

The Trustees of the
Clan MacMillan International Centre
are grateful for sponsorship of this magazine from
the family of Hammy and Janet McMillan
proprietors of

McMillan Hotels



North West Castle



Cally Palace

The story of the McMillan family's involvement in hotels began in 1961 when Hammy McMillan, at that time running a building business in Canada, noticed that the North West Castle in Stranraer was for sale. Built by Arctic explorer Sir John Ross, the house was well known to Hammy, who hails from Stranraer. He realised the potential the house would have as a hotel.



Fernhill Hotel



Kilroughree
HOUSE

The McMillan family have always been interested in curling, and Hammy McMillan Junior, is a world champion in the sport. The North West Castle Hotel has an indoors curling rink, and the Cally Palace has its own 18 hole golf course for the exclusive use of guests of McMillan Hotels.

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CLAN MACMILLAN INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

Issue No. 2 June 2004



Featuring:

Millans / Mellons

The MacMillans of Dunmore

Traditions of Knapdale MacMillans

New Clan Branches in North America



The Clan MacMillan International Centre at Finlaystone

Chairman: Chief George MacMillan; **Executive Trustees:** John B. McMillan, Canada;
Margaret Pool, New Zealand; David Brown, Scotland; Peter McMillan, England;
Lamar McMillin, USA; Connall Bell, USA; Phillip McMillan, USA;
Genealogist & Magazine Editor: Graeme Mackenzie.
Clan Centre Curator: Pauline Simpson.

www.clanmacmillan.org

Brigadier Alistair Macmillan, Howwood, Scotland, has relinquished office as Treasurer and Trustee of the Clan MacMillan Centre. We're especially grateful to him for having continued servicing the Clan and the Centre at a time when the burden of his army duties was increasing with crises in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq. The Clan Centre's finances will be administered jointly by Chief George MacMillan and Curator Pauline Simpson until such time as a new Treasurer can be appointed.

Russell Harrison, New South Wales, Australia, has also retired as a Trustee of the Clan Centre after many years of valuable service. Russell has been in office since the Board of Trustees was set up after the 1994 Clan Conclave and despite the handicap of being on the other side of the world has always been keen to contribute in any way that he could. The Chairman and the other Trustees have appreciated in particular the common sense and practical approach that Russell, as a successful businessman, brought to the affairs of the Clan and the Centre.

Peter MacMillan, Clitheroe, England has been appointed a Trustee of the Clan Centre. Peter has been a leading member of The Clan MacMillan Society (of Scotland) for many years, and was one of the first members of the clan to sign up as a "Friend" of the Clan Centre in 1993. He comes from a part of England (the north west) where many M'millans settled in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries (see references to the [Mac]Mellons of Cumbria elsewhere in this issue) and is a keen member of Scottish interest groups in his native Lancashire. Peter shares with Nigel, Nette, and Gordon Macmillan, a particular enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing and has often organised and taken part in performances at ceilidhs and gatherings at Finlaystone. He's pictured on the opposite page in the team that won the quiz during the "Scots Night" at Finlaystone.

Jane MacMillan has, we regret to report, recently been diagnosed with a serious cancer for which she is currently receiving treatment at home under the direction of specialists from the Beatson Hospital in Glasgow – one of the best cancer centres in Britain. Chief George has asked us to thank all those who have already expressed their sympathies and good wishes, but has requested no more cards or flowers at this time. We'll try to keep the clan informed of the progress of Jane's treatment via the website: www.clanmacmillan.org/News/News.htm



Duncan D. MacMillan, President of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America (pictured left with his wife Donna in New York in 2003) has announced the dates and an outline of events for the International Gathering of the Clan to be held in Ontario, Canada, in August of 2005. Registration in London, ON, on Friday 12th will be followed the next day by attendance at the 60th Highland Games at Fergus, ON (the Fergus games are second only to the Maxville Games in Glengarry Co., ON, as the biggest in Canada). A service will be held on Sunday 14th in conjunction with the CTS at the Knox Kintyre Church at Aldborough Township in Elgin Co. Apart from a day trip to Stratford on Avon, ON, the rest of the events will be held in London, where accommodation will be available at the Fanshawe College. For more details email dmcmillan5164@rogers.com

CLAN NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Margaret Pool, CMIC Trustee, has been succeeded as President of the Clan MacMillan Society of New Zealand by Avon McMillan, Pakuranga, Auckland, who was previously the Vice President. Margaret, the founder and for long the sole officer of the youngest of the clan's national societies, was unanimously granted life membership on the occasion of her relinquishing office. She and her husband Pete are pictured right on a visit a few years ago to Glen Nevis, the ancestral home of her branch of the Macmillans.



Golden Couple: Nigel Macmillan, retired CMIC Trustee, and his wife Nette recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a party in Glasgow. We wish them many more happy years together.

Arnell McMillin, a cousin of CMIC Trustee Dr. Fitten Lamar McMillin, and one time president of the McMillin and Related Families of Louisville, Winston Co., died on the 16th February 2004 at the age of 97. He was the widower of Winifred Elizabeth Davis McMillin, who was also active in the family group, and was the last remaining grandchild of Samuel Fitten McMillin. Arnell's son, John Arnell McMillin, CTS, has served two terms as President of the "Mississippi McMillins".

Clan MacMillan North Central States were represented at the Milwaukee Highland Games on 5th June by Mike McMillin, Joliet, IL, and his brother Mark, who set up a tent for the MacMillans' first appearance at the Illinois St. Andrews Society Scottish Gathering and Highland Games at Oak Brook, Chicago, IL, on 19th June. Mike is hoping to set up an Illinois branch of the clan when sufficient interest has been established, and in the meantime is acting as Convener there for the North Central States Branch. Neil Johnson (St. Pauls, MN), who joined President Mike McMillin (Minneapolis, MN) in representing the branch at the Milwaukee Games last year, has recently made a welcome visit to Scotland.

Virginia McMullans ("Chlann an Taillear") were pleased to attend the opening on 16th May of the restored law offices in Madison, VA, once used by Judge Francis Marion McMullan and Governor James Lawson Kemper.

The Sept of Blue will be interested to see that an excellent article on "The Blues of North Kintyre" by local historian Ian MacDonald (Clachan, Kintyre) – who has been a great help to many Blues with their family history in Scotland – is now available on the internet at the website of the Kintyre Magazine (which has other articles of interest to MacMillans). See www.kintyremag.co.uk/1998/22/page6.htm

The Glenurquhart Macmillan Society will not be holding a gathering this year, but will reconvene in The Glen on the last weekend of August 2005 – the occasion of the Highland Games at Drumnadrochit - as usual.



The Clan MacMillan Society of Australia was founded in 1982 and meets regularly at the Ringwood Highland Games in Victoria. The picture on the left shows the society's new banner being displayed by Mick McMillan at Ringwood in April 2000. He's accompanied by Myrtle Beitleich (left); June Senior, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor (centre); and June Danks, President (right).

