



CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (AUST)

Newsletter No. 77 July 2009

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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President's Report for July, 2009

The days are quickly passing and soon I will be off to join the clans taking part in the "Homecoming" in Edinburgh. Despite the global financial crisis a big attendance is expected. The centerpiece of the Gathering will be the colourful Clan Parade on the famous Royal Mile, culminating in a spectacular Historic Pageant on the Castle's esplanade. I hope to take some photos to share with members. Following this momentous event I will be joining the Clan MacMillan International Centre's 3 day gathering in Greenock.

In March we lunched together at the Docklands and welcomed a new member. Please remember that we would like to have more members because in that way we learn so much more of our shared past.

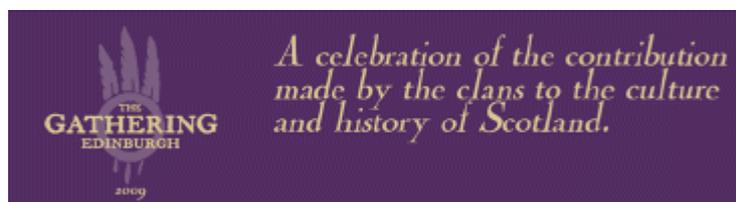
In May there was a meeting at the Genealogical Society Victoria of the Member Societies and Service Groups and it was so interesting to hear of all their activities. Forty groups were represented who hold regular meetings, mostly once a month, who have different objectives, varying from researching local cemetery records to indexing books or church records. We learn of new websites to help our investigations.

Notice was made of National Family History Week, 1st week of August.
A lecture will be given by Professor Grimshaw on "Women's History".

The annual service of the Kirkin' o' the Tartan was held at Scots Church, Sunday 5th July, 11am, we were represented by Janice Brooks, her sister Dianne & Debra Vaughan.

The AGM of CMSA is on Sunday 25th October and we look forward to seeing you there.

June Danks.



La Trobe University and the School of Historical and European Studies

Sponsored by the Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Centre

presents

LOCHABER NO MORE

A history in narrative and song

The story of the Jacobite rebellions, romanticised in song and felt deeply in the hearts of Scottish people and their descendants all over the world. The story begins with injustice and ends with the destruction of the Scottish Clan system and the virtual destruction of Scottish language, music and culture. During this story, tens of thousands of Scots are butchered, or humiliated and forced to flee from their homes.

But this is also a story of hope and endurance. Forced or otherwise, the whole world has benefited from the emigration of the Scots - the Scots, Highland and Lowland, shine in the world because they are tough, determined, honest and loyal.

Wherever we are in the world, Scotland is carved into our hearts and etched in our souls forever ...

Agora lecture theatre La
Trobe University Melbourne
(Bundoora) campus

Sunday 20 September 2009 at 3 pm



Featuring: Braemar

With guest artists:

Cath Connolly, Harp

Natasha Trinkle, Cello

Colin MacLeod, Violin

Geoff Jones, Piper

Written and narrated by Alyson Fearon

R.S.V.P

www.latrobe.edu.au/ctlc/public-lecture

SUBSCRIPTIONS



Subscriptions are now due and because of increased costs, have been increased to \$20.00 for 2009/2010. We only have 3 opportunities a year to remind members about their subscriptions, so please respond, and make the Treasurer's job that much easier. It would be appreciated if you could forward all monies to:

Mrs. J. Senior, 41 Lincoln Ave, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150.

Also, if you would like to receive this Newsletter by E-mail (a saving on postage costs), could you please include your E-mail address with your Subscription.

Vale

We were saddened to hear that John MacLeod, husband of Sue MacLeod (Organiser Ringwood Highland Gathering and former SVCG Committee member), died on Monday, 29th June, 2009. He had been battling cancer for a number of years. John was born in Inverness, Scotland, on 19th March 1926.

He was the father of Kirsten, Angus (Dec) and Callum.

COMING EVENTS

Scottish Clans and Associations Annual Luncheon Sunday, 11th October, 2009. Ringwood East.

The Annual Luncheon of Clans [a Scottish get together] is to be held again at the Karralyka Reception and Entertainment Centre, Mines Rd, East Ringwood. For further information please contact: Robert Stewart by phone on 9891 6450, or by E-mail: randjstewart@optusnet.com.au.

Annual General Meeting Sunday, 25th October, 2009. South Yarra.

