



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO 39, NOVEMBER 1996

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MACMILLAN

CREST BADGE: A dexter and a sinister hand brandishing a two-handed sword, proper.

MOTTO: Atisens succurrere disco

(I learn to succour the distressed)

Gaelic Name: MacGhille-

Mhaolain.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE COMMITTEE - 1995/96

On your behalf, I would like to thank the Committee members and all those who attended the AGM, continuing to show their active interest in the well being of the Society.

Editor of the Newsletter - June Senior

During the year, we have had a quiet 'steady-as-she-goes' year, with June Senior continuing to keep us all up to date through her excellent work on the Newsletter. I am sure that it is the Newsletter that is one of the major reasons for many of our members belonging. This is evidenced by approaches to some members to consider a more high profile role, who have indicated that they are unable to contribute the time required, but are more than happy with the services provided through the Newsletter. There is no doubt that the Newsletter has provided an interesting information source for people, and has enabled some people to link themselves to others on their own family tree. I would therefore like to place on record our appreciation to June for the time and effort that she gives to the Newsletter and also to Max, for his support of June's work.

Treasurer - June Senior

June's work as Treasurer is also appreciated. The Treasurer's role is tedious and requires considerable effort and responsibility. We are appreciative to June and to Max for his auditing role.

Secretary - Steven McMillan

During the year our Secretary, Steven McMillan, decided that he had competing priorities and so was unable to continue in his role as Secretary. We were sorry that this was his decision and would like to place on record our thanks to him.

Committee member - Kaylene Blake

Our other Committee member, Kaylene Blake, is appreciated for her support, and her willingness to be involved. We place on record our thanks to Kaylene.

The voluntary nature of the Committee

We are aware that all of us are busy and that the work of the Society is undertaken in a voluntary capacity by those who are involved and it only because of June and the others who are prepared to place themselves on the committee that the Society is able to continue.

From time to time, we worry about the size of the Society and the fact that we are unable to devote more time and effort to its work. However, the role of the Society is really determined by the members who seem to be satisfied with the current level of activity and who tend to want to continue receiving the Newsletter, staying in touch and remaining connected in this rather informal manner.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Ringwood Highland Games

June and Max Senior set up the tent at the Ringwood Highland games and provided a focus for the Clan. Many people stopped with interest to ask questions and make contact. June keeps a high profile for the Clan by her involvement with other key people from the other Clans. All Clan members are welcome to come to the Highland Games and spend some time in the tent enjoying the company of others. It is a great day, especially for children who find all the activity very interesting.

There are a number of other Highland Games and festivals in Victoria, but time and other commitments means that there is a limit to those that can be attended. It may be that some members have some ideas as to how we can be more visible at those events to maximise those opportunities to attract potential new members.

The Clan Centre and the Australian Flag

We were approached by the Clan Centre for an Australian Flag and the Clan Society has funded, by way of donation, an Australian flag. This will mean that in 1996 and in future Gatherings, Australia can be represented by its flag. Apparently some of the other countries' flags are able to be hired, but there was no Australian flag to be hired and so required purchasing. Obviously we always hope that some of our members might be attending the Gatherings and if this were to be the case in the future, then we would be represented by both members and flag.

The Clan Centre continues to seek support and clearly should be supported as far as is practicable by the Clan Society. There have been a number of Clan Society members and their families who have visited the Clan MacMillan Centre and it would seem to me to be a priority for us to support its development and maintenance.

Membership of the Clan Society

The main area of interest to the Committee continues to be the matter of recruiting new members, especially would contribute to the work of the Clan Society in an active way. Any ideas would be welcomed.

The issue of whether we should have a branch in each state is vexed in terms of how those potential branches would be developed and supported and by whom. We have to be realistic as to the level of active membership and as we must rely on grassroots members, so we must think in a practical way.

The MacMillan Clan and the Internet

I have searched the Internet for information on the Clan and have located some connections with other MacMillans and other Clans.. I located the Clan McCallum site which supports discussion by any interested people anywhere in the world. I located the list of Historical Societies for the whole of Scotland which might be an interesting resource for members, who are undertaking genealogical searches.