The Clan MacMillan International Magazine is published twice a year and sent free to Members of Clan MacMillan International (Centre). Membership for 2004 is UK £15 (US \$25), to be sent to The Clan MacMillan International Centre, Finlaystone, Langbank, PA14 6TJ, Scotland. Tel: 01475-540713. Email: ClanCentre@clanmacmillan.org

I Still Don't See How This Helps Me Expand My Family Tree. As they come in, FTDNA automatically compares all new project results to all existing project results, and if there are close matches both you and the matching persons can choose to be put into contact by email so that you can discuss your connections privately. No other personal contact data is supplied by FTDNA.

Where Can I Learn More? Please take a look at our website www.familytreedna.com/public/MacMillan/. There you will find a long list of variations of the clan name, notes about the current state of the project, its goals, news, and listings of the results of participants. These results are listed by surname only, for privacy. You will also find a link at the top left that you can click to go to a page where you can read about the various tests, costs and order your own Y-DNA test kit. Also at the top left is a link to FTDNA's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). Be sure to read that....it will go a long way toward answering your questions about DNA testing. On the main FTDNA site www.ftdna.com/ you can read more about DNA testing, look over the many other projects set up there, run the tutorials on how you might use DNA testing to further your own genealogical research, subscribe to a newsletter, join in discussions with others doing research, read scientific papers and many other interesting topics.

What If I Don't Understand My Test Results? FTDNA can help you with this, and I have set up a special private online community to discuss our test results or any other topic related to DNA testing and genealogy. This community is open only to participants in the Y-DNA Project, so that we may natter on endlessly about the subject without clogging up the works of other communities and email lists. I hope you enjoy using this convenient way to communicate! Just remember, you must first become a Clan MacMillan Y-DNA Test Project participant!

I Still Have Questions. Please contact me : [Adhaniá Olson commodore8@msn.com](mailto:AdhaniáOlson@msn.com)

THE CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETY (OF SCOTLAND) SCOTTISH NIGHT

We decided this year to hold our Scottish Night in the Celtic Tree, the conservatory tea room behind the Clan Centre. This proved to be a delightful venue and with our chief George and his wife Jane acting as our charming hosts, more than thirty guests arrived for what would be a very enjoyable evening.

After some words of welcome from our president, Gordon Macmillan, we settled down to enjoy a really wonderful buffet meal. Then it was down to the serious business of our Scottish Quiz Night. The Scots being a fiercely competitive lot, competition was keen and our affable quiz master, Charles Calman, had his work cut out keeping us in order! The winning team had given themselves the title "The White Heather Club" so perhaps their choice of name did bring them luck – or perhaps they just knew more than the rest of us!



*The victorious White Heathers from left to right
Marnie Marshall, Pauline Simpson, Peter McMillan, Jack Finnegan and Douglas Suckle.*

Musical entertainment was provided by eight members of the YMCA Glasgow Wind Orchestra and as it was St Valentine's Day, some well known Scottish love songs made up a large part of their programme. Peter McMillan who had come all the way from Lancashire to take part provided some toe tapping numbers on his fiddle and when we all joined forces for the last number, "The Song of the Clyde," the whole company was singing along.

The evening ended with the presentation of the prizes and some words of appreciation from George. The verdict was quite unanimous – it was a great evening!

Lorna McMillan, Secretary

SUMMARY OF CLAN CENTRE ACCOUNTS 1st Jan – 31st Dec 2003

Income			Expenditure		
	£	\$		£	\$
Subscriptions	1,777.52	1,781.00	Telephone	172.15	
Donations	7,926.07	10,190.38	Postage/Printing	1,008.76	
Project MAOL	00.00		Secretary	1,200.00	
Interest	4.15	22.61	Curator/Editor	5,800.00	
Graeme's Book	435.00	425.00	Utilities	194.21	
Plaques	00.00		ISP	310.20	
Miscellaneous	683.18	712.38	Book Reprint	1,005.00	
Held for CTS	420.00		Bank Charges	00.00	168.32
GR 2002	242.20	200.00	GR2002	00.00	550.50
			Miscellaneous	412.57	100.00
	11,488.12	13,331.37		10,102.89	818.82
Excess of Expenditure			Excess of Income	762.67	12,512.55
	11,488.12	13,331.37		11,488.12	13,331.37

Notes:

1. UK A/c opening balance £622.56, closing balance £1385.23.
2. US A/c opening balance \$4,201.13, transferred to UK A/c \$15,000 over the year, closing balance \$1,748.68.

The following individuals have made donations to the Clan Centre since 1 January 2004:

W.S.G. MacMillan, Trimmingham, Norwich, England; Peter McMillan, Clitheroe, Lancs, England; Lilian de Giacomo, Barnard, VT, USA; Robert McMillan, Sherwood Park, AB, Canada; James Blue, Asheville, NC, USA; Rev. Pamela Lucas, Harlow Green, Gateshead, England; Dugal McMillan, St Catharines, ON, Canada; Robert W. McMillan, Burbank, CA, USA; Jane M. Strauss, Belfast, ME, USA; Robert F. Cutter, Lima, OH, USA; Jack O. McMillan, Quincy, FL, USA; William MacMillan Jnr, Dayton, OH, USA.

We've received "Conclave Challenge" contributions from these Branches or Societies in the same period:

Clan MacMillan Pacific Branch, Clan MacMillan Society of New Zealand, Clan MacMillan Utah, Clan MacMillan Society of North America.

We're very grateful to all the above for your continued support, and particularly to the CTS for their further generous donation in May 2004



The Celtic Tree Restaurant in the Walled Garden at Finlaystone

Clan MacMillan's Community of the Tonsured Servant (CTS)

Supporting the Clan MacMillan International Centre at Finlaystone, Scotland, and providing educational materials and events for Clan MacMillan and Sept members around the world.

CTS HAS 100 MEMBERS !

We welcome our one hundredth member to CTS. He is Rev. Andrew K. Moore from Chino Valley, Arizona. Andrew pursued a career in law enforcement until 1986 when he returned to university after sensing a call to ministry. He has a Master's Degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his family went to Japan as missionaries and worked with youth gangs in Tokyo and Hiroshima. They returned to the US in 1998 and he is currently a minister of youth in Chino Valley, AZ. He is married to Debbie and they have two sons, Sean and Ryan. Andrew and Debbie are very active in Scottish events in the Northern Arizona area and are members of CMIC, Finlaystone, Scotland; Clan MacMillan, Pacific Branch, Southern District, California; The Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society of Flagstaff, Arizona. Andrew is the founder and organizer of the Chino Valley Scottish and Irish Society in their home town in central Arizona. Welcome!