Our A.G.M. will be held on Sunday 25th October at **Soroptimist House, 383 Toorak Rd, South Yarra** from 12 noon till 4 p.m. So bring your lunch and meet fellow Clan members. Tea & coffee will be available. [Melways ref 2M, B6].

Scottish Resource Centre

Scottish Resource Centre at The Celtic Club, Level 2, 316 – 320 Queen Street, Melbourne.

Office hours: 10:00am – 3:00pm Monday to Friday.

The Co-Ordinator, Ian Murdoch, would appreciate more helpers, so if you are retired and would like to help out for a few hours contact Ian on: [03] 9670 6766 or A/H [03] 9787 5961

[One such helper, member Ed Hawkes says “.....I would like to support Ian Murdoch in his plea for more help at the Scottish Resource Centre – I am normally in at the Thursday a.m. slot.....”. So if anybody can help out just give Ian a call. Ed]

Wedding Bells?



Dear Clan Secretary,

“.....I would be grateful if you would consider giving the following some space in your next Clan newsletter

.....If wedding bells are in the air in your family then you may wish to consider contacting David Courtney who is possibly the only Scottish born civil Marriage Celebrant in Australia who holds the honorary title of Laird, and, who conducts his ceremonies in full Scottish regalia. With his extensive knowledge of Scottish history and customs, David is sure to add that authentic touch to the couple's big day. He will incorporate some traditional Scottish rites and vows into the wedding service, can provide a backdrop of the Scottish and Australian flags, a CD of appropriate Scottish music and can even arrange for a piper or Celtic Harper to play. His warm personality and gentle Scottish accent will endear himself to you and your guests, enhancing and adding value to the ceremony.....”

While based in Newcastle, he is available to travel anywhere in Australia.

You can visit David's website at www.scottishcelebrations.com.au or contact him directly on 0421524263.

Basic Information for Beginning Your Family History **Some simple rules and hints to get you started**

First decide how you are going to record your information. Paper or Computer? Most people use a mixture of the two so buy yourself a good genealogy program or download a free program from the internet.

Start off with a large note book or loose leaf folder.

One page for each person is a good starting point. Blank 'Pedigree Charts' and 'Family Group Record' sheets are available by emailing Kaye at: macore@tadaust.org.au

I personally use Family Tree Maker (FTM) but PAF is also a good computer program

1. Family Tree Maker: www.familytreemaker.com/.
-Available locally from Harvey Norman or Officeworks for around \$100.
2. Personal Ancestral File (PAF) www.familysearch.org/.
-Free to download if you have internet access.

When beginning Family History the first rule is to research backwards from yourself.

You know yourself best; you know your facts about yourself better than anyone else.

Then follows Parents, Grandparents, Gr-Grandparents, 2nd Gr-Grandparents, 3rd, Gr-Grandparents etc. Siblings, along with Aunts' & Uncles will follow naturally as you go. You should try and stick to one line when beginning. [Longtime researchers will tell you that that is very hard, if not impossible, to do].

The basic information needed for every person in any genealogy system is:

FULL names, BIRTH date & place, DEATH date & place plus MARRIAGE details, i.e. spouse name, date and place of marriage. Burial details are also very useful for furthering your research. Write down your SOURCE information.

Add your own spouse, children and grandchildren if you have them.

Your parents' details will be easy to gather as should be your Grandparents. Interview your relatives but remember that while one aunty might tell you her brothers names was Joe another might call the same person Willie!

With the new privacy laws you need to try and get back about 100 years with verbal information. Don't worry if there's no one to ask. You can still trace your lineage but it will be just a little harder.

Tips:

- When entering information you should always use MAIDEN names for women.
- Many people prefer CAPITAL letters for SURNAMENAMES, i.e. SMITH, James Robert.
- List dates as 05 Jul 1951 rather than 5/7/51. Not all countries have the same date format.
- List places as Town/City, County/State, and Country. Use Chapman Codes where possible i.e. Moe, VIC AUS. This method will save you a lot of time and ink. Check our website for an explanation of these codes.
- Check the library catalogue to see if we have a publication that might help you in a particular area of your research.
- Check Dawn Cowley's Index of spare BDM certificates.
- Plan a trip to the Public Records Office (PRO), or the State Library of Victoria (SLV). The Genealogy Society of Victoria (GSV) and the Australian Institute of Genealogy Studies (AIGS) are also treasure troves of information and records.
- The information on a Death Certificate is not provided by the deceased, so isn't always accurate.
- The Birth Certificate (AUS) of the youngest child in a family should list all the previous siblings with their ages.
- When using BDM indexes the date referred to is usually the registration date and not necessarily the event date.



