



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO. 40 MARCH 1997

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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Rory	Hermione	Alexander	Freya	
Hugo	Corinna	Phoebe		

This letter records the fact that all George's brothers and sister and all our families (except Lilian, who is in New Zealand) were here for Christmas.

We hope your Christmas has been at least as jolly.

George and Jane

Happy 1997

Finlaystone . Langbank . Renfrewshire . PA14 6TJ . Tel: 01475 540285

Various pressures have made this later than we would have liked. But it does give us a chance to thank those more punctual than ourselves. We always enjoy your cards and news, and particularly admire those who, unlike ourselves, use pen and ink.

"Parting is such sweet sorrow", as the bard put it, in a totally different context. Aunty Bill died in May, just short of her ninety-seventh birthday. She was longing to go. Many of her friends said a formal farewell at a memorial service in Blockley Parish Church in mid-June.

Many more would have liked to be there. As often the sadness of farewell was sweetened by happy memories and the renewal of old friendships.

For us this year has produced many happy memories untinged by sadness, like-

APRIL : Malx weds Tads: bags of glad rags. Ta very much to Tads' Pa and Ma for a marvellous day.

JUNE: Sailed from Loch Ness down the Caledonian Canal, into the Atlantic and up as far as Skye with an old Friend of Michael's. Plenty of wind and excitement. Touched ten knots in the Sound of Mull with a lifeboat in attendance. It had a doctor on board, dying to examine Michael, but unable to trans-ship.

(Later) Clare's doll collection cleverly re-housed as "The Dolly Mixture" in the visitor centre: gala opening by D.J. Tiger Tim, with loads of free Dolly Mixtures dispensed by Bertie Basset himself (sweating more than a little in a well padded outfit on a very hot day).

Gather ye, Clansmen, while ye may:
Time's flight is undisputed;
And that bright tartan, dyed today,
Tomorrow may be muted.

MacMillans meet in bright array,
Some kilted, others suited,
To feast and fight and dance and pray
And part reconstituted

SEPTEMBER: Clan gathering - fireworks - a banquet - a trip to Perth for the re-enactment of the Battle of the Clans, fought there (almost certainly by MacMillans, among others) in 1396 - the world premiere of a striking ballet about the clan's story choreographed for two male dancers and a ballerina in a wheel-chair. Finally we were able to hold a service near the John Knox Tree in the garden in bright, warm sunshine. (By now I hope light has been shed on obscurities in this year's poem). Contact by paper or wire is good, but no substitute for meeting.

And now they're on their homeward way
With hearts and minds re-booted,
May all our rosy memories stay
Like attar undiluted.

Thrice fortunate indeed are they
Whose lives are family rooted,
Whose flights, however far they stray,
Can yet be homeward routed.

Later joined Michael as he sailed the Medway on a Thames barge to celebrate his seventieth birthday. As Jane is almost exactly five years younger, these parties tend to become a double celebration. Fortunately no-one actually missed the gang plank at the end of an entertaining evening.

22nd NOVEMBER: Hugo Jardine born to Arthur and Barbara a month ahead of time and still weighing 7lbs 8oz. Though he makes Rory look large now that gap may well close quickly. They should both enjoy Strathview, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire (9 miles from here) into which they moved on Boxing Day.

Meanwhile, Malcolm and Tadpole are still in London, still aiming for jobs nearer here. Jobs at their level are hard to come by; but we're all hoping something will turn up soon.

This year's Christmas Tree sales have been a bit unusual. We got unexpected orders for several 40 foot trees to delight the burgers of local towns. Though their felling made some mess at the time, it has opened up some good space in areas used by visitors (of whom we think we had 50,000 this year).

CLAN CHIEF'S ANNUAL LETTER

As our President, Elizabeth McMillan is away at present she is unable to write to you in this edition, however she sends her best wishes to everyone for 1997. On pages 1 & 2 I have printed our Clan Chief's Annual letter - what a lovely family gathering they all had at Christmas.