POSSIBLE VISIT TO AUSTRALIA IN 1997 BY THE CHIEF OF THE CLAN

1997 looks as if it might be an important year for the Clan MacMillan Society of Australia. When we heard that the Chief of the Clan intended to visit New Zealand, we contacted him and asked him if he might consider also visiting Australia. He has written back to us indicating his interest. Obviously the Clan Society would wish to contribute to the Chief's visit in some way. Obviously there would need to be other commitments made by Society members to time and effort in terms of George and Jane's visit to Australia, including some formal recognition of the visit in some way by the Society as a whole. We hope to schedule next year's AGM when George is here.

If George and Jane are able to come to Australia we will plan for their visit and keep you informed about progress. We would hope that as many people as possible would meet them and help to make their visit to Australia a memorable one.

Elizabeth K McMillan President 1995/96

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CULLODEN

Member Russell Harrison recently received a letter from Nigel Macmillan of Glasgow. Nigel wrote: "Six of us represented the Clan MacMillan at the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden: George, Jane, Nette & I, Gordon and Graeme. There were about 5000 there including 1 redcoat. I have not seen so much tartan in one spot for a long time, much of it in pre-1745 full plaid worn by associations like the White Cockade.

We had driven up to Inverness on the Monday evening in heavy rain, just like 250 years ago. Several of the White Cockade people were staying at the same hotel so breakfast was quite a colourful affair. Not only were there kilts and plaids everywhere but targes, broadswords and muskets. We all then got into cars and drove up to Drumossie Moor where it was windy but dry and sunny.

There was an opening speech by Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel followed by a Gaelic service at the Culloden Monument. Then each clan went to its (permanent) marker, and, when a volley of muskets sounded at midday, wreaths were laid on each marker. The MacMillans don't have a marker; those many MacMillans who were enrolled in Lochiel's battalion were all written down as "Cameron". So, after Alistair Cameron laid his wreath on the Cameron marker, I laid a MacMillan wreath there also. This had a special, personal meaning for me as my paternal grandmother was a Cameron from Fort Augustus.

We are indebted to Nigel and Russell for this interesting article.

NEEDED

I read this poem by Karen Rene some time ago. I feel it expresses the need to help others, as in the MACMILLAN CLAN MOTTO.

We all need to be needed,
We need to know, to feel
We have a task, a job to do,
Some work for us that's real.

We need to know that some-one-
A stranger or a friend,
Has need of us, a helping hand,
That only we can lend.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. and get together was held on 27th October '96 at the home of our President. Our special thanks to Libby and her Mother, Jean McMillan for looking after us so well. There were 13 present- a point to ponder- that represented 9 out of our membership of 80. Thank you to all who attended, and a special thanks to Frank & Pauline McMillan and their son Peter who came from Adelaide to attend. They rarely miss our meeting.

Our President's report has been included in the Newsletter and I would like to thank Libby for the help and support she always gives me. Welcome to our new Committee members - listed on Page 1- and thank you for your support.

The most exciting news is that our Clan Chief George and his wife Jane expect to visit New Zealand and Australia late 1997. As long time members know, George and Jane visited Australia in November 1982, and it was shortly after their visit that the MacMillan Clan Society Australia was formed in 1983. Since then many members have been graciously welcomed at the Clan Chief's home, "Finlaystone". In 1991 a dream was realized when the MacMillan Clan Centre was opened at Finlaystone. MacMillans from all over the world visit and learn the history of the Clan. Because of the great importance of the Clan Centre I am enclosing information recently received. The Clan Centre needs and deserves our support.

SOCIETY FEES NOW DUE

Our subscription of \$10.00 for 1996/1997 is now due. It would be appreciated if this amount could be sent to Treasurer June Senior at 41 Lincoln Ave, Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150 as soon as possible.

NEW MEMBER

A big welcome to Mrs Maude Walker of Bairnsdale, Victoria. We trust you will enjoy our kinship and newsletters.

FLOWER OF THE FOREST

We were saddened to learn of the death of Mrs Dot Audsley of Noble Park. Dot had not been well for some time and passed away last July. Our deepest sympathy to Dot's family.

FAMILY HISTORY

Member Ed Hawkes has sent me the following information.