Angus McMillan - Pathfinder by K. Cox

Punts were used to cross the rivers, one a mile below the junction of the Thomson and the Macalister and another at McLennan's Straits. As roads gradually came into being, toll gates were set up to gather revenue, one on the Sale side of the La Trobe bridge and another at Tarraville on the Port Albert road.

Coach services between Port Albert and Sale, with a One Pound fare, were irregular owing to the terrible condition of the track. McMillan usually preferred to ride, especially as he frequently had cattle to drive.

In the meantime, in the wider spectrum, Lord John Russell's Government granted self-government to Australia in 1850, the year in which Port Phillip was created a separate Colony with the name of the Queen. The last convict arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1853, a step which McMillan hailed with relief. Much as he valued self-government and welcomed the advent of Victoria, he told Arbuckle that, with the cessation of transportation, he felt that a scourge which had blighted the life of the new land had been removed.

The setting up in Victoria of a two-thirds elective council had not greatly excited McMillan, who believed that Government should interfere as little as possible in the lives of the people. He was sympathetic to the grievances of the gold diggers, in particular over licenses, but the incident of the Eureka Stockade in 1854 brought a reaction in his thinking that the diggers had gone too far. He was sympathetic to the demands made to restrict the entry of Chinese. He held with some vehemence, particularly after he had been warmed with whisky, that Australia should be settled with migrants from Scotland and England and that he wanted no 'foreigners'.

As a squatter, he joined with other landowners in opposing the move to abolish the property qualifications for members of Parliament, since he felt strongly that the interests of the land were being swamped in the demands for manhood suffrage, vote by ballot and redistribution of the electoral districts. Yet when these things became law, he accepted the changes with equanimity.

The prestige and influence of Victoria, with a population approaching the half million mark, grew rapidly and Hobart as a market for stock gave place to Melbourne.

McMillan realised that the conditions under which he had been living must improve. The slab huts with earthen floors and stone fireplaces were succeeded by a weather-board house with a brick chimney and timber floors of which he was inordinately proud. Two of his boundary riders married and he built rooms for their quarters, which gave the homestead at Bushy Park, eventually to grow to twenty rooms, a rambling appearance, with verandahs and passages connecting the complex. From the small windows of the house the mountain ranges were magnificent in their splendour.

His meals were now cooked by the women, and the primitive life he had led for nearly two decades gave way to a degree of domesticity which he enjoyed immensely. No longer was he required to wash and mend his clothes. Although he still slept on a rough-framed bed with a sheep skin stretched for a mattress, he had sheets as well as blankets under a possum skin rug, and he felt that he was living in luxury.

Still struggling for the capital which seemed to elude him, he acquired two more runs. In 1856, sixteen thousand acres at Stratford adjoining Bushy Park was taken over from his friend W. Odell Raymond. In that year too, he successfully applied for a licence by tender of three thousand two hundred acres at Eagle Vale in the high plains north of his holdings. For these holdings he paid an annual fee to the Department of Crown Lands and Survey of £55. His only other holding was sixteen thousand acres at Taborabara on Dargo High Plains which he acquired in 1863.

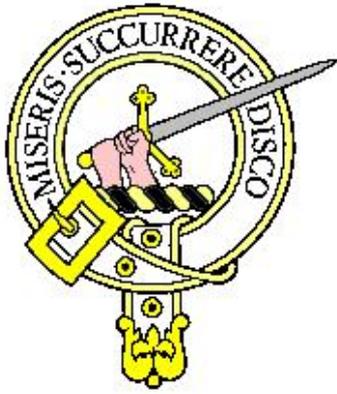
His workmen received an average wage of £35 a year; carpenters employed in building his house were paid Eight Shillings a day with rations.

McMillan was increasingly invited to social functions, which he attended no matter how much travelling was involved. His position as a squatter of standing, combined with his genial company and love of dancing, made him a firm favourite and a welcome guest. With the ladies in particular, he was extremely popular, and not a district wedding or a dance was held from which the Scot was absent, often wearing his kilt and Scottish bonnet, in which he presented a gay figure, much admired by the women.