George and Jane are definitely visiting Australia around November 1997. We have not received their itinerary as yet - however they will contact us as soon as their plans are finalized and we will let all members know the date they will be in Melbourne.

George also wrote to thank us very much indeed for our annual donation to the Clan Centre. We were able to contribute \$250.00 for 1995/1996.

NEW MEMBER

A big welcome to Ian McMillan of Glen Waverley, Victoria. We trust you will enjoy our kinship and newsletters Ian.

SOCIETY FEES NOW DUE

I would like to thank members who have sent me their subscription of \$10.00 for the year 1996/1997. However there are still several subscriptions not yet paid. I will put a "reminder sticker" on those who have not yet paid. If you paid early - and perhaps forgotten - if there is no sticker on your Newsletter you will know that you have paid your subscription.

June Senior - Treasurer

CLAN NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to the Clans who send us their Newsletters. These are read with great interest and we are able to copy- with their permission - items of great interest.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you to members who have written when sending their subscriptions. It is always good to hear from you.

The photo on page 8 was kindly sent to me by Bob McMillan-Kay of Maleny when he attended a Celtic night. Bob's daughter Kate took the photo on page 5 when she visited Finlaystone in August 1996.

Brian McMillan of Sorrento Q'ld. visited Finlaystone last year. Brian and his wife were greatly impressed with the lovely gardens at Finlaystone. Jane kindly showed them the gardens and Clan Centre. Brian kindly brought me back some information sheets at the Clan Centre which I did not have so my grateful thanks for his thoughtfulness.

Kay Morris from Sydney wrote to say she is doing some research of the shipping records. When she has this completed she intends sending me a list of all McMillans from the microfiche shipping records which could be printed in the N'letter.

COMING EVENTS

The Ringwood Highland Gathering, Jubilee Park, Ringwood is on Sunday 23 March 1997. Max & I will be at the MacMillan tent, Site 56 so please come along and say hello. I will be at the Council of Clans A.G.M. from 10.45 a.m. to approx 12.15 p.m. but Max will be at the tent in my absence.

There will be a Scotfest, Maffra on April 12, 1997-enquiries Bruce Jeffery (03)5148 6352

The Kirkin o' the Tartan service will be held in Scots Church, Melbourne on Sunday July 6, 1997. B.Y.O. lunch in the church hall after the service. For more details contact June Senior 9560 8746.

Mrs Lesley Robb, a friend from the Clan MacFarlane, has kindly sent me an article about John McMillan. He was one of nineteen men transported to N.S.W. because of their involvement in the 1820 Uprising, but who, after the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832 were pardoned by King William IV. This information comes from the book "The Scottish Radicals" by Alistair and Margaret McFarlane, who were both descended from the political prisoners sent to N.S.W. in 1820.

Lesley writes: "The Andrew Hardie in the 'Historical Background' which I have included, is one of my ancestors. I thought you may be interested in the reason the nineteen men were sent to N.S.W. Although it is not mentioned in the article both John Baird and Andrew Hardie were the first men to suggest that election of members of parliament should be by secret ballot which was one of the reasons they started on their fatal march. These two men were convicted of high treason for their part as leaders of a group of radicals involved in a recent uprising. On Friday 8 September 1820 Andrew Hardie of Glasgow and John Baird of Condorrat were executed, by hanging and beheading. There is a monument in the Sighthill Cemetery near Glasgow to both these men, where every year on 8 September the Scottish Socialists hold a ceremony to honour all Radicals.

The same fate would have been shared by nineteen other radicals, likewise convicted of high treason, had not their sentence been commuted to transportation to N.S.W. seven for life and twelve for fourteen years. Among the men was John McMillan.

John McMillan was born in Falkirk on 14 March 1793, the son of Duncan and Mary, (nee Bird) At the time of the insurrection he was living with his wife and family at Camelon close by.