CTS GRANTS TO CMIC IN 2004

CTS made a grant of \$1,000 US to CMIC in May 2004. The Clan Centre Curator, Pauline Simpson, has asked me to convey the thanks of the CMIC Trustees and the Centre staff to CTS members for your continued support.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In 2003, CTS raised approximately \$8,500 US for "The Rev. Canon A. Malcolm and Sally Mark MacMillan Tribute Fund". Thank you to all who contributed. Thank you to Dr. Ralph MacMillan from Richmond, VA who contributed since the names of the contributors appeared in *CTS News and Views* Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 1 October 2003. These contributions have been invested and CMIC will benefit from the interest. We thank Glenn MacMillen, CTS, who conceived the idea and formation of the Endowment Fund. You may still contribute and if you wish to make a gift to this Endowment Fund as a tribute to Rev. Canon Malcolm MacMillan (Fr. Mac), please send your gifts to myself, Blanche McMillan, at the address listed below. *N.B. The US bank that CTS is using has asked that ALL cheques be made out only to Clan MacMillan. CTS has many different ways it raises money for CMIC; memberships, Endowment Funds, Fundraising events, etc. Cuimhnich air na daoine o'n d'thaining thu – "Remember those from whom you're descended" – Remember Clan MacMillan in your wills.*

CONGRATULATIONS TO KITTY AND ANDREW MACMILLAN

Kitty Lunn, CTS, wife of Andrew Macmillan, CTS, immediate Past President of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America, will be performing at the Kennedy Centre in Washington, DC, for the third time this year – premiering on 11th June. Seventeen years ago Kitty Lunn slipped on ice, fell down a flight of stairs and broke her back, leaving her a paraplegic. Having been a dancer her entire life, Kitty had to find a way to keep dancing. In the Fall of 1994 she founded Infinity Dance Theater, a non-traditional dance company featuring dancers with and without disabilities, which is committed to bringing the joy and drama of motion and movement to a new level of inclusion by expanding the boundaries of dance and changing the world's perception of what a dancer is. To this end Kitty has developed a wheelchair dance technique strongly rooted in and growing out of Classical Ballet and Modern Dance. Kitty also will be delivering the commencement address on 16 June at Crochet Mountain Residential School in Greenfield, NH, a residential school for severely disabled children. She will also be teaching the teachers how to incorporate dance into their programs. Andrew will go along and fix the wheelchairs for the children. Andrew and Kitty hosted the Clan MacMillan Society of North America's Gathering in New York City, in 2003. On June 5, 2004, Andrew Macmillan will become Chief of the New York City Caledonian Club which was established in 1856. He is proud that the MacMillan Tartan will be flying beside the Caledonian banner.

AUTHORS AND ACTORS

Sybil Barbour is the daughter of the Rev. Somerled MacMillan, late bard and historian of the Clan MacMillan. His books "MacMillans and their Septs (1952)" and "Bygone Lochaber (1971)" are early comprehensive histories of Clan MacMillan. Sybil has just had her first story published in a book titled "Conscious Women - Conscious Lives" by Darlene Montgomery. She also told us her son Russell and his wife Heather, who accompanied Sybil to GR2002, Scotland, are now living in New Zealand. Russell was an extra in "The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" which was filmed in New Zealand. He played many different roles with orcs, elves and archers.

CTS page prepared May 2004 by Blanche McMillan, Abbot CTS

5364 Salem Road, Burlington, ON, L7L 3X3, Canada. Email: jbmcmillan@sympatico.ca. Tel: 905-637-3395

Clan MacMillan Y-DNA Test Project

Adhaniá Olson

Chief George has authorised me to set up a genealogy DNA test project for Clan MacMillan, and I am extending you an invitation to join. Because of its primary focus on the genealogical aspects rather than the scientific, I have chosen FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA) to host our project. I really hope you will participate. Please feel free to send this information on to any man bearing any variation of the surname. We expect to be able to enhance our individual and mutual genealogical information through this exciting new scientific method.



Adhaniá Olson and her husband Rod

Who Will Benefit? Those men of the name who have well-documented research into their family lines will be of great assistance in determining the exact nature of the connections among the various lines and locations of descendants. The more you know about your own lines, the more you and the Clan will benefit from Y-DNA testing.

What Is This "Y-DNA", Anyway? "Y-DNA" refers to the part of *deoxyribonucleic acid* or DNA that a man receives from his father at the moment life begins as a mingling of DNA from the father and the mother. The project will test males only because that's the way the science works. Women do pass on their DNA to both their sons and daughters, but mtDNA, or "maternal DNA" is so stable and changes so slowly that presently it is not possible to determine relationships nearer than about 5000 years. The male or "Y-DNA" changes much more rapidly and relationships can be determined as closely as one or only a few more generations back. Many male MacM's have documentation of their own line within this time period, and can benefit from testing.

Women Can't Take Part? That's Unfair! Clanswomen may ask a close male relative of the surname to test, and will be able to determine their own relationship in this way. An uncle of the woman's MacM' ancestor, a first cousin (son of the uncle), or an unbroken line male descending from a grandfather's brother or uncle would give useful results. Women might offer to fund the cost of the test to encourage this relative to participate. This same condition applies to any man whose connection to the Clan comes through a grandmother...see if there is someone in the direct male line who would agree to participate, and think about paying for it yourself. Another way clanswomen can participate is to fund someone who otherwise could not afford the cost of the test, even though this participant may not be related. Even though it is relatively inexpensive, around \$200, there are many times when even this modest cost proves too much for someone who would like to participate. Test kits are ordered directly from the FTDNA website – www.ftdna.com – so consider purchasing a test kit for someone who could benefit from your help. Be sure the data entered when ordering the test kit is that of the person being tested.

Which Test Is Best? There are three Y-DNA offered, and the Y-DNA 25 marker paternal is recommended because it has the best chance of discovering distinct differences among participants. There will often be near or perfect matches in the 12 marker test, especially in the relatively small gene pool found in descendants of Scots. The 37 marker provides the ultimate ability to sort out differences between individuals. You will be able to see the costs for each test on the FTDNA site.

Does Testing Hurt? The sample is a swab of the inner cheek tissue of the mouth, does not involve drawing blood or visiting a clinic, is sent to you by mail, completed in the privacy of your own home, and returned by mail. You can reside anywhere in the world.

How Come These Tests Are So Expensive? Actually, we receive great group rates at FTDNA, and the tests run are limited to those that give genealogical results. Tests at a local laboratory for all possible DNA results would cost many hundreds of dollars more. So, we're getting a pretty good deal.

What Happens When Science Moves On and New Stuff Is Possible? The test lab retains the samples for 25 years, so new samples are not needed as new tests become available. Only a small part of the collected DNA is tested; the results are only genealogically oriented and do not identify paternity or potential health concerns.

