Mormon churches have good genealogical libraries and some specialise in particular national groups eg Wantirna specialises in German records. These churches may have groups of particular national interest, meeting from time to time.

For British ancestors, the *St Catherine's House Index*, which is on microfiche and micro-film provides records since official registration became mandatory (approx 1840). Payment is sent to London and they send a copy of the certificate. They are considering email and fax services. The Scottish Public Records Office accepts fax requests, accompanied by a credit card number.

Also you can join one of the genealogical societies. In Victoria they include the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies (AIGS) (in Blackburn); and the Genealogical Society of Victoria (in the City). Membership of either of these gives you rights to use their libraries and gain assistance from volunteers. Each of these genealogical societies has special interest groups with expertise in searching various national records. For example there is a Scottish group at AIGS, and they provide lectures on how to undertake Scottish research.

There are many other records to check: land ownership records, cemetery record, shipping records, naturalisation records and even voting lists.

There are lots of software packages available. Some are free (shareware) and others cost up to \$200. The Mormon's software is approximately \$65 and is called *Personal Ancestral File*. By using this software, you can contribute your family records to *Ancestral File* which is the world wide database of contacts and records. Inputting your data could provide you with connections, which you may not have expected, as a result of other people searching your family's file. Also there are a lot of newsgroups and sites on the Internet which provide assistance with genealogy and contacts with others with your family names.

My friend assures me that people are very generous about sharing information and ways of doing things. Even people who have been searching for up to ten years, who have a huge data base of their own family, regard themselves as still learning. I hope that you find this quick overview interesting. I am encouraged by my friend's enjoyment in the process and the way in which she has found so much interesting information already.

Best wishes

Elizabeth McMillan

HELP WANTED

Mrs Lynette Ryan from Belgrave has been unable to find any trace of descendants of her great great grandparents. The only details she has are as follows:-
DANIEL MCMILLAN, born Scotland 1841 - died 1889 aged 48 years near Linton, Vic.
JANE MCMILLAN (NEE MCKEAN) born Scotland, married at Happy Valley near Linton Victoria.

Their children were born at Linton Victoria:

DANIEL -born 1864 - Lynette's Grandfather; John, Jane, Mary, David, Agnes, William (went to N.Z.) Jessie, Robert & James.

Lynette would appreciate any information and I would be happy to forward any letters on to Lynette about her missing relatives.

J. Senior.

ANNUAL PICNIC AND A.G.M.

Please make a diary note **NOW** - our picnic and A.G.M. will be held on Sunday 27th October 1996 at the home of our President, Elizabeth McMillan at 64 Mitford St., (corner of Milton St.) Elwood. Reference Melway map 67 - B1. Please bring your food and drink for lunch. The committee would love to see you on this day.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

We were saddened to learn recently that Jane MacMillan's much loved "Aunty Bill" died in May, just before her 97th Birthday. Our very deepest sympathy to Jane and family in their sad loss.

NEW MEMBERS

A very big welcome to Mrs Phyllis Innes of Sale, Victoria; Mrs Betty Mau of Parkwood, Queensland; and Mrs Marianne McMillan of Canterbury, Victoria. We trust you will enjoy our kinship and Newsletters.

RESIGNATION

I have just received a letter from Steven McMillan resigning as Secretary of the Clan MacMillan Society Australia. Steven was foundation secretary when the Society was formed in March 1983. I would like to thank Steven for the work he had done in fostering the Society for 13 years.

Steven also began the articles "Angus McMillan-Pathfinder" in the September 1985 Newsletter-from the book of the same name by Kenneth Cox. Steven had permission from the author to do these articles.

In March 1993 Newsletter Steven commenced the articles "History of the MacMillan Clan". I know from your letters that you have enjoyed these articles, and on your behalf, I would like to thank Steven for the time and effort he has put in to do this work and wish him well in the future.

June Senior, Editor.

MACMILLAN CLAN CENTRE NEWSLETTER

As a member of the "Friends of the Clan Centre" I recently received Newsletter No.5 Autumn 1996 issue, compiled by Graeme McKenzie.

In September our Clan Chief George and his wife Jane will host the MACMILLAN CLAN GATHERING at Finlaystone from 11th - 15th September 1996. A Clan-lands tour has been organized from 30th August -11th September. If any Australian member is travelling to Scotland at this time they may contact me and I will mail a copy of the itinerary of the Gathering and Tour.