Following his arrival at Sydney Cove to serve his life sentence, he was employed as a blacksmith in Government Service. He received a Certificate of Freedom on 18 December 1827. By 1832 he was residing at No 2 Windmill Street, Miller's Point, from which address he wrote to his wife Jean in Glasgow on 29 May 1832 adding a postscript: 'Yesterdy I have Bought another House for 100 Pounds'. This same letter advised her to expect a letter from the Government concerning passages for herself and the children and instructed her to keep herself in readiness for moving at short notice. He also made a suggestion: 'as there is a great Quantity of free Women Coming out from England if you Would apply to Mr. Wemyss He Would try the Secretary of State for a passage in the Ship with them. It would be much better than coming out with Prisoners'. McMillan then warned her to: 'Tack Every One for a Roage till you find them Honest trust no wone out of Sight keep a Closed Mouth Never Let anyone know your Business. Bee as cunner as a Fox and as wise as a Serpent Never let anyone know what you Have Got in your Boxes When you pack your Boxes write a List of Every Artical in them Be punticlar in this and Direct them all to me Blacksmith Windmill Street Darling Harbour Sydney.

In spite of, or possibly because of all these directions Mrs Jean McMillan and three daughters reached Sydney safely several months later, but sad to relate Cathie died 6 January 1833. Further interesting thoughts going through McMillan's mind at the time of writing the foregoing letter are included therein as follows: 'Jean you May Let my Sisters know Before you Leave yo'r Pretty Country, that they thought I was a disgrace to them in Being Sent to the Land of ful Belly. I wish they Had sent me 7 years Soner than they did they would then have Maid a gentel-man of me Before this, althoI have None of my fine Country Men to thank for it, nor did they intend any good to Come out of it But Tell them that I Would not Return to their Storm Guted Country if they was to Mack me Sheriff of Stirling and let them know that you Will have a servant to attend on you and two if you should want them.... I employ 3 free men at 35/- per week and two convicts -what I please to give them.

John McMillan's original blacksmith's business had by this time extended into other fields for he had become a ship and anchor smith, edge tool and scale beam maker, and during 1836-8 he held a publican's licence for the Blacksmith's Arms in Windmill Street.

It was largely through the persistence and influence of John McMillan that the absolute pardon documents were ever prepared. As early as 13 October 1837 he wrote to the Colonial Secretary in Sydney saying:

Continued next page...

'....I have applied no less than ten times at the Colonial Secretary's Office and at Hide Park Barracks and can get no further Answer than call again and such conduct is very unsatisfactory to me. Sir I hope you will have the goodness to cause the same to be served to me without delay as I am determined to leave the Colony and have been detained on that account'.

This letter, obviously written by himself, shows so much improvement (in writing and construction) on the one he wrote to his wife five years earlier that it suggests the possibility of his having had lessons from a teacher to raise the standard of his education.

Some time after he had received his pardon document, McMillan, with a sense of the dramatic and perhaps as an expression of his individuality or as a symbol of his release from bondage but certainly 'as a **memento** of his gratitude', sent to Peter Mackenzie 'the actual **irons** which chained his legs from Stirling Castle to Botany Bay'. The historian asks 'Has the like of it, we boldly ask, been ever known in this realm?...If any person doubts this, we are ready to show those identical irons weighing nearly 20 lbs., with the letter of John McMillan transmitting them.'

McMillan's wife died in 1856. In his maturer years he took an interest in church affairs and education. He attended St Peter's Presbyterian Church at North Sydney and he was partly instrumental in obtaining the grant of land on which a wooden building was erected in 1844 to serve as church and school. At that time the district was known as St Leonards. In 1863-4 a solid stone schoolhouse was built in place of the wooden one and two years later St Peter's Church was erected. The old stone building still stands today. In May 1973 it was reopened after restoration and it is now used by church groups and for extra activities.

The announcement of John McMillan's death appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald of 29 August 1877 and one can almost feel he had a hand in its composition:

McMillan - August 28 at his residence Comely Park, Lane Cove, John McMillan, aged 84 years 5 months and 15 days- 56 years a resident of the Colony-grandfather of John Brazier.

John McMillan was the last survivor of the nineteen radicals, having outlived Alexander Hart, 'the last of the Bonnie Muir Radicals of 1820', according to Dr John Dunmore Lang, as well as John Anderson and Andrew Dawson.