I'm Not Sure I Want Everybody To Know All About Me! Privacy is assured by assigning a random ID number to the sample. The independent test lab does not have access to your identity, only to this number. FamilyTreeDNA has your contact information and genealogical report, but does not have access to the sample stored at the test lab. The only person who has access to all of your information is yourself. You may choose to have your results compared to those of others in the project and to be displayed by surname only on our own Clan MacMillan Project website. This is the way you will benefit from the family research of other MacMillans. You may find new relationships you never suspected, or solve those annoying "brick walls" we all know and love.

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE



The Project MAOL Skeleton Files now contain summary details of nearly 10,000 individuals, of whom over 6,000 bear the name M'millan and so form the M'millan Search Index. Not all these will go on-line at the next update however as they include a separate index of Glen Urquhart M'millans being compiled for publication in a book about the history and genealogy of the clan in The Glen. They'll be added to the general index as soon as that's complete.

Apart from putting as many completed clan family trees as possible on computer and publishing the On-Line Search Indices compiled from them, the main purpose of Project MAOL is to continue research into the history and genealogy of the clan, and to put as much information as possible on the website that might be of help to clanspeople doing their own research. The existing lists of all documented M'millans pre-16th century, and in the 16th century, are now being supplemented by the growing list of 17th century M'millans (previously only 6 in number, but now 31 – though this excludes proven members of the chiefly branches mentioned on other web pages or in publications elsewhere). The list of pre-1900 military M'millans has expanded from 12 to 27, largely from the inclusion of HEICS officers (at the moment this list is mostly officers, and when it becomes possible to add all the enlisted men it will expand greatly). All known M'millan ministers in the Church of Scotland have now been added to the pre-1900 list of Ministers and Priests to take it from 10 to 33. This includes a mystery that maybe one of our American members might be able to solve: i.e. what happened to the William M'millan who matriculated from Glasgow University in 1720, was licensed as a minister in America in 1724, but thereafter disappears from the Church of Scotland's records?

The existing list of M'millans in the Indices to pre-1855 Testaments and Inventories in Scotland has now been supplemented by a list of all M'millan Wills and Administrations probated in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (which includes all those individuals who had property in more than one diocese in the province of Canterbury – which is the southern half of England) between the dates of 1701 and 1804. We've also added a list of Irish wills between about 1630 and 1860 (though a lot of Irish records have been lost in the troubles in that country over the centuries). Two other new lists about to be added to the website are M'millan tenants on the island of Islay between 1636 and 1802 – mostly of course in the later part of that period – and M'millans throughout Argyll mentioned in the Inverary Sheriff Court Register of Deeds in the mid-18th century. This last list includes some 120 individuals bearing various versions of the names M'millan, M'ilmhaoil – almost always in phonetic forms like McIlvoill – and M'igheill/M'yeill (see "The name McGill" in *Spotlight on the Septs*).

We've continued to receive Project MAOL submissions and enquiries from clanspeople around the world – for which we're most grateful (and the ancestors in submissions will be added to the M'millan Search Index in due course, though it may be quite a long course before all of them appear on the website, given the numbers involved). The average submission or enquiry tends to relate to a family that can be traced back to the late 1700s, like for instance that sent in by Maxine Richardson from Alberta in Canada whose 3xGreat-Grandparents Hugh and Mary M'millan were married in 1800 in the parish of Killeen & Kilchenzie, or Frankie Cross who I think lives somewhere in the United States and whose ancestors John M'millan and Catherine Murphy emigrated from Kintyre to the Carolinas in the 1760s or '70s. We've had one particularly interesting communication in recent weeks from James R. McMillen II in Pontotoc, Mississippi, who's inherited a family history that traces his ancestors back through South Carolina and Ulster to Inveresk in Scotland (which is just outside Edinburgh) in the early 1600s. His family tree connects at various points with a number of other families in the USA and if the link back to Inveresk can be confirmed it will be a very important contribution to the history of the clan's movement to Northern Ireland in the 17th century.

REV. WILLIAM BELL, MINISTER OF ERROL 1651-1665

Born c.1605 in Dron; MA at Edinburgh Univ. 1624;

Min. of Auchtertool 1636-1641; Min. of Dron 1641-1651;

Married to Helen Moncrieff; Died 1665. Following inscription on his tomb:

*Here ceast and silent lies sweet sounding Bell,
Who unto sleeping souls rung many a knell;
Death crackt this Bell, yet doth his pleasant chiming
Remain with those who are their lamps a-trimming.
In spite of death, his word some praise still sounds
In Christ's church, and in heaven his joy abounds.*

NEW CLAN MACMILLAN SOCIETIES/BRANCHES IN NORTH AMERICA

New branches of the clan are in the process of formation in both British Columbia and New Mexico. Chief George has been pleased to appoint as Conveners the two clansmen who have taken the initiative in these areas, and they've kindly provided us with the following information about themselves and their plans for getting their new branches/societies up-and-running:

NEW MEXICO:

Robert Humbert-Hale, formally appointed Convener 27 May 2004 – who's pictured left with his son Alexander – writes of himself:

My MacMillan ancestry is through both my father's mother (Ida Blanche Bell daughter of Thomas Bell & Blanche Smeeton) and through my great-great-grandmother (on my father's side) Ann Cox MacMillan daughter of Josiah McMillan & Susannah Cox (I have traced this line back to a Thomas McMillan born around 1702). My wife's name is Linda. I have two daughters and one son. My oldest daughter Heather is married and the mother of my first (and only, so far) granddaughter Elise. An interesting note is that Heather's husband Chris also has possible MacMillan connections through his mother's grandparents (Mulligan). My second daughter Christina is getting married June 3rd. My son Alexander will be seven on July 24th.

Bob and his family represented Clan MacMillan at the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games on May 15th where apparently about 30 people stopped by the clan tent to talk for a while, of whom eleven expressed an interest in actively helping establish Clan MacMillan, New Mexico Branch, with another seven possibly interested in joining the branch. The next event on the calendar is the Rio Rancho Highland Games and Scottish/Irish Festival on June 26-27.

Bob has already established a website <http://ClanMacMillanNM.org> with the email address Bob@ClanMacMillanNM.org.

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

David McMillan, formally appointed Convener 8th March 2004, writes of himself:

I am 49 years of age and father to four children ranging in age 21 years to 15 years. I am a police officer serving in Victoria and my wife Mary is a school teacher. I have just completed my Master of Arts Degree in Leadership and am currently the president of the Greater Victoria Police Pipe Band. My interests include family, coaching, and bagpipes. I have done a family search as far back as the early 1800's and have determined that my people lived on the Isle of Islay. My great grandfather came from Scotland to the west coast of Canada in the early 1900's and fought in WWI. My family have been on the west coast ever since.

My desire to form a MacMillan Branch stems from my belief in family and culture. I believe a person should know where he comes from and that strength is derived from one's knowledge of himself and his origins. Should anyone feel the same and are prepared to assist in forming a West Coast MacMillan Branch they can contact me through my e-mail at dmcmillan@oakbaypolice.org.

