



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (Australia)

NEWSLETTER NO.41 AUGUST 1997

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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

We had our Annual General Meeting in July this year, to plan the Gathering of the Clan which is to take place on the 2 November 1997. This will be a very important occasion as the Chief of the Clan, George MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap, and his wife Jane will be making a fleeting visit to Australia. They are visiting New Zealand first and then they will come on to Melbourne. We are hoping that as many members of the Clan Society as possible will attend and we welcome other family members and other Clan members. We realise that this is Cup Weekend and so it may be that people from interstate and from the country may be visiting Melbourne. The Gathering will take place at:

12 midday to 4.30 pm, United Kingdom Settlers Association
146 West Toorak Road, South Yarra.

Our Secretary, Myrna Robertson is organising a piper and Highland dancers for the Gathering which should add great atmosphere to the occasion. The United Kingdom Settlers Association have been most helpful with our arrangements and we will have access to their kitchen to provide tea and coffee, but we suggest that all who come should bring their own food. We have access to the ground floor and the first floor of the building. However, it should be noted that there is no parking on site and so it will be necessary for you to find a park in the street, or if you come by tram you would catch either a tram along St Kilda Road and get off at Toorak Road and walk up, or catch the Number 8 tram and get off at the corner of West Toorak Road and Park Street. The building is opposite Faulkner Park and so is West of Punt Road.

Should you want any assistance with travel and accommodation, we have made contact with a travel Agent in South Melbourne who will be happy to assist with any queries. Being Cup Weekend, accommodation will be scarce and forward planning is recommended. The travel agent is:

Ms Gillian Holyman, Travelworld Travel Service Pty Ltd
242 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne 3205
Tel: (03) 9690 7211 Fax: (03) 9690 6634

The Annual General Meeting was a successful meeting with the present Committee being reelected and a new general Committee member, also being elected, June Danks. It will be good to have another Committee member, especially as we plan and work towards the Gathering in November. We were particularly glad to welcome the MacMillans from South Australia who made the visit from Adelaide for the meeting Frank, Pauline and Peter. We recognise their effort in being with us and were glad to see them again. The meeting thanked all members of the previous Committee, recognising the volunteer nature of the group and the competing demands on people's time. We are always looking for new people to join the Committee and to send us ideas, so please be in touch with any of us at any time. The meeting thanked June Senior for her tireless work as Treasurer and as Editor of the Newsletter. June's commitment to the Newsletter and to keeping in touch with members is appreciated by us all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Cont'd

The Chief of the Clan and his wife have recently attended a Gathering of the Clan in Ottawa, Canada. We sent the President of the Clan our best wishes and have received back a message wishing us well for November and also letting us know that from January 1998, the new President of the North American Society will be Lamar McMillin from Mississippi, USA.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Sunday, 2 Nov.1997.

Elizabeth McMillan

Calling the clan McMillan

In July I contacted all members to let you know our Clan Chief George and his wife Jane would be in Melbourne and that a Gathering was being arranged on SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 1997.

A venue has been arranged - as mentioned in President Libby's letter on Page 1. at the UNITED KINGDOM SETTLERS ASSOCIATION'S RESIDENCE AT 146 TOORAK ROAD WEST, SOUTH YARRA -(opposite Fawkner Park) MELWAY MAP REFERENCE 2L -E5- from 12 midday to 4.30 p.m.

You will need to bring your own food but tea and coffee will be available. As the United Kingdom Settlers Association have a bar on the premises there is to be no alcohol brought to the function. However there will be an attendant at the bar and drinks will be available at bar prices.

We do hope you will all be free on that day and be able to come along and welcome our Clan Chief George and his wife Jane.

If you have any queries at all please do not hesitate to ring myself, President Libby or Secretary Myrna - all contact phone numbers are on Page 1 of this Newsletter.

June Senior, Editor.

GET WELL SOON

It is that time of the year when colds and 'flu' and viruses are prevalent. I know of several members who have been ill and we send our very best wishes for your speedy recovery.