The story throughout Gippsland was that he loved a Scottish lassie who would not leave her home to come to Australia. This had arisen through knowledge of letters sent and received by McMillan, who knew that little was secret among the bush folk when mail was passed from hand to hand for posting or delivery.

What he did not reveal was that letters from Margaret had become fewer and fewer. His mother seldom mentioned her, and McMillan guessed that in his absence his place had been superseded by another.

.....**To be continued**.....



The Clan MacMillan Society Of Australia

C/O 41 Lincoln Avenue, Glen Waverley,
Victoria, Australia. 3150

Motto: Miseris succurrere disco – "I learn to succour the distressed"

Symbol: Clagh Mor, the Great Sword, wielded in two hands.

Badge: The belt and buckle, (above) is the badge worn by loyal clan members.

Plant badge: Holly

About us:

The Clan MacMillan Society of Australia, was founded in 1983. Its aims are to foster kinship between members of the MacMillan Clan and the various Septs. At present the M'millan name is represented by over 195 spelling variations! Sept names include Bell, Baxter, Brown, Blue, and Walker. Our Clan Chief, George MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap lives at 'Finlaystone', Langbank, SCT.

Our Society, as well as being part of the wider MacMillan community, holds memberships with the Scottish Clans and Associations Council Inc. (formerly The Council of Clans Australasia Inc. Victorian Council of Clans, Scots Victoria, and the G.S.V. Members of The Australian Clan attend various Highland Games and events, providing information to interested people.

The main gathering of the Society is usually in October when we have our Annual General Meeting, in Melbourne. It is an opportunity to compare family trees and exchange ideas about filling the gaps. Our guest speakers at these events have always proved popular, with their talks on early Scottish history, along with various ways of researching our heritage. We hold an annual lunch or picnic, where we spend a relaxing day, "catching up" with our kin. Members outside of Melbourne may not always be able to attend, but we keep in touch through our quarterly newsletter.

The Clan MacMillan Society of Australia, maintains a web site that outlines our aims and objectives as well as contact details for joining our clan. With email links attached to shipping and other index's concerning M'Millan's we have been able to connect family history researchers. We are also collecting M'Millan, Birth, Death and Marriage transcriptions, which presently number over 70. These offer researchers a chance of putting a link to their research names.

Certificates can be sent to the webmaster:

E-mail: macore@tadaust.org.au

WEB: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mcmillan/>

Activities during the last year included:

The 25th Anniversary of Clan McMillan Society in Australia.

We held our annual lunch at the "Berth" restaurant at Docklands in March.

Members manned the Clan tent at the Ringwood Games.

Members attended the Kirkin' o' the Tartan at Scots Church in Melbourne on 6th July

AGM 12th October 2008: The speaker Ross McMullin, author of the book Pompey Elliot – 1920 gave an interesting talk on this remarkable military leader.

Membership: New members are always welcome

Membership fee for 2008 -2009 is \$20 Send your family details with a cheque or money order to the Treasurer: June Senior; 41 Lincoln Avenue, Glen Waverley, Victoria Australia. 3150.

AGM: 25th October 2009. Our meeting begins with a BYO lunch at 12 noon, at *Soroptimist House*, 383 Toorak Road, South Yarra, VIC. [This report was presented at the GSV AGM at the end of May. Ed]

Help Wanted

My name is [.....name withheld due to privacy issues.....] and I am trying to find information on the family of Samuel and Janet [nee Clark] McMillan who came from Scotland to Australia onboard the ship 'Perfect' in October, 1840. They brought with them their three children Letitia, Thomas and Janet.

Letitia married John Jones on December 16th, 1853 in Melbourne, these were my Great Grandparents. Their youngest child, a son named Ernest Francis Jones was my Grandfather.

I am trying to find any information on any of these family members and was wondering if you have any members who are connected to the same family line. Below is the extra information I have on the family and I also found an article about Samuel McMillan, who was the son of Letitia's brother Thomas.

Children of Letitia (nee McMillan) & John Jones

Ann Sarah - b1854; Lillian - b1856; John Henry - b1858; Alfred - b25/12/1859; Edward Alfred - b1860; Letitia Janet - b1864 [she died in 1883 aged 19]; James Merton - b1866; Mary - b9/03/1868; & Ernest Francis - b11/10/1870 [My Grandfather].