Dave hopes to recruit 4 or 5 others to form an executive with the aim of having the clan represented at the Victoria Highland Games in May 2005.

THE CLAN MACMILLAN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CHAPTER

was founded in 1990 and the first President was Frank MacMillan who is pictured right with his wife Bonnie at the unveiling last August of the monument to the McMillan Pioneers on PEI who arrived from the Isle of Colonsay on the ship "Spencer" in 1806. We mentioned this special occasion, which took place in the Wood Islands Pioneer Cemetery, in the previous issue of the Magazine, and we're very grateful to Joyce Livingstone Kennedy for sending us this excellent photograph – which like others in this issue can be seen in colour on the website.

ALL CLAN BRANCHES AND SOCIETIES are asked to keep the Clan Centre updated on their news for inclusion in the mag.



Traditions of the Knapdale MacMillans



Callum or Malcolm, son of Gilchrist Maolan, was not only the ancestor of the MacMillans and Lenys, but also the namefather of Clan MacCallum or Malcolm. It’s possible too that he can be equated with the legendary *Callum nan Caistel* who’s supposed to have built the fortresses of Taymouth and Finlarig at each end of Loch Tay, and Kilchurn at the northern end of Loch Awe [pictured left]. One reason for supposing this is that “Malcolm of the Castles” was also famous for saving the life of the king by killing a wild boar, a story that appears in the Leny history in a note at the bottom of their 16th century family tree where *Colmin mac Maolan* is described as “...*the reidhar vray uha sleu the meikle tork befor the king fra whilk deid ui gat our inocignie and aimis*”; which translates as “...the freckled rider who slew the large boar in front of the king from which deed we got our insignia and arms”.

The modern MacCallums have their territory immediately to the north of Knapdale, and their chief Malcolm of Poltalloch now lives at Duntrune Castle. In medieval times however they were associated with territories stretching north from the borders of Knapdale to the shores of Loch Etive, with their seat at a place called Colagin; and the importance of their kindred then is reflected in the comment said to have been made by MacDougall’s wife, that “*A third of Albyn were none too much for MacCallum of Colagin*”. This tale concerns the time when Clann Somerhairle (parent kindred of the MacDougalls and MacDonalds) was contesting control of mainland Lorn with Clann Cormaic (the parent kindred of the MacMillans, MacCallums, MacKinnons, MacQuarries and others), and it goes on to recount how MacCallum lost nine of his twelve sons and then had to decide on the fate of Colagain in the face of the pressure from neighbouring clans [modern Colagin, now a café-pub is pictured right]. Somerled MacMillan takes up the story:

MacCallum of Colagin had the great misfortune of losing the most of his family and, to make matters worse, his land was coveted by Dunollie [i.e. MacDougall] and MacMillan of Knap who held some property in the vicinity.... They each sent a son to be fostered by MacCallum.... The general rule in the case of fosterage was that the parents of the boy sent a certain number of cattle and sheep along with him. The milk of the cattle and the wool of the sheep helped to feed and clothe him. The increase of the stock was also to be fostered, and sent home to the youth when he attained his majority. MacMillan's son was the first to come of age. His father fully expected that his son should return with the assurance that Colagin was to become his on the death of his foster-father. The old man and his three remaining sons would have preferred this, but they feared MacDougall of Dunollie, who was a much nearer neighbour than MacMillan of Knap. So it was decided to give Dunollie the preference, and to promise him the succession to Colagin. MacMillan's son was sent home with thirteen head of cattle and a flock of sheep. A few days after his departure, the MacCallums observed a party of MacMillans approaching the house in haste. They were greatly alarmed, feeling sure that on account of the chief's disappointment the men were coming with hostile intentions. They carried their bed-ridden old parent up into the loft and hid him as best they could, there being neither time nor opportunity to remove him to any safe place. The emissaries of MacMillan arrived, and demanded that the father should be brought before them. Their demand not being complied with, they searched the house, and, having discovered the old man in his retreat, after wreaking vengeance upon him with the points of their dirks, they rolled his body down from the loft and departed. At once, Colagin passed into the possession of MacDougall of Dunollie.



The fertile lands of Kilchamaig looking across to the Dunmore estate

Though this Clann Somerhairle success reflects a takeover of Lorn which divided MacMillans in Knapdale from their cousins in Lochaber, contacts remained, and according to William Buchanan of Auchmar’s story: “*A Son of the great Macmillan of Knap, who resided in a certain Place in Kintyre called Kilchammag, having killed one Marallach Moire...was with Six of his Friends...obliged to take Boat; and flee to Lochaber....*



Spotlight on the Septs



Millan / Mellon

This name comes from MacMillans/McMellons etc. who have dropped the Mac/Mc – a process that most often happened when M’millans settled outside of Scotland. There is however at least one example of it occurring in a family recorded in the Campbeltown parish register, and the arms shown above [Or, a lion rampant gules, on a chief azure three mullets argent] which obviously relate to a family of M’millan descent, were registered in Scotland (though to whom is not presently known). Buchanan Macmillan from Glenurquhart, a cousin of Archibald of Murlagan and Allan of Glenpean, went to London and there became Printer to king George IV in 1821. Though he was married in St.Pancras in 1798 and had his will probated in England in 1832, in both cases as “McMillan”, he apparently used the name “Millan” in some at least of his professional dealings. In his early days in London there was another Millan in the book business whose origins are at present unknown, but who was apparently fairly famous in literary circles. John Millan died in 1784 at the age of about 84. He was a bookseller and publisher who was also said to have had a very fine collection of “natural curiosities”. A poet called Dell wrote of him:

*Millan, deserving of the warmest praise,
As full of worth and virtue as of days,
Brave, open, generous ‘tis in him we find
A solid judgement and a taste refined.*

In the north of England the process of having the Mac/Mc dropped can be observed happening in the 1740s amongst a group of M’millans who settled in the parish of Millom in Cumberland. Most of the entries in the Parish Register use the names Mellan/Mellon/Millon, starting with the burial in 1741 of “Henry Mellon, a stranger”, and the christening the following year of “William, son of Robert Mellon, a Scotchman, at Moor”. The Scotchman’s fourth son born at Moor, in 1749, was “Dennis Millon”, and in 1769 his marriage to Elizabeth Walton as “Dennis McMellan”, was witnessed by “William McMelin” – probably the brother born in 1742. William himself was married in 1777, as “Mellan”, to Eleanor Picthall; and his mother Frances (surname unknown), wife of “Robert Mellon”, died in 1777 at Moor. The patriarch of the clan himself died in 1801 at the age of 94 in the village of Haverigg (again as “Robert Mellon”), which is also where William’s wife died in 1807 as “Eleanor Mellon” [see article on the Dunmore family elsewhere in this issue for possible origins of this northern English “sept” of the clan].