NEW MEMBERS

A big welcome to Mrs Chrissy Johnston of Croydon, Victoria; Allan McMillan of Wagga Wagga N.S.W.; and John and Lorraine Humphreys of Burwood East Victoria; We trust you will all enjoy our kinship and 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 for your letters. They are very much appreciated and I will answer any queries you have personally when I mail your Newsletter.
My thanks to Kay Morris of Sydney who has sent me MACMILLAN lists she has compiled from the Assisted Immigration Listings at the Public Record Office. Kay has these in 3 categories - By ship, by first name and by County, and cover the years 1852-1870. I will publish the list in a newsletter soon.

FAMILY HISTORY



New member Allan McMillan has sent me the following:
I am seeking information on the family of James McMillan, who arrived at Port Phillip Bay on the "Ellen Castle" in 1854 and settled at Little River. He was from Corpach parish, Kilmallie, Argyllshire, Scotland.
In 1857 he married Jessie McLennan in Geelong. Jessie's father was Ewen, who had arrived a few years earlier from the Kyle of Lochalsh, Scotland. James and Ewen both worked for the Chirnsides (Robert I think) at Little River.
James' parents in Scotland were Alexander and Ann (nee McLean).
James had a brother Duncan who came to Australia on the Marco Polo in September 1852 with his wife Christine (nee Stewart) and their children.
Duncan's death is recorded at Lal Lal, Victoria.
Also on the Marco Polo was Euan McMillan and his wife. I do not know whether Euan and Duncan were related.

In June I received a letter from Desley Lee of Dumbleyung, Western Australia. Desley wrote- "Your name and address was passed on to me by a woman I wrote to from the G.R.D. concerning the name McMillan. I am trying to locate my father's aunt who married a McMillan so was wondering if you could help me:
The information I have: Eleanor BENFIELD, born about 1899 in Victoria married James MCMILLAN, born about 1883 in Cullen, Victoria. at Castlemaine, Victoria on 19th January 1921.
Eleanor's parents: William BENFIELD and Annie SUTTON
James's parents: James MCMILLAN and Sarah MARTIN
James's (jnr) died: 8th August, 1851 Melbourne, Victoria.
I have been researching the BENFIELD name for many years now and without any living family help, this Eleanor, my grandfather's sister, has been very elusive. Any help would be appreciated.

The MacMillan Clan Society Australia now has a subscription with "The Scots Link" and we receive their magazine quarterly. In the latest edition, August 1997, Page 34 is devoted to the History of the MacMillan Clan, Septs of the Clan, and news of our gathering on 2nd November 1997. We thank The Scots Link for printing the History of our Clan. I have already received a letter from a lady in Yarrowonga who had read the article in The Scots Link.

GATHERING IN NEW ZEALAND

Margaret Pool, founder of the Clan MacMillan Society in New Zealand is busy preparing for our Clan Chief's first visit to New Zealand in October. We wish Margaret and her members every success for this special occasion.

CLAN MACMILLAN CENTRE

I recently received my copy of the Clan MacMillan Centre Newsletter No.8, May '97 compiled by Graeme Mackenzie which was full of interest.

COMING EVENTS

Kilmore Celtic Festival 25th and 26th October '97. Information phone 03 57811711.
Beechworth and North East Celtic Festival 15th and 16th November 1997.
St. Andrews Day Remembrance Service at the Shrine of Remembrance
Sunday November 23rd at 1.45 p.m.
Daylesford Gathering 6th December 1997.

VISIT TO FINLAYSTONE

Last year my husband and I had the pleasure of visiting Finlaystone in the month of June, i.e. during the Scottish summer. Before our visit we had corresponded with George and Jane and knew that it was to be a busy time for them as they were to depart early the next morning for a memorial service for Jane's Aunt to be held in Gloucester. However because of an international football match their flight had been altered to the evening of our arrival. Despite this George, hot and dirty from gardening, greeted us with great enthusiasm and told us about the estate.

The garden is open to the public every day and recently they had opened tearooms and were then also establishing a giftshop. That morning a large group of school children had been to see the gardens and also walk through the woods. George and Jane are keen to increase young people's appreciation of the environment and balance of nature.

