

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Victoria)

Newsletter No 4, September 1984

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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FROM THE PRESIDENT

October is nearly here once again, which means that the Clan Gathering on the banks of the Yarra River at Scotch College is also about to take place. The date is October 21st, for a lunch Bar-B-Cue, B.Y.O everything.

This will be the third gathering of the Clan MacMillan Society (Victoria) since George and Jane stimulated the first and most successful one in 1982. Although we can't produce such charming guests as the son and daughter-in-law of the Clan Chief, we can look forward to renewing our friendships with those associated with the name and catching up on what has happened in the last year.

Although we all come from many different walks of life, there has been evident a remarkably warm and friendly feeling at our previous barbeques, prompted by a feeling of kinship in bearing a common name, and drawn together by the pride in, and affection for, things Scottish.

If the weather is as beautiful on October 21st as it is as I write, then it will certainly be a most pleasant occasion. We do hope you will all come in large numbers.

Since the March Newsletter there have been two functions:

1. The Annual General Meeting was held at Scotch College on March 27th. The attendance was a little disappointing, but those who attended were most interested to hear how Bob McMillan-Kay went about researching, writing and producing his excellent book 'The McMillan and McKibbin families and their descendants 1863-1983. I found this most interesting and stimulating, and although I have not rushed into print, I know where to start and am determined that if I have the good fortune to go to Scotland again, I shall use the excellent resources available in Edinburgh to find out more about my own Macmillan forbears.
2. The other function which was planned was a 'Swapshop', on June 26th. This was very disappointing indeed, in that only three of us attended - Mac Francome, Bob McMillan-Kay and me. The aim was for people to exchange information on avenues which had proved useful in research and to compare materials, photographs and other interesting memorabilia. The object of the evening was excitingly fulfilled for me, when Bob showed me a small book called 'Records of the Clan'... An address delivered to the Clan Macmillan Society at their Annual Gathering, 10th December 1901 - by George A. Macmillan, Chief of the Society.

I was fascinated to find in the text, George Macmillan's reference to a book called 'History of Glen Urquhart', by MacKay, in which reference is made to the Macmillans in Glen Urquhart, one of whom was Buchanan Macmillan, son of a crofter in the Glen called Finlay Macmillan. Buchanan Macmillan moved to London in the early 1800's, where he rose to be printer to George 111 and the Prince Regent. Reference is also made to two Macmillans who fought with some distinction in the Battle of Culloden. A Duncan Macmillan is also mentioned. His Great Grandfather fought in the American War of Independence, while his father, also Duncan, was an elder in the Parish Church in Glen Urquhart and did much to revive the religious and parochial activities of the Glen.

FROM THE PRESIDENT (Cont.)

I was intrigued by the references, because in a book by my great uncle, Willam A. Macmillan called, 'My South African Years', the author writes of a distant ancestor escaping from the field of Culloden, crossing the River Ness and settling in Glen Urquhart. Whether this actually happened is yet to be proven, but he goes on to state with certainty that his grandfather (my great great grandfather) a man of Glen Urquhart was born on Christmas Day 1800. He was a farmer 'Tacksman of the farm Drunclune' and known as 'Ian Bain - John the Fair'. When he died in 1852, his eldest son Duncan, succeeded to the farm and worked it until 1903.

Could the Duncan mentioned by George Macmillan in his 1901 address be the same Duncan in Uncle William's book?. The evening for me was therefore a fascinating success - and has presented a puzzle which I hope to unravel in due course. I wonder if a copy of Mackay's 'History of Glen Urquhart' can be found.

I relate all of this to try to persuade more of you to come to any future gatherings of this type. You might find the missing links in your chain of family history, or even find a long lost cousin not far from you in Australia!

We have had news of George and Jane MacMillan from my son, Angus, who visited them at Finlaystone House in April. They were well and working hard on the estate. While there, Angus met Ross Macmillan from Arthur's Creek, a nephew of one of our members, Campbell Macmillan from Cottles Bridge, who had suggested to Ross that he call at Finlaystone while in th U.K. He is doing some work there for the University of Melbourne at which he is a lecturer in Agricultural Engineering. It is certainly a small world.

I look forward to seeing you on October 21st at the Clan Gathering and Bar-B-Cue.

Donald Macmillan.
President



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

1. The Clan Society is now registered with the 'Nepean Family History Society', which has produced a directory of family groups.
2. I have submitted information to Australia Post regarding Angus MacMillan and the possibility of having a commemorative stamp issued.
3. Received a reply from Australia Post. They will consider it if 'theme in exploration'.
4. Have received newsletter of Clan MacMillan Society of North America.
5. Will commence in next issue of newsletter a portion of the life and explorations of Angus MacMillan.
6. There has been a reprint of the book 'The Pathfinder' by Kenneth Cox. This is an excellent book. I believe it retails at about \$8.95.

Steven McMillan
Secretary



HELP WANTED!

Looking for the descendants of Christopher Macmillan.

Born or baptised 18th January 1810, Inverinate, Scotland. Was the son of Donald Macmillan, tenant farmer and Helen (nee Macrae) daughter of Alexander Christopher. Had a brother, John who came to Australia in 1848 and bought Hazelwood-Morwell 1860. A sister who came with her, husband Kenneth McRae and family, 1852 and sisters Flora, who married Kenneth McCrae. Helen unmarried, Catherine, Isabel and Isabella.

It is possible that Christopher came to Australia 1857 on ship 'Shalimar' with wife Kate, aged 35 as he was in Australia 1861-62. He was mentioned in a letter as looking for shepherding work.

Anne Asche
Committee member



McMILLAN RESEARCH

At our last Annual General Meeting on 27th March 1984 I had the pleasure of presenting a talk on how I traced my family tree and also how I researched and published a book on my family history.