In the USA the name “Mellon” is attached to one of the richest families in the country, and to a university named for them. The founder of this family’s fortunes was Judge Thomas Mellon who was born in 1816, the year in which his grandfather emigrated to Westmorland Co., PA, from Castletown in Northern Ireland. The family in Ireland trace themselves back to an Archibald Mellon who is said to have come from Scotland with his wife Elizabeth to settle near Newton Stewart, Co.Tyrone, before buying Castletown. Having come from Scotland these “Mellons” are also almost certainly M’millans in origin – and, if they could afford to buy a farm in 17th century Ulster, they must have been well-connected clanspeople too [see Thomas Mellon, “Thomas Mellon and His Times”, Pittsburgh, 1885].

The name McGill

In his “Kintyre in the Seventeenth Century” (1948) Andrew McKerral reports that McGills were known to have been McMillans in origin, and speculates that this was simply a curtailed form of *McGillemhaoil*, but as there were many Gaelic names with the prefix *Mac-Ghille* this explanation never made sense. In my “Origins and Early History of the MacMillans...” (pages 80-1) I pointed to the derivation of McGill from *McGeill* / *MacIgheil* / *McVeil*, a name that seemed to originate in Lorn (to the north of Knapdale) where the *Barons MacIyell* were cousins of the lairds of Craignish; and I suggested that it was probably another phonetic form of *Mac’illemhaoil*. Unfortunately at that stage the only evidence available to back up my theory was one instance in a history of the “Campbells” of Craignish where the usual *VicIgheil* – Vic is the phonetic form of Mhic which often appears for Mac in a surname – was given as *VicIgheil* (i.e. instead of the usual “I” after the “Vic” there was instead an “L”); but a single instance such as this could easily have been a misprint. Now, in searching the mid-18th century Argyll Register of Bonds, I’ve found amongst numerous examples of *McIgheils* / *McYeills* etc., a number with the same individuals also given as *McIlvoills* – i.e. McMillans. The most striking case is a drover and changekeeper in Kilmartin, Lorn, called Duncan, whose many entries include a surname given variously as *McIgheill*, *McGheill*, *McIyeall*, *McYeill*, *McIlvoill*, & *Bell*.

There were a number of minor MacMillan lairds, or tacksmen afforded the title “Mr.” – which usually indicates a lairdly connection – in the 18th century in Knapdale (of Clachbreck, Ballyaorgan, Baillie, Tiretigan) and in Kintyre (of Cour) all of whom Somerled MacMillan believed to belong to fairly distant collateral lines descended from the MacMillans of Knap. Most of them however were probably brothers, uncles or close cousins of the MacMillans of Dunmore, since in none of their lands can any MacMillans be found bearing such titles to them before 1666. Much work remains however to ascertain exactly how they might fit into the larger family – along with the various MacMillan merchants, shipowners, lawyers and customs officials in Tarbert, Campbeltown, Dumbarton and Glasgow who are frequently found in the 18th century and many of whom will also have been members of the extended Dunmore family.

In the meantime one big mystery remains in relation to Duncan MacMillan 3rd of Dunmore: when and where did he die? Somerled MacMillan relates the tradition that he drowned in West Loch Tarbert with his younger son John, and suggests that this tragic accident happened soon after – and may indeed have been related to – Dunmore’s matriculation of arms on 20th December 1742 which recognised him as the “chief” of the Knapdale MacMillans [“Families of Knapdale” page 20]. In fact Duncan must still have been alive in October of 1743 because in a deed dated that month his son Alexander is styled “Younger of Dunmore” [NAS/RD.4/200/2]. Another deed involving Alexander WS gives us what may be the best hint yet as to when his father died, since it refers to Alexander getting a fresh “infetment” on 1st October 1748 for the lands of Clachbreck and Tiretigan, which his father had had been given a wadset of in 1732 [NAS/RD.4/252, page 1095]. This suggests a date sometime earlier in 1748, or maybe towards the end of the previous year, for the death of Duncan. No testament however has been found for him in any Commissary Court in Scotland in the 1740s, and thus far no will has been found either in the General Register of Deeds or the Argyll Sheriff Court Register. However Burgh registers for Inverary, Campbeltown, Dumbarton, and Glasgow have yet to be searched, as have the Court Books for Edinburgh where Alexander WS lived and in which the contract for his second marriage (in 1755) is registered; so it may yet be found.

After the death of Duncan MacMillan the estate of Dunmore appears to have been left in the hands of his daughter Geills and her husband Duncan MacNeil of Ardminish (confusingly there was a place called Ardminish close to Dunmore – part of the Ardpatrik estate – but the MacNeil’s estate of that name is on the Isle of Gigha). Whether or not Duncan MacMillan left Dunmore to his daughter or she possessed it because her brother Alexander lived in Edinburgh is not at present clear; but as the complaint by Archibald MacMillan in Westmorland in 1753 is made against “Mr. McNeil of Ardmanish of Dunmore” it looks as if it was by then his property (in right of his wife). Since the index to the Argyll Register of Sasines has an entry for “Geills McMillan, spouse of Hector McNeil of Ardmonish” dated 1733, it may be that Duncan MacMillan disposed Dunmore to his daughter then; though that sasine, along with one relating to Duncan’s younger son John, and no less than 16 relating to his eldest son Alexander, remain to be looked at.

The affairs of Alexander MacMillan WS, 4th of Dunmore, are so complicated that they’ll take up a whole article to discuss. I’m sure the fifty plus legal documents (mostly undiscovered previously) that I’ve examined to date are still only a small proportion of what’s available, since they nearly all come from the indexed years of the General Register of Deeds – and 36 of the 64 years between 1716 and 1770 are not indexed. After those registers have been gone through there’ll remain the Sheriff and Burgh Court registers and all the other varieties of records that a leading lawyer and laird like Alexander WS would have left, still to be investigated. Having dealt in due course with Alexander WS we’ll then come to the family of his cousin Alexander the Merchant, whose ship-owning and trading activities I’ve already discovered extended not only to London and Ireland, but to Liverpool and the New World too – and his connections in all these places almost certainly account for some of the earliest MacMillans to be found in them. Watch this space.

I’m grateful to George MacMillan for funding quite a bit of the research which has gone into this article, and to all those clanspeople who’ve given financial support to my ongoing work on the next volume of my new Clan MacMillan history which will eventually include much of this material on the Dunmore MacMillans.

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The MacMillans of Dunmore

This article is not intended to be a full account of the MacMillans of Dunmore, and merely provides additions and modifications based on recent research to the story of the family as told by Somerled MacMillan in “The MacMillans and their Septs” and Chris McMullen in “MacMillan Endeavour”.