Next we were introduced to Graeme Mackenzie, Historian and Genealogist, who showed us the Clan Centre and his office where he is busy on his computer completing the many family connections of the Clan MacMillan. Later we had the opportunity to view the gardens in more detail and appreciate the lovely high position on the banks of the Clyde.

During our meanderings amongst the azaleas in full bloom we met a gardener, Andrew Spence, with whom our son had worked, building a rockery some years ago. This young man had a medical condition and he thought that he would never be able to hold a job. But after meeting George, who has extremely restricted vision and is classified as blind, he realised that if George could do so much, then surely he could work too, and he has succeeded.

It was an interesting visit and we look forward now to meeting George and Jane again on November 2nd in Melbourne.

The above article was sent to me by June Danks and I am sure you will all appreciate reading of their visit to Finlaystone. Editor.



Finlaystone, Renfrewshire, Scotland, home of the Chief of Clan MacMillan,
The house is first mentioned in 1373.

Scotland *MacMillan*

Arthur C. MacMillan, son of the Chief of Clan MacMillan, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Clyde Shipping company, Glasgow, founded as the world's first steamship company in 1815.

Clyde Shipping relaunched

Peter Sandground

Clyde joins Ofex market with a sharper image after loosening its traditional ties with shipping and buying Snowcem, the paints firm, reports **Terry Murden**

SHARES in Clyde Shipping, the tugs-to-building products group, will begin trading tomorrow on Ofex, the unregulated market for small firms. The company has also acquired Snowcem, the wall coatings business, for £2.7m.

Both developments, revealed today, are part of a strategy devised by Arthur MacMillan, a former merchant banker who has reorganised the business since taking over as group chief executive in December 1994.

MacMillan, 34, has reduced the 13 separate businesses to four subsidiaries and three associates by selling unprofitable operations and merging others. He has appointed Nick Chalmers, formerly of Walter Alexander, as a finance director.

The biggest change has been to divest the company of a number of struggling and outdated shipping companies, almost severing its links with the core business on which it was founded as the world's first commercial steamship company in 1815. MacMillan admitted this had been a controversial and painful move.

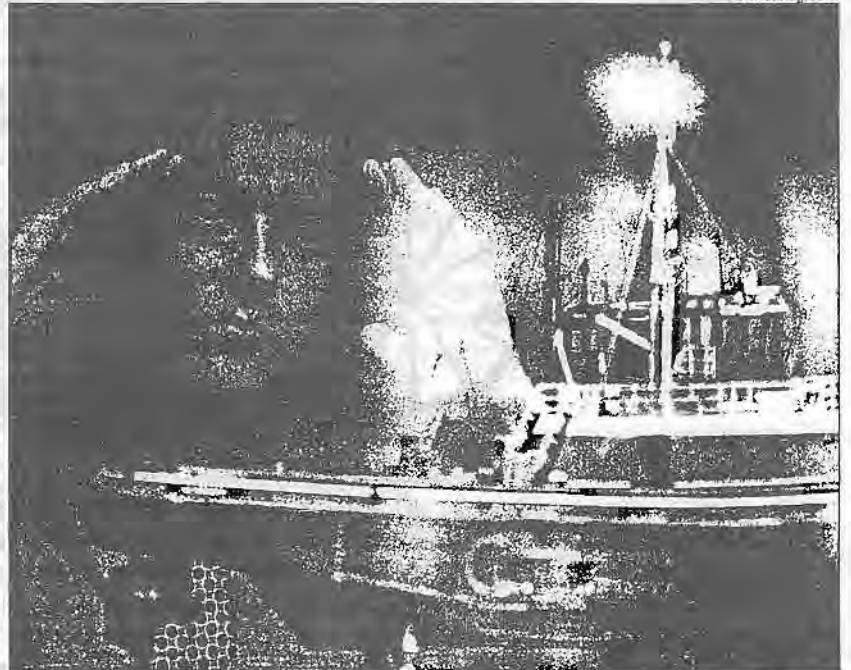
Coastal vessels, once numbering 100 — and many saw war service — timber barges and the tugs on the Clyde and Tyne have gone. The

number of tugs on the Clyde fell from 30 in the river's heyday to four last year and the company sold its boats to Cory Towage, the last of seven companies that once competed for trade on the river. Clyde retains a minor shipping interest, operating tugs on the Forth and in Shetland through two joint ventures.