Samuel McMillan and Janet Clark were married on the 20/12/1831 at Kilmarnock, Ayr, Scotland. Samuel McMillan was born in Londonderry, Ireland around 1801 and died in Victoria in 1875 aged approx 74 years old. Janet was born in Ayreshire, Scotland, in 1808 and died at Mansfield, Victoria in 1898 aged 90.

Their first daughter, Letitia McMillan was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland in 1837; a son Thomas b1832; and another daughter Janet b1835. At the time Samuel was listed as a labourer from Londonderry, Ireland and Janet was listed as a housekeeper from Ayreshire, Scotland. Samuel and Janet were indentured to a Mr. Watson, from Melbourne. At the time of their arrival it lists Samuel as being 39 years old and Janet as being 28 years old. Both were also listed as Presbyterians and they could both read and write. After arriving in Australia Samuel worked as a farm servant and more than likely Janet was a housekeeper or housemaid.

After arriving in Australia they had three more children, Samuel - b1841 [died in Wandin North in 1924 aged 83; James - b 1844; and Mary - b1847.

McMILLAN, SAMUEL (1859-1931), coachmaker, wheelwright, blacksmith and inventor, was born on 12 December 1859 at Mansfield, Victoria, eldest son of Thomas McMillan, farmer, and his wife Margaret, née Maclure; his grandparents Samuel and Janette McMillan had migrated to Victoria from Scotland in 1840 and eventually acquired the Logan Falls farm near Mansfield. The young Samuel attended Mansfield Common School which his father, determined that his children should have the schooling which he himself had been denied, had helped to establish. A bright, inventive boy, Samuel used his spare time making tools and toys and, noting this, his father apprenticed him to William Carey, a skilled local blacksmith and coachbuilder; he continued his training under Michael Ridge of Jamieson and at Johnstone's Foundry, Melbourne, where he perfected his skill as a wheelwright.

Returning to Mansfield, McMillan joined William Rundel, blacksmith, wheelwright and coachbuilder, in his business. The pair built a splendid reputation, winning over one hundred awards at country and town shows in Victoria. They early used a four-horse-power steam engine to increase production and they employed an artist, named Wells, to decorate their coaches, buggies and jinkers. When Rundel retired McMillan continued the business with increasing success.

He put his inventive ability to good purpose. Where the window-light was strongest in his big smithy in High Street, he set up a large blackboard and on this drew designs of possible inventions to the interest of customers, passers-by and children going home from school. He invented a rabbit-poisoning machine known as 'The Ringer' which, though difficult to use in the hilly country of Mansfield, was most successful in New South Wales and Western Australia. In 1885 McMillan became the first Mansfield exporter when the machine was sold in the United States of America. He patented a self-closing spring gate fastener and designed an improved clothes peg. In later years he spent much time designing an aeroplane. He was one of the first in Mansfield to fly as a passenger over Mount Buller; he was also one of the first to own and drive a motor car, an early model known as 'The Little'.

McMillan lent generous support to many public activities and despite increasing deafness never lost interest in his town. He was a member of the Mansfield Hospital committee and a commissioner of the waterworks trust. He was a Freemason and Oddfellow and won many competitions with the Mansfield Gun Club. A skilled horseman, he was famed for his fast but safe driving of his four-in-hand team. He was unmarried. He suffered from diabetes and died at Mansfield on 22 March 1931 and was buried in the local cemetery. No man, it was said, had more true friends. Years before, at a dinner given by the people of Mansfield to honour McMillan, the chairman in proposing the toast had declaimed, 'Longfellow wrote that men do not go to Paradise in coaches but I'd be proud to go in one of Sam's!'

Correspondence Request

As a result of the Marysville Historical Society losing all their records in the terrible bushfires in February, we wondered if any of our members would have photographs from holidays they spent in Marysville & surrounding areas. For instance if they have photos of Guest Houses or places of interest in the area, could they send them to June Senior and she'll make sure they're sent on.

[If anybody is able to help with any of the queries in this issue, could they contact myself on:-

E-mail:- mickmack@alphalink.com.au,

or, the webmaster on:-

E-mail: macore@tadaust.org.au

Web Page:- <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mcmillan/welcome.htm>

Thank You. Ed]

If unclaimed, please return to:

CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (AUSTRALIA)

41 Lincoln Ave, Glen Waverley Vic. 3150