The original fortification on the north shore of West Loch Tarbert known as *Dun Mhor* (Great Fort) lies in the woods at the top of the ridge to the north east of the site of the modern house shown on the cover of this issue, which is a Victorian mansion built long after the last MacMillan might have lived there as the laird of Dunmore. As we’ll see, however, it’s almost as difficult to work out when the present chief’s ancestors actually relinquished the estate as it is to discover when the clan may first have possessed it. Though the MacMillans’ kindred connection with Knapdale is probably very ancient indeed – as suggested by the existence of three medieval churches in the area dedicated to a saint called Cormac, the name of the bishop who was Gilchrist Maolan’s father – there’s no actual evidence to connect the clan with Dunmore before the 17th century. As mentioned in the last issue of the magazine it’s Kilchamaig – *Cill Chormaic*, “Cell or Chapel of Cormac” – on the opposite shore of West Loch Tarbert [pictured on the opposite page] which features in the traditions of the clan; and it’s this name rather than Dunmore that appears in most of the earliest charters for Knapdale that list individual places (in fifteen such charters between 1481 and 1667 Kilchamaig appears eleven times, whilst Dunmore occurs only once).

The MacMillans are assumed to have reached the apogee of their power in Knapdale in the second half of the 15th century when *Alasdair MacMhaolain Mor a Chnap*, who’s commemorated by the MacMillan Cross in the church at Kilmory, was Constable of Castle Sween. His family’s support for the Clan Donald Lords of the Isles in their rebellions against the Stewart kings meant that after the time of Alexander of the Cross the MacMillans’ glory days in the area were short-lived, and from 1505 onwards such lands as they retained in Knapdale they held from the crown’s new tenants-in-chief there, the Campbells. The MacDonalds fought throughout the 16th and early 17th century against the growing power of the Campbells, and MacMillans are to be found on both sides of the struggle. In 1539 when the Earl of Argyll was in the area the MacDonalds and their cousins the MacAlesters came to Knapdale “...*bodin in feir of weir with lang suordis and bowis under silence of nycht in manner of murthure upoun auld fed and fourthot felony...*”. The felony they had in mind was killing the earl, but having missed him they instead “...*murdered and slew the umquhile John McMullane alias reid in Clachbrek...*”, along with other Campbell allies. Two MacMillans were outlawed for participation in the slaughter: *Duncan mc neil glass mcmelane* and *Donald eur mcmelane*; and one of the witnesses called upon to denounce them was Duncan’s father *Niall glas Mcmelane*, who was probably the MacMillan chief at the time (details from Argyll Charter Chest quoted by Somerled MacMillan in his “Families of Knapdale”, pages 35-7). The confusion of the times and the paucity of written evidence from that era mean it’s impossible at the moment to work out any coherent line of descent from Alexander MacMillan of the Cross (fl.c.1475) to these MacMillans, let alone to the Archibald MacMillan who was given a feu charter for Dunmore in 1666; though Somerled MacMillan tried a number of times.

In his clan history of 1951 Somerled says that Archibald MacMillan 1st of Dunmore was “a near relation” of the previous chief, and suggests that since he was also the tenant of Clachbreck he may have been a descendant of the Campbell ally of 1539, John Ruadh MacMillan (*Ruadh* is the Gaelic original of “reid”). Somerled developed this theory nine years later in his “Families of Knapdale” where he asserts that John Ruadh was the younger brother of Neil Glas (*glas* is grey), and implies that the acquisition of Dunmore a hundred and twenty years later by Archibald was the result of a deal with the Campbells made at the expense of Neil’s descendants – Neil MacMillan in Dunmore and his son Neil Mor – who Somerled claims were then the rightful chiefs of the clan. A third account, to be found in an unpublished MS amongst Somerled’s papers [CMIC/SOM/MISC.1/3], repeats the suggestion that the “Old Dunmore” line were dispossessed by “a collateral family”, but it has Archibald in Clachbreck as a slightly closer cousin of Neil and Neil Mor MacMillan by asserting that he was descended from a younger son of Neil Glas MacMillan – also called Archibald – thus cutting the murdered John Ruadh MacMillan out of the picture altogether. Sadly, on the basis of the presently available evidence, we simply have no idea which, if any of these theories is correct; and that leaves a glaring gap in the genealogy of the clan which needs much more research to try and plug.

Not only are the ancestry and relationships of all these mid-17th century Knapdale MacMillans in doubt, but the status of their pre-1666 connection with Dunmore is also open to question. There is no known documentation to show any MacMillans in possession of Dunmore before Neil and Neil Mor MacMillan appear there in 1659; and even then the record is not of their tack or tenancy of Dunmore, but simply of them as witnesses living there. The assertion therefore in Somerled’s last two accounts that “the estate of Dunmore was taken from them” makes the “Old Dunmore” family to be far more than they may well have been. At best they were “tacksman” of Dunmore (i.e. holding a township or group of farms directly from the Earl of Argyll with some sort of hereditary right), but quite possibly they were merely “mailers” – payers of “mail”, which is rent – who shared the tenancy of a township under another, and quite likely Campbell tacksman (detailed research in the Duke of Argyll’s archives might resolve this matter if the resources can be found to fund such a major undertaking). It’s also wrong to assume that because Archibald MacMillan became the laird in 1666 the existing tenants of Dunmore would have been moved out (Somerled suggests they were given the tack of Clachbreck as some sort of compensation). Being a laird did not necessarily mean living on the estate, let alone farming it in person – and the greater the laird the less likely that was – the point of lairdship being the rents that accrued from the tenants working the land. It’s quite possible indeed that Somerled’s “New Dunmore” MacMillans may never have lived at Dunmore at all; and, as we’ll see, if they did reside there at any time it was almost certainly only ever for a short period as the actual owners of the estate.

While we can’t say exactly how it was that the new possessors of Dunmore came to be the representatives of “the ancient family of MacMillan of Knapdale” (as described when Archibald’s grandson Duncan of Dunmore matriculated his arms in 1742) we do have a pretty clear indication of how they rose to be lairds. The MacMillans were able to buy Dunmore because the Earls of Argyll needed the money and the stability that came from feuing (i.e. leasing) their lands to the wealthiest and most influential of their tenants. In the course of the 16th and 17th centuries the Campbells had acquired vast amounts of land throughout Argyll and in surrounding counties, and while considerable portions were granted or sold to other Campbells, “Cailen Mor” was still left with huge estates to administer which were often tenanted by hitherto hostile clans. All this came at a time when the union of the crowns of England and Scotland (in 1603) and then of the parliaments (in 1707) meant that in order to protect his political position – upon which the retention of his lands ultimately depended – Campbell had to spend virtually all his time away from Argyll; and not simply in Edinburgh, but in ruinously expensive London too. Giving potentially sympathetic tenants, especially those who were influential amongst their own clans, a stake in the Campbell kingdom made good sense all round. So the MacMillans’ acquisition of Dunmore was but one of many such transactions in the 17th century; not a few of which may well have involved the promotion of a junior line of a clan *fine* at the expense of a poorer or less-well connected senior line – as happened in 1667, for instance, with the MacMillans’ neighbours, and distant cousins, the MacCallums/Malcolms of Poltalloch (about whom I’ve recently written in an article for “The Scottish Genealogist”).