This is an abbreviated account of the story of John McMillan. I am grateful to Lesley Robb for this information and I am sure you will all find it very interesting.

June Senior Editor



Kate McMillan-Kay kindly sent me this photo she took of "The Swordman" at the Celtic Fair at Finlaystone, August 1996

FAMILY HISTORY

Member Jenny Williams of Sarsfield has been researching her husband's family history and has sent me the following information:

Alexander (born 1834) was the second of eleven children born to Donald McMillan (1804-1879) and Janette McDonald (1811-1885). He was born at Penifiler, Isle of Skye, Scotland. He arrived in Sydney, Australia on the "Midlothian" on the 12th December 1837 with his parents and older brother Duncan. Many of these Scots settled firstly in the Hunter River area at Portree before moving to what was termed Scots corner in the Clarence and Williams River area and included the towns of McLean and Armidale. Alexander's Uralla property was named "Big Ridge" and is situated on Big Ridge Road east of Uralla and north of Gostwyck Church.

A sister of Alexander's, Catherine McMillan married Dugald McMillan, son of Dugald McMillan and Mary McAlpine of Argyleshire. Their property at Murwillumbah is owned by Doug Anthony - Ex Leader of the National party.

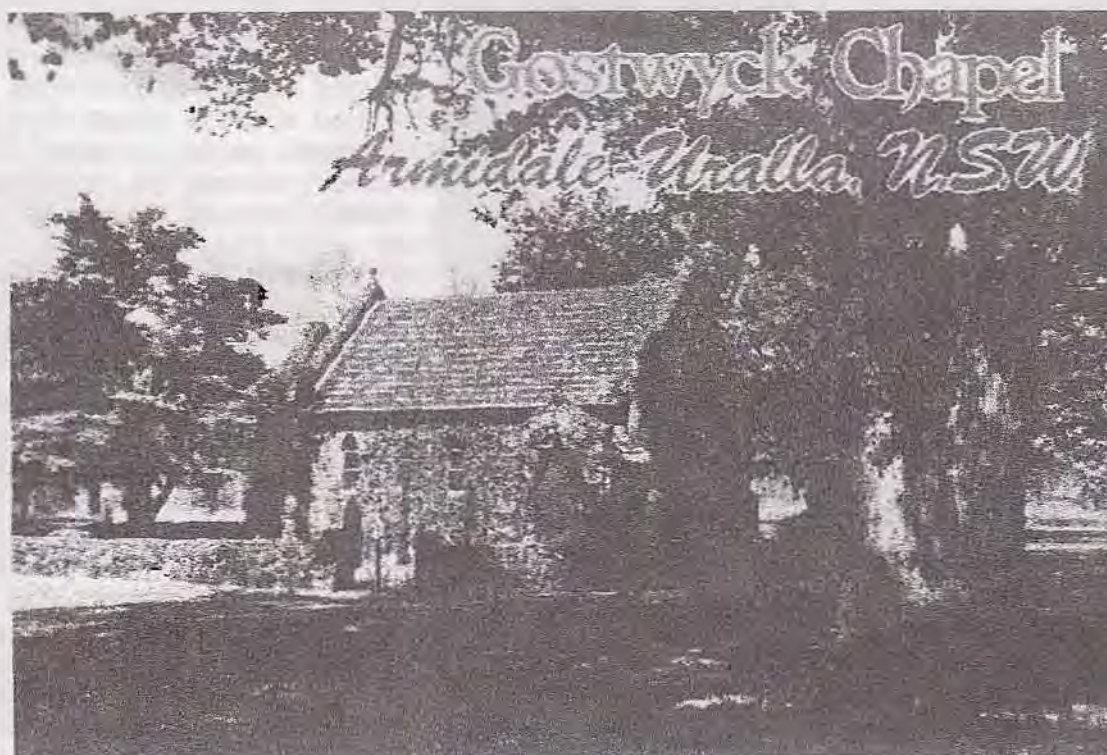
Another sister, Christina McMillan married Prosper Coulon a well known rower who died at the age of 33 years. He was single sculls champion of the Clarence. Prosper and his brother Andre were boat builders. He purchased and developed land in the Balmain-Rozelle area. Two streets are still named Prosper and Coulon after him. Christina, widowed, gave part of her land for the Chatsworth school.