The Australian Society would like to offer our congratulations to Malcolm, the chief's younger son who married Amanda Taylor in Norham on 22nd April 1996. Our very best wishes to Malcolm and Amanda for their future happiness.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you to all members who write to me when sending their subscriptions. I always appreciate your interest and suggestions.

Robert McMillan of Boort told me of his family's early days in Melbourne. Warrigal Road was once known as McMillans Street, named after Roberts Grandfather John McMillan, owner of the Scotchmans Creek Homestead which was 5 square miles, between Waverley and Oakleigh, in the years between 1839-1845. Thank you Robert.....J.S. Jenny Coates came to the Ringwood Highland Games in March from Wodonga to say Hello! It was lovely to meet you Jenny.

Gloria Wilks wrote to say the MacMillan information I sent to all Genealogical Societies in Australia has appeared in the Western Australian Journal, also the Tasmanian Journal, so news of the MacMillan Clan is reaching more people. Space does not permit me to mention all the letters, however I will answer these personally when mailing out the Newsletter.

VISIT TO BRITAIN AND FINLAYSTONE HOUSE

Members Myrna and Harry Robertson recently visited Finlaystone House while on a trip overseas. I asked Myrna if she would write about their visit. She has kindly done so and I thank her very much indeed for the following article:

Harry and I arrived in London on 9th April and spent a week with Harry's daughter Fiona exploring London. This was most enjoyable. We then travelled by hire car for 3 weeks exploring Devon, Cornwall, the west coast of England then to the Yorkshire Dales which we thoroughly enjoyed before heading to GIRVAN.

This is where my Great Great Great Grandfather Joseph McMillan and his wife Janet (Watt) Nimmo had lived with their family until 1854 when they travelled to Australia and settled on a farm in Terang, Victoria. We spent a few hours in Girvan exploring and taking some photos of 79 OLD STREET where Joseph, Janet and family had lived. We were unable to find any more information about their parents, apart from Joseph's father William and Mother Eleanor Buchanan had married in Ireland, and that Joseph had been born in Belfast, Ireland in 1808. Here we bought postcards to send to my Father, Harold McMillan who lives in Carrum. We then drove to Ayr, Robbie Burns country and stayed at a large Youth Hostel. There were not many folk staying there this night, temperature 6-8° -a cold night but warm doonas on our beds.

The next day we drove through Greenock to Finlaystone House in Langbank, a cold, rainy day. The gardens were open to the public, but not the House. Walking around the gardens we found George's sister Judy, who welcomed us and encouraged us to walk around the gardens and keep an eye out for George, who had been cutting the grass the last time she had seen him. We were astounded at the extent of the gardens -all 500 acres are used. Everywhere we went there were masses of flowers, the rhododendrons and daffodils were just beautiful. The gardens are just bonny, even in the rain. We didn't find George but Jane had arrived home and greeted us very warmly. Jane had an appointment very soon but asked if we would like a quick look at the house? For this we were most grateful. Once in the house it was like stepping back in time. You can feel the history- the rooms are spacious, warm and cosy with lovely carpets and tapestries, with the magnificent wide staircase and fine marble pillars. Jane showed us some of her Mother's Treasures- a wonderful Doll Collection which is being moved into new premises, which are to be officially opened on 30th June. We also saw drawings by a Botanist of Captain Cook's era of lovely exotic birds, beautifully drawn. Jane opened the Clan Centre and we were astounded to see the extent of work that has been put in to it by Graeme McKenzie(Historian) and Jane. The Kilmory Cross has been set up and displayed in the Centre, very cleverly done.

It was past time for Jane to leave but she suggested I phone Graeme to arrange a time to meet him at the Clan Centre as I had our McMillan family history with me. Jane left to visit her Aunt in England who was very ill.

Harry and I visited the Celtic Tree tea-rooms at the rear of the house in a lovely setting. The Ladies served us hot drinks and cake which was most welcome, as it was bitterly cold outside. The cold weather is not normal for early May we were told. During last winter buildings and pipes had frozen, causing a lot of damage and extra work Jane had told us. We headed off warmed and refreshed by the kindness we had experienced by everyone at Finlaystone, down the lovely drive towards Glasgow. A few weeks later we were back at Finlaystone having made arrangements with Graeme to visit on the Thursday afternoon. We travelled to Langbank by train and had started the half an hour walk. It had started raining when Jane pulled up in the car and drove us the rest of the way which we greatly appreciated. George came in with Graeme and gave us a very warm welcome before he had to go and cut more grass.