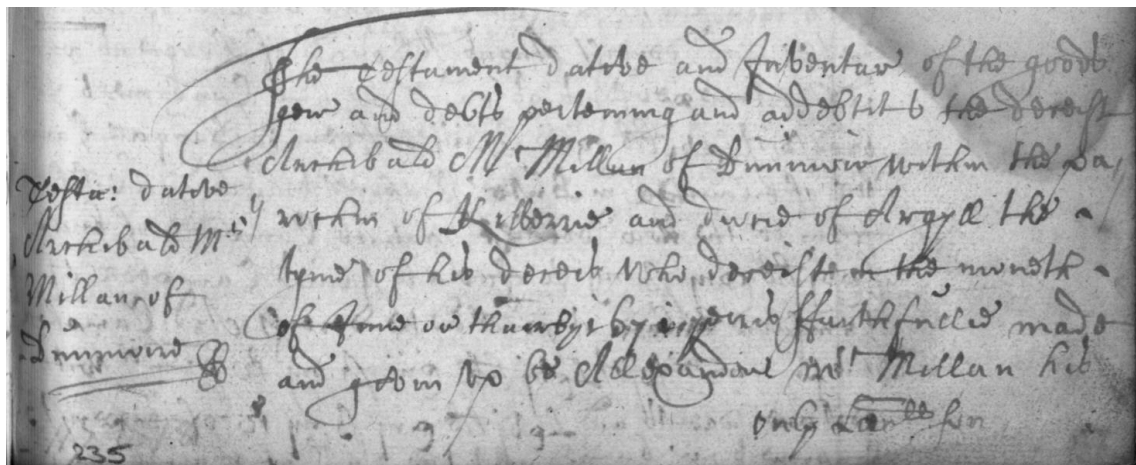
It seems that the MacMillans in Clachbreck were probably in a position to take advantage of Argyll’s policy because they were making money in the cattle droving business. Again this was not unusual amongst clan “gentry” in Argyll – and indeed elsewhere in the highlands – as the expanding populations of the Scottish lowlands and of England provided an ever-rising demand for meat. Though modern “highland cattle” are predominantly brown in colour, in the 17th and 18th century they were mostly black, and the endemic cattle rustling in the highlands (called “reiving” – a skill that the Lochaber Macmillans in particular were famed for) led to rackets requiring the payment of “mail” for the protection or recovery of black cattle; i.e. “black-mail”. Cattle markets sprang up – the most famous being at Crieff on the edge of the highlands, at Falkirk in the lowlands, and at Carlisle just across the border in England – and cattle were driven to these “trysts” from as far afield as the western isles. As the business grew in importance the influential gentry who were profiting from it persuaded the government to recruit suitably-skilled highlanders to protect the black cattle trade – which is the origin of the army’s oldest highland regiment, the Black Watch – and all over the highlands inns or “change-houses” sprang up to cater for the drovers and for the growing commerce which came in their wake (more money attracting more goods of all kinds to the highlands).

Duncan MacMillan 3rd of Dunmore would have been born about 1668, and as previously noted first appears on the record in 1686 when he was doing business at Dunmore, even if he was not actually living there. The fact that he was no longer technically the laird wouldn’t debar him from living on the family estate, though presumably he’d have been expected to pay rent to the then possessor. After 1690, when the government rescinded his father’s forfeit, he may well have preferred to live at Largie, which is about ten miles down the coast from Kilchamaig; but before long other opportunities opened up closer to home. In 1705 the estates of Alexander MacAlester of Loup – which included Ardpatrik next to Dunmore on the north side of West Loch Tarbert as well as Loup itself on the opposite shore – were claimed by John Bell, merchant in Edinburgh, in lieu of repayment of a substantial debt [for these deeds relating to Loup see NAS/SC.51/48/18, pages 60-80]. The fact that John Bell later disposed his rights in these lands to Dunmore’s son Alexander WS (in 1730) suggests he was a MacMillan, and probably a member of the Dunmore family; so it’s not unlikely that he would have asked his cousins in Argyll to take possession of Loup on his behalf. In 1722 Duncan MacMillan of Dunmore himself obtained an adjudication for debt against Alexander of Loup and his son Hector, which the following year he also assigned to his son Alexander WS; and in 1729 the MacMillans gained another hold on these neighbouring estates when Dunmore the Younger was assigned a further bond secured on them in favour of Donald Campbell of Clachan (a place just south of Loup).

The MacMillans’ loss of Dunmore and possession of part at least of the Loup estate explains a hitherto overlooked statement by William Buchanan of Auchmar in his account of the MacMillans published in 1723, where he says that: “*The principal Person of the Macmillans of Argyle-Shire is Duncan Macmillan of Dunmore; his Interest and Residence is upon the **South Side** of Lochtarbert...*”[my emphasis]. Even more striking is the discovery of an entry in the Argyll Sheriff Court Books in 1753 registering the appointment the previous year by Archibald MacMillan, a husbandman in Heversham, Westmorland, of a lawyer charged with investigating “...the dealings of Mr. McNeil of Ardmanish of Dunmore in North Britain with regard to his late father Dennis McMillan’s leasehold estate of High Merkland of Loup, in Clachan, Kilcolmanell...”. The name Dennis almost certainly comes from “Dionysius”, the occasional Latin equivalent in Scottish legal documents for Duncan – which suggests that this Archibald MacMillan in northern England may have been a previously unheard of younger son of the 3rd laird of Dunmore. Ongoing research in England has revealed that this Archibald, whose surname is usually spelt “MacMellan”, had eight children baptised in Heversham between 1738 and 1753 (Mary, Henry, Margaret, Archibald, Robert, William, Elizabeth, and Hannah), but no marriage entry has been found for him there, so he may well have been wed in Scotland before moving south.

At almost the same time as these MacMillans appear in Heversham another family bearing many of the same names (i.e. Dennis, Henry, Robert and William) moved into the Cumberland parish of Millom which, like Heversham, is on the Cumbrian coast within easy reach of Carlisle, Northern Ireland, and Liverpool – all places associated with the sort of trading activities that the Dunmore MacMillans were involved in (see “Spotlight on the Septs – *The Millans/Mellans*” elsewhere in this issue for further details of this Cumbrian branch of the clan). The patriarch of the Millom MacMillans, who was called Robert, died in 1801 and was said then to have been 94, which would mean he was born in about 1707 – making him another possible son of Duncan/Dennis of Dunmore. The importance of the names Robert and Henry in these families might at first suggest otherwise