"I am a Great Great Grandson of Margaret McMillan, born 22 January 1841- died Arawata (near Korumburra) Victoria 20 March 1929. Her married name was AESCHLIMANN. Margaret was the only one of her family to migrate to Australia (in 1863). Her Mother Jane, with Margaret's brothers and sister (John, Michael, Mary Jane, Neill & William) all migrated to America after the death of Margaret's father Michael. Margaret emigrated from Scotland to Australia in 1863 on the ship "Matilda Atherling". On the shipping list Margaret was engaged as a Cook by a Mr Beckham of Murgheboluc, near Geelong for three years".

Member Dugald McMillan from Queensland has sent me the following on his family history.

"So far I have traced the family history back to the marriage of James McMillan and Margaret McFarlane on 3 May 1836 at Killarrow, Islay. From then the family moved back and forth between Islay and Campbeltown. My grandfather and great-uncle migrated to Australia about 1911. My father was born in Glasgow in 1907 and arrived with my grandmother in 1919. Grandfather had served in the A.I.F. (31st Battalion) and died six months after returning to Australia".

OLYMPIC GAMES 1996

Francine McRae, grand-daughter of Donald, late brother of Christina & Keith McRae- a descendant of the McMillans of Hazlewood Station, Morwell, Gippsland - was chosen to represent Queensland at Atlanta in the softball section of the Olympics. The team reached the semi-finals in their event. Well done to Francine and all the team.

FAMILY HISTORY

New member Marianne McMillan has kindly written the article below. She shares her delight in finding two of our members, Robert McMillan of Boort and Alex McMillan of Bendigo are related to her husband's family. Marianne writes:

Dear June

As you are aware I joined the MacMillan Clan Society in May this year, I really enjoy receiving the newsletters and reading the articles about "MacMillan's" in general.

When the July edition arrived I sat down quietly with lunch and the newsletter and could not believe my luck, when I read in the correspondence section about "Robert McMillan of Boort" and his grandfather "John McMillan" who arrived in Australia in 1839. I have been working on my husband's family history for only about 12mths and was sure this would be a connection of some sort. June I would like to thank you for all your help and assistance in contacting Robert who is indeed a relative to my husband and who in turn put us in contact with two other relatives. one living just 10 minutes away.

We were all very excited in finding one another, we have been able to share a wealth of information and I have been able to obtain photographs from Alex and Verna McMillan in Bendigo of William McMillan and his family.

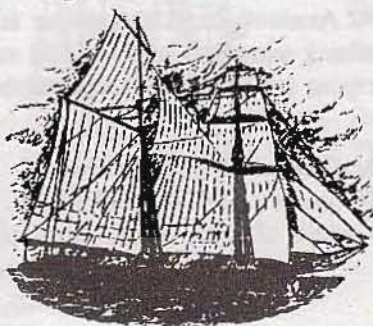
William was my husband's great grandfather, who with his wife Isabella and 8 children left Nhill, Victoria in May 1915 intending to travel overland by covered wagon to the Northern Territory. The family had survived six years of raging drought and had lost most of their stock. There was very little outlook for a young family in Victoria under existing conditions. William McMillan Snr was offered a cattle station in the Territory, so with 53 blood horses and the wagonette the family began its perilous journey north. Unfortunately the trip proved to be difficult for the young so William, Isabella and the 5 youngest children returned from Branbury Station in Queensland to Adelaide, crossed to Sydney and eventually succeeded in getting a passage by boat to Darwin, where they arrived in May 1916.

The remaining members of the family, William 22 yrs, Maxwell 18yrs and Neil 16yrs continued on horseback with pack horses to Darwin, with their only guide a compass. So three daring young men with no knowledge of bush lore pushed on from station to station, working with their hands, which they had never done before, earning their living as they went.

As there was no means of communication in those days, no word on the boys reached Darwin for many months and they were given up for lost. Eventually word arrived by overland message that the boys were safe, however Maxwell had contracted Malaria. William Snr elated at hearing his sons were alive, contacted the Territory Administrator, who immediately provided transport for him to travel to meet his sons at Borroloola. The happiness was short lived as William Snr contracted the disease and died aged 53 at McArthur River. The boys wrapped their father in a blanket, dug a grave and buried him, erecting a bush railing around his grave. Neil and William then also contracted Malaria and though delirious finally arrived in Darwin in December of 1916. Their pioneering trek taking them 19 months. The entire town turned out to welcome them.