The changes have reduced debt from £7m to £2m and the reshaped company is being built around two key brand-leading subsidiaries: Simpson Lawrence, a manufacturer of anchors and windlasses, which accounts for just over half the £30m group turnover; and Eglinton Stone, which provides cladding for housing and produces £9m turnover. Albann Windows and Carlton Court Properties are the other subsidiaries.

MacMillan is now preparing for a growth strategy. The acquisition of Snowcem, formerly a division of Blue Circle, will be the first of a number of companies that will be dovetailed into the Eglinton and Simpson Lawrence businesses.

Pre-tax profits just announced for the half year to June 30 were up 48% from £950,000 to £1.4m. The business is valued at £8m with net assets of £12m. MacMillan believes the



Some things don't change: boss Arthur MacMillan says, 'I wanted to change the name, but it stays'

financial turnaround justifies the changes to a company in which he shares an emotional tie. His great-great-grandfather was George Jardine Kidston who bought it in 1856. The Kidston family line continues through MacMillan, the current chairman Michael Todhunter and two non-executive directors. It was through another family association, the wealthy Swires, who have huge trading interests in the Far East, and his dealings in the City, that Mac-

Millan was brought into the company.

The Swires invited him onto the board and his presentation of how to reinvigorate the company got him the job of chief executive. John Swire & Sons is a 24.4% shareholder, and Sir Adrian Swire, its chairman holds 4.4%.

One of MacMillan's reasons for the Ofex listing is to broaden the shareholder base and offer existing holders an exit route. He also wants to

raise the profile of the company. But he acknowledges that the name could be misleading. The board, having accepted his strategy for growth, resisted his attempts to change the company's name.

"It was the one subject where I have been put firmly in my place," he said. "I wanted to change the name and it was one thing everyone suggested. I want to respect the past but we must also look to the future. I am sure it will come up again."

THE SUNDAY TIMES · 15 SEPTEMBER 1996

Arthur Gordon MacMillan, Younger, of MacMillan and Knap, is the eldest son and heir of George G. MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap, Chief of Clan MacMillan of Finlaystone, Langbank, Renfrewshire, Scotland. Arthur and his wife Barbara (Janeczewska) have been doing some launching of their own with the birth of their second son Hugo Jardine 7 lbs 8 oz, on 22 Nov '96. He joins Rory Cyprian, born 27 Oct. '95. Arthur and Barbara had been living in an apartment in a wing of Finlaystone House (for the last 2 years but as of 26 Dec. '96, have moved 9 miles down the road to Strathview, Kilturban, Renfrewshire. This newspaper story on Arthur appeared on the final day of the Clan MacMillan Gathering at Finlaystone, 15 Sept. '96, and I scurried to Kilmalcolm to obtain a copy later that evening.

The Chief's youngest son *Malcolm Ianux* was married to Amanda "Tads" Taylor of Norham, England, on 22 April '96. They live in London, England. The middle son *Richard Anthony* born 30 Dec. 1963 in Toronto, Canada, was killed in a car accident on 14 Oct. 1985 near Aberdeen, Scotland, where he was a student at the University of Aberdeen.

I am indebted to John B. McMillan, Editor of The Clan MacMillan Society of North America's newsletter for this article. June Senior, Editor.

MACMILLAN VELOCIPÈDE



Velocipede a l'usage de Mac. Millan (1842)

Until 1892 it was commonly thought that Gavin Dalzell of Lesmahago had made the first pedal-propelled velocipede in 1842 - though Leonardo da Vinci had thought of it years before.

But then the researches of Mr. James Johnstone of the Glasgow Tri-cycling Club revealed that Mr. Dalzell had copied a machine which he had seen being ridden by Kirkpatrick McMillan, a blacksmith of Penpont in Dumfriesshire. It is said that Kirkpatrick (or "Daft-Pate", as his neighbours called him) had been inspired to attach cranks to the back wheel of an unpowered 'hobby horse'; these in turn were driven by rods attached to treddle-type pedals.