We spent about two hours with Graeme, who was most helpful. He suggested that as we were staying presently in Edinburgh, to go and search in the New Register Office in Princess Street - the cost being £10.00 for half a day. We said farewell and wished him well with preparations for the Clan Gathering in September. We visited Celtic Tree tea-rooms once more, before leaving this lovely place. If in Scotland don't miss a visit to Finlaystone House - for a very warm welcome in a beautiful setting.

Myrna writes on her family history: My brother Ronald McMillan had set our family history on Computer on Data Sheet form with Indexes. He has done a great job and put a lot of work into the family history. He and his wife Margaret travelled to Terang to gather information from the cemetery. Their daughter Kathryn McMillan, who is living in London, has also put a lot of time and help in tracing the family history.

By Myrna and Harry Robertson.

FAMILY HISTORY

Gloria Wilks of Burrill Lake N.S.W. has sent me the following interesting information:

My Great Great Grandfather John McMillan who was born around 1797 was a Society Schoolmaster in the Glen Moriston area of Inverness. He married Anne Cameron, daughter of Helen McDonnell and Ewen Cameron who farmed Tom Crasky in the glen, on 26th August 1829. They lived in the area until after 1844 when they moved with their children to the Blaich area which is on the south side of Loch Eil. Here my Great Grandmother Hughina was born.

My Grandmother often told me the story that the family had hidden Bonnie Prince Charlie on their property during his flight to the Isle of Skye during 1746, after the Battle of Culloden. I was therefore very interested to read in the August 1995 edition of "The Scots Link" an article by Barrie Robertson titled "Roderick MacKenzie's Cairn", where he mentioned that the "famous seven men of Glen Moriston" had hidden the Prince in a cave situated "high in Coire Dho". I know that Coire Dho is situated in the hills at the back of Tom Crasky farm where my Great Great Grandmother Anne (Cameron) McMillan was born in 1806. I wrote to Mr Robertson who promptly answered my queries about the seven men. Patrick Grant, the leader, was the tenant on the farm in 1746, and as Anne McMillan's Grandmother was Helen Grant, and she also had a younger brother named Patrick it is very likely that he was her Great Uncle. So this is one family tale that did have some truth in it however tenuous.

Mr Robertson also mentioned that his wife was a school teacher at Dalchreichart, just a mile or so from Tom Crasky, during the 1960's, and where John and Anne McMillan were living at the time of the 1841 Census. It is indeed a small world.

On the 1841 census John McMillan stated that he was not born in the County of Inverness, but the 1851 census states that he was born in the parish of Urquhart. It is believed that John taught at Glen Moriston, Blaich, Fassiefern and Fort William before migrating to Christchurch, New Zealand, on the Regina in 1859. He died at Christchurch during 1865, before many details were required on certificates. I have been unable to verify who John's parents were or where he was born.

DOUGLAS MACMILLAN 1884-1969

The following article appeared in the latest Clan Centre Newsletter:

Founder of The Society for the Prevention and Relief of Cancer following the death of his father William from cancer of the stomach in 1911. As bard of the clan in later years he was very conscious of the motivating power of the MacMillan motto *Miseris Succurere Disco* in relation to the work of his charity-which is now, as Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, one of the most successful in Britain.

Though out beneath the western waves
Your title-rock lies low,
A heritage of honoured graves
Is yours where'er ye go.
Ye have a noble name to bear,
Unadvertised, unstained,
Each of your clan a gentleman,
In simple goodness trained.

Come ye, foregather, ye alone,
As in the misty past
(Forget seven hundred years have flown!)
Your fathers gathered last.
Come talk, commune and sing of them,
Their knightly aims and deeds:
Your cousins meet, your vows repeat -
To succour him that needs.

From "The Recall" by Douglas Macmillan, Bard to the Clan.