The boys having no knowledge of cattle, all their lives they had known only sheep, were considered unable to run their fathers station, so began work at the meat works. The boys purchased land and erected a home for their mother. With the knowledge they gained at the meat works they eventually founded the Ice and Cold Storage Company. As time passed the boys acquired a great deal of land and real estate, erecting a group of shops, a hotel, picture theatre, and new cold storage plant.

During World War II much of the McMillan's properties were commandeered by the Army. Unfortunately with the bombing of Darwin and the Australian Army using machinery and property much of what the family had worked so hard to achieve was destroyed. Many years later they were compensated for their losses by the Australian Government and McMillans Road, a main road near the airport was named after the family, in support of their pioneering trek.





THE PERSONAL ARMS OF THE CHIEF
George Gordon MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap
Finlaystone, Langbank, Renfrewshire PA14 6TJ. Tel. 01475 540285.

The plant badge of the clan (shown at the foot of the chief's armorial shield) is the holly; and the MacMillan Motto, given in Latin at the top of the Chief's arms, means "I learn to help the distressed". The Gaelic saying at the bottom of the arms is part of MacMillan's Charter from the Lords of the Isles for his lands in Knapdale, which is said to have been carved in rock on the shore at the Point of Knap; the complete couplet:

Coir MhicMhaolain air a Chnap MacMillan's right to Knap shall be
Fhad's a bhuaileas tonn ri crag As long's this rock withstands the sea.

ORIGINS OF THE CLAN

Macmillans are descendants of the Picto-Scots royal family of the ancient Province of Moray, whose most famous member was Macbeth. The clan's progenitor was a lay-priest called "Gille Chriosd" ("the servant of God"), who was also known by the nickname "An Gilleanaol" ("the shaven-headed servant") because of his tonsure. He is on record in the Book of Deer (in 1132), as is his son who was called "macGhillembhaoil" or "macMhaolain" ("son of the tonsured servant" or "son of the little shaven-headed one"); i.e. "MacMillan".

The "Clann an Mhaoil" ("children of the tonsured one") were probably one of the Celtic families expelled in 1160 from the coastal plains of the Moray Firth by the Anglo-Norman influenced King Malcolm IV; and who, as devotees of St. Cathan, were a power in Badenoch and Lochaber in the 13th century. The line of the original MacMillan chiefs seems to have been destroyed by the internal feuding that erupted amongst these tribes - the original Clan Chattan - most spectacularly in the Barrier Battle at Perth in 1396.

The leadership of the Macmillans was assumed by a branch that moved from Loch Tayside in Perthshire to Knapdale in Argyllshire, where they were granted lands by the Lords of the Isles - on whose Council the clan chief sat. At the height of their power in the area, in the 15th century, Alexander MacMillan of Knap was constable of the ancient fortress of Castle Sween, where he built MacMillan's Tower. He also erected the Celtic Cross at Kilmory - probably around the time the clan lost most of its lands in the Lords of the Isles fatal final rebellion. His 17th century successors lived at Dunmore, and spread from there south into Kintyre.

From Perthshire and Knapdale, Macmillans scattered to establish branches of the clan all over Scotland - with separate clan chieftains among the ancient families of Galloway and a revived Lochaber branch; and important settlements as far-flung as the Outer Hebrides in the north, and Ulster in the south. After the senior lines of the Knapdale chiefs died out in the late eighteenth century, the clan remained chiefless until the distinguished soldier, Sir Gordon MacMillan established his right to the title in 1952. The present chief is his son.

HISTORIES OF THE CLAN

Somerled MacMillan: *The MacMillans and their Septs*, Glasgow, 1952; *Bygone Lochaber*, Paisley, 1971; *Families of Knapdale*, Paisley, 1960.

Christopher W. McMullen: *The MacMillan Endeavour*, U.S.A., 1990. Available from the author at: 24 McNaughton Drive, St. John, New Brunswick, E2J 4K6, CANADA. Hardback with clan crest in gold stamp, CAN \$ 30 (US \$ 27.50); paperback CAN \$ 17 (US \$ 15); CAN \$ 3 for post and packing. Also available from the Clan Centre at £8.50 (£1.00 post and packing if ordering by post).

Graeme M. Mackenzie: *Origins of the Lochaber Macmillans and the Descent of the Families of Murlaggan and Glenpear*, a chapter in *The Lochaber Emigrants to Glengarry 1792-1802*, edited by Rae Fleming, Canada, 1994 (available from the Clan Centre in winter 1994 - details of price etc. on application).

MACMILLAN CLAN CENTRE

As a clan widely spread throughout Scotland since medieval times, and throughout the world in modern times, the MacMillans have lacked a focus for centuries. Now the Clan Centre has been created to provide a place for Macmillans of all branches to visit, and an organisation to work for communication and co-ordination within the clan worldwide. It can be found at the chief's home on the southern shores of the Firth of Clyde, about 12 miles west of Glasgow (not far from the airport), where it forms part of a Visitors' Centre in the converted carriage house set amongst the beautiful Finlaystone Gardens (open to the public daily).

CLAN CENTRE APPEAL: The Centre consists of a "Public Room" open to all, and an "Archive Room" for the exclusive use of clan members. While the building remains the property of the estate and was renovated at its expense, the capital costs of its conversion, the creation of permanent displays, and the provision of the necessary equipment are being met from donations to the Clan Centre Appeal Fund.

FRIENDS OF CLAN MACMILLAN help to meet the running costs of the Clan Centre. "Friends" will be allowed free entry to the "Archive Room" (other Macmillans will be expected to make a donation to gain access); they will receive two Clan Centre Newsletters a year to keep them directly in touch with the Centre, the Chief, his family at Finlaystone, and the rest of the clan worldwide; and they will be entitled to a one third discount on the professional fees for research carried out by the Clan Genealogist.

PROJECT MAOL: A considerable part of the running costs met from the "Friends" fund is intended to be payment to the Clan Archivist/Genealogist for one day's work a week in the Centre (eventually to be raised to two days a week). In the meantime some of his genealogical work for the clan is being paid for out of the funds collected for "Project MAOL". This stands for **MacMillan Ancestry On Line**, and is a long-term scheme to compile the complete genealogy of the clan and all its septs on the Clan Centre computer in such a way that it will be easily accessible to clanspeople, either at the Centre or "down the line".

APPLICATION TO BECOME A "FRIEND OF CLAN MACMILLAN" Annual Membership will run from 1st January to 31st December.

SURNAME:.....FORENAME(S):.....

NAME OF SPOUSE/PARTNER:.....

ADDRESS:.....

TOWN/CITY:.....COUNTY:.....

STATE/PROVINCE:.....ZIP/POSTCODE:.....

COUNTRY:.....TELEPHONE NUMBER:.....

MEMBER OF WHICH CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (IF ANY):.....

ANCESTORS FROM WHICH PART OF SCOTLAND (IF KNOWN):.....

Please ring below the amount sent, and enter against it the year(s) you are paying for:
(Non-Sterling Membership fees include exchange costs).

MEMBERSHIP FOR THE CURRENT YEAR *AVAILABLE UNTIL JUNE 30TH OF THAT YEAR.*
(UK £10; US \$18; CAN \$25; AUS \$23; NZ \$28) **THE 1 YEAR IS:**.....

MEMBERSHIP FOR THE CURRENT AND TWO SUCCEEDING YEARS:
(UK £25; US \$38; CAN \$54; AUS \$50; NZ \$62) **3 YEARS ARE:**.....

ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDS SENT (Please state amounts against appropriate categories):

Donation to Clan Centre Appeal Fund:.....

Donation to Project MAOL Fund:.....

Any others (Please specify):.....

TOTAL SUM SENT & Form in which sent:.....
Cash; Personal Cheque; Bank Draft (made out to: *Friends of Clan MacMillan*).

MacMillan Clan Centre, Finlaystone, Langbank, Renfrewshire PA14 6TJ, Scotland, U.K.
Tel. & Fax: 01475-540713.



SEASON'S GREETINGS



If unclaimed, please return to:
CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (AUSTRALIA)
41 Lincoln Ave, Glen Waverley Vic. 3150




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