Alexander married Lydia Baker in 1862. Mt. Lydia near Uralla is named after her. Alexander and Lydia had 19 children. Their 7th. child, Verena Alberta married Alexander J. Hooker. Jenny believes their son, Herbert started the Real estate business of H.J. Hooker. He married his cousin, Verena (Queenie) McMillan, daughter of David McMillan, also a son of Alexander's.

Alexander and Lydia's 17th. child, Robert Baker McMillan, born 1882 married Muriel Catherine Roberta Lucas in 1920. Their daughter, Audrey Patricia Baker McMillan (born 1922) married Colwyn Benjamin Williams in 1944. Their second son, Kym Lawson Williams is Jenny's husband.

Jenny mentioned that the McMillan family grave at Uralla cemetery is next to Thunderbolt's grave - the notorious bushranger.

We are indebted to Jenny for the above information which I am sure you will all find very interesting.... Editor.



"THE VALLEY OF THE SKY"

NOTES ON THE AUTHOR AND THE BOOK

I had a very interesting letter last year from Mrs Clare Guiney of Geelong. She wrote "I was very interested to read in your Newsletters about Angus McMillan. I remembered reading about him somewhere else, so had a rummage through my books and came up with "The Valley of the Sky" written by Tarlton Rayment. It is quite old and it is aimed at 12-14 year olds. Quite often the one who does all the work does not receive the credit. Angus McMillan has certainly been robbed of his glory. I always enjoy your newsletters, they are full of interesting articles and information. I read the one sent to the V.S.U!"

Tarlton Rayment is a distinguished naturalist and author whose home is in Melbourne. From boyhood he has displayed an ardent interest in natural history, which, as he grew older, fixed itself more particularly upon the study of bees. He has travelled widely, collecting specimens of his beloved insects in all States; he has indulged in bee-keeping; and he has published a number of works both on the honey-bee and on the wild or native bees.

Among these works, which have gained for him an international reputation as a naturalist, are "A Cluster of Bees", "The Honey-bee in Australasia," and "The Honey Plants of Australasia," as well as a large number of single articles and scientific papers, describing new species of bees and originally conceived experiments to disclose something of their ways of living.

Tarlton Rayment is as passionately fond of the beauties of art as he is of the beauties of nature. The early training that he received at an art school is reflected in the skilful and delicate illustrations he has provided for his scientific works.

Other arts, too, have claimed his allegiance. His pen has been employed, as in "The Prince of the Totem" in telling, for children, many of the legends of the Australian aborigines, and, as in "The Valley of the Sky," in weaving attractive tales based on the story of his native land. He has also written a certain amount of poetry, and has set at least one of his poems, "Anthem of Youth" to music, making of it a work important enough to have been sung by the Choral Society of Cornell University (U.S.A) at a festival of international song.

"THE VALLEY OF THE SKY" is based on the discovery of Gippsland in 1837, and the hero, Angus MacAllen, is drawn with little attempt at disguise from the famous Scottish explorer, Angus McMillan. This brave and upright man travelled down through the mountains of Eastern Australia to establish his homestead, which is still standing, at Bushy Park, on the Avon River. Recently a number of stone cairns were erected at various points to mark his original route. The usually heavy rainfall of the area (78 inches a year) and the tall timber suggested the "rain-forest" in the story.

The author knows both his aborigines and his Gippsland. His own experience has taught him much about both of these subjects, and among the pioneers of this part of our State were certain of his relatives.

I have included all the notes on the author Tarlton Rayment as I am sure members will be as interested as I was to read of such a talented man in his works as a naturalist, poet and author- and especially of his story on the discovery of Gippsland and Angus MacMillan. My thanks to Mrs. Guiney for sending me this information.....Ed.





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