THE HISTORY OF THE CLAN MACMILLAN (PART 11)

Dr Hugh Macmillan, commenting on the clan's lengthy sojourn in Perthshire, writes:-
"In the Maclagan MS. written by the Rev. James Maclagan, a native of the same district of Perthshire, this colony is alluded to as Mac-na-maoile. The estate of Lawers belonged to them; and many of the ruined foundations, whose stones are covered with grey lichens and moss, which one meets in lonely spots on the long slopes, shieling farms of Ben Lawers, testify to their remote tenancy. They worshipped, perhaps, in the old forgotten church of Balnahanait (Township of the Mother Church) and were buried at Cladh Phobuil, of which no trace now remains." Not many years ago, some of the old worthies of Loch Tayside were acquainted with the lore of the district and had heard from a former generation something of the history of the Macmillans and of their former possessions in Lawers and the surrounding neighbourhood. One old farmer, Macmartin by name and late of Duallan farm, was quite an authority of the lore and history of the countryside. He had an interesting and valuable collection of ancient relics which were found on or near his own farm. Time and time again he affirmed from oral tradition that the Macmillans were once the proprietors of Lawers long before the Campbells had any claim to the place.

Dr William Gillies, late minister of Kenmore and author of "In Famed Breadalbane" makes mention of this tradition in his book when dealing with a section devoted to the history of the earliest inhabitants of the place. One can visualise from the descriptions given in this book what Lawers must have looked like when the Macmillans lived there. Bruce seems to have been a frequent visitor to the local shrines. In fact, he never forgot the kindness shown him by the local people and particularly the valuable help given by the local clergy at the battle of Bannockburn. In token of this, he built a monastery at St. Fillans as a thanks offering to Almighty God for his signal victory.

POEM

Member Jenny Coates sent me the following poem written by her Uncle John McMillan (who was confined to a wheelchair) to his sister, Mrs Stan Jackson.

You did a real good job old pal
You stuck it to the end
And I am proud to have you
For a Sister and a friend.

Carry on the good work
And hold your head up high
There is a reward awaiting
For you up in the sky.

It's half the battle old Pal
When you're feeling sick and blue
To know that you have some-one
To back one up like you

Don't ever let us quarrel
Or bad friends ever be
For I love you dear Sister
Though you may not care for me

By John McMillan.

ANGUS MCMILLAN(PATHFINDER) (CONTINUED)

Lambing and shearing were regular events to which McMillan devoted his full time, working long hours himself and supervising the extra hands which he had engaged, if possible, depending on the demand for labour at the time.


The lambs began to appear after the end of June and, in Gippsland, the most important factor was the weather. In a cold snap, he could lose large numbers, and McMillan went the rounds on cold bitter nights to ensure the well being.

In October shearing was a procedure far removed from the modern era of spacious clean sheds with electric machines the sheep were first washed in a river or stream to clean the wool, notwithstanding which a howl arose annually from the British wool merchants when the dirty Australian clip arrived after the long sea voyage. All hands, whether skilled or unskilled, took their turn with the handblades, dabbing ointment on any cuts to the sheep during the operation. Professional shearers were paid One Pound for shearing one hundred sheep, although few achieved this total in a day. In common with most labour of the era, shearers were an independent lot, and McMillan treated them with care lest they ceased to work at some slight pretext and move on. The fleeces were flung in a handmade press operated by a manual lever, the resulting bale being nine by four feet. The wool was incredibly filthy, but the squatters main concern was to sew the bails and load them on to a bullock wagon for the long journey over dusty tracks, or if there had been rain through oozing mud in which the creaking wagons bogged, to Port Albert for shipment to Melbourne. Originally, agents had met the wool teams along the track and offered a price which was usually accepted after some haggling. McMillan consigned his wool to Richard Goldsbrough & Co who sold it by auction and accounted to him for the net proceeds.



For members wishing to purchase a copy of the book 'The Macmillan Family' which has been published by the Clan of John Macmillan of Long, Day, & Co. When your order has been placed, the Macmillan Genealogical Society will be pleased to provide you with a copy of the book. This is provided for you at a special price of \$10.00. If you wish to purchase a copy of the book, please contact the Macmillan Society (Australia) at the address below. The book is available in paperback and hardcover. The price of the book is \$10.00 plus postage. The book is available in paperback and hardcover. The price of the book is \$10.00 plus postage. The book is available in paperback and hardcover. The price of the book is \$10.00 plus postage.

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