The machine, which weighed fifty-six pounds, must have been difficult to ride on the bumpy roads of the time; but Kirkpatrick often rode to Dumfries, about fourteen miles from his home, and on one occasion the seventy miles to Glasgow. This he did on the 6th and 7th of June, 1842, breaking his journey at New Cumnock, where he left his mark on folk memory by scaring a young shoemaker, James Kennedy, as he returned at night from courting his future wife: Kennedy thought he had seen "the De'il on wheels".

The Glasgow run ended sadly, as Kirkpatrick was fined five shillings for knocking down a child on a Gorbles pavement. Some say that the magistrate was so impressed by a demonstration of the machine that he gave Kirkpatrick his money back. But the experience may explain why he never commercialised the invention, even though he continued to use it himself. Only Gavin Dalzell's replica survives to hint at the original.

Instead he turned his attention to other matters. He invented a new form of plough; he developed an interest in dentistry - a natural sequel, it seems, to the drawing of horses' teeth in his smithy. He is even said to have found himself a wife by charging into the kitchen of a big house and making a public appeal for one.

The brothers of this blacksmith (who is himself said to have resembled Abraham Lincoln) reached surprising positions: one taught at Hutcheson's Grammar School, and another was rector of Glasgow High School. Yet, if greatness is to be measured by the number of beneficiaries, "Daft-Pate" must overtop them both.

Compiled by George G. MacMillan; and published by the MacMillan Clan Centre,
Finlaystone, Langbank, Renfrewshire PA14 6TJ, Scotland; Tel: 01475 540285.

ANGUS MCMILLAN -PATHFINDER BY K.COX

In the last episode (July 1996) we read how McMillan looked after his sheep-and shearing time in the 1840's. In many ways McMillan would have preferred to concentrate on cattle, to which his country was eminently suited, but sheep and wool were the traditional means of squatters deriving a living, and were not affected by wide market fluctuations as were cattle.

McMillans stock yards were securely built to withstand the onslaughts of the wildest steer. From his father he had learned that it paid to be thorough in all that was erected, whether it be sheds or yards, and McMillan saw to it that the timber was well chosen, the posts sunk to a proper depth and the structure built true and straight.

Ropes and tackle for branding were always kept in good order, and the A.M. brand was a familiar sight along the Port Albert track.

He was punctilious-unlike some squatters-in refusing to brand cattle which were not his own. He knew that some herds increased at an alarming rate by the acquisition of clean skins and by altering brands, and he instructed his men that this practice would not be tolerated at Bushy Park.

No runs were fenced; boundaries were often uncertain and, apart from the cost involved, squatters considered that until they had some security of tenure over their runs, it was folly to erect improvements which might benefit a later holder. Stock relied on rivers or natural holes for water, and thus tended to wander over a wide area. McMillan knew that Commissioner Tyers could refuse to renew a licence, and he was most diligent to meet all his commitments as they fell due.

The periodical musters were operations over which McMillan watched anxiously. He was careful to invite neighbouring stockmen, who regarded the routine as a welcome diversion in which they could show off their riding skill. Whips cracked and the dust swirled as riders urged their mounts in all directions, keeping the herd moving as they yelled directions to the dogs. The cattle, reluctant to be disturbed from the quiet life on the range, frothed and bellowed. The whole scene assumed an air of wild pandemonium, in which an observer could detect little organisation in the confusion, noise and dust. Bang-tail musters involving the whole of Bushy Park were held only every year or so, when all cattle were yarded and the tails cut square. General musters of most of the surrounding runs were exciting affairs, giving squatters and their men an opportunity of exchanging gossip and sorting out the rightful ownership of beasts. At night the men gathered round a large camp fire, boiled the billy and swapped yarns. Usually at ten, they unrolled their blankets, slept with a saddle as a pillow until daybreak, when the Aborigines brought the hobbled horses to the camp and the men rode out at dawn in the direction determined on the previous evening.

It was a life they revelled in and McMillan enjoyed the gathering of squatters and their employees and the opportunity to find out what was happening in the Colony.





Left: John B. McMillan, President of the North American Society, with his wife Blanche pictured at the 1996 International Gathering at Finlaystone.

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