My book was a first attempt at such a project and although I was pleased with the result I considered I could do better if I had more time. Since then I have spent considerable time in researching my family history more deeply and have been rewarded for doing so. At the present time I feel that I have sufficient material to almost double the content of my first book. This material consists of not only additional written histories but maps that I have prepared, certificates and lot more photographs.

With Australia's Bi-Centenary in 1988 I plan to publish the second book in March of that year, for it also coincides with the 125th anniversary of the arrival of my Great Great Grandparents in Australia in March 1863.

As well as researching in Australia I have had a researcher in Scotland tracing back my ancestors for me from records in Edinburgh. With her help I was hoping to trace back my ancestry to the main MacMillan Tree which dates back to 1057 and the slaying of Macbeth. Unfortunately the records for the period I needed were either not available or in poor condition. The missing link is from about 1725 back to 1650. I have tried other avenues of research but without success. Not to be outdone I am trying the Clan MacMillan Society in Scotland, and presently awaiting a reply.

The researcher although not completely successful in my case was most co-operative and prepared my information in an excellent manner. Should anyone contemplate doing some tracing in Scotland, save yourself the expense of the trip over and have as much as possible done beforehand. I can thoroughly recommend her services and for this reason I enclose her name and address for the benefit of other members of the society.


Mrs. Patricia M. Drake
227 Dalkeith Road
Edinburgh, EH16 5JR
Scotland.

Bob McMillan—Kay
Archivist



Left: Neil and Margaret McMillan, (nee Hendry),
Great Great Grandparents of Bob McMillan—Kay.

Telephone: (03) 80 5151

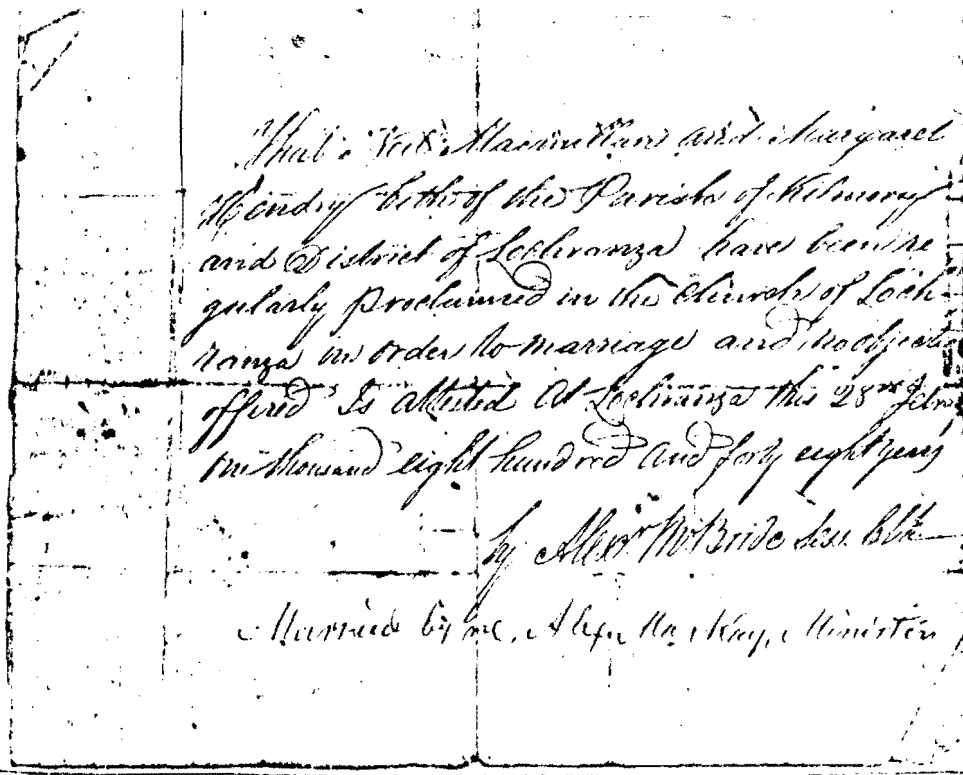


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Left: Certificate of Marriage Banns for Neil and Margaret McMillan, dated 28th February 1848. They were married on March 3rd 1848 at Lochranza, Isle of Arran, Scotland. Signed by the Minister, Alex MacKaye.

(The certificate shown is not actual size. It has been reduced to fit into the space provided)



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Any member who has an interesting article, whether it be about their own family or of another and would like to have it included in a future newsletter, please forward a copy to either the President, Secretary or the Archivist (who produces the Newsletter).

We look forward to having such articles included, and ask for suggestions of what type of features that you as members would like to see in future newsletters.

Bob McMillan-Kay
Archivist



DATE TO REMEMBER

Don't forget, October 21st is our Annual Bar-B-Cue and Clan Gathering on the banks of the Yarra River at Scotch College.

Bring your own food and drinks. Also, bring along any family history or memorabilia that you would like other members to see.

Bring along your friends and have a chat with your clansmen.

Entrance is by Morrison Street, Hawthorn. Melway Map 59, Ref. B1. See you there!



MEMBERSHIP FEES

We have some members at the moment who still are 'unfinancial'. I'm sure you all realise that to produce and mail out a Newsletter of this quality does not come 'Free'.

We therefore ask all of you who at the present time are not financial members to please renew your membership at your earliest convenience. The day of the Bar-B-Cue would be an ideal time if you come along on the day.

Anyone wishing to pay by mail can send their fees to the Treasurer (address on the letterhead).

Fees are still: Family - \$5.00 and Individual - \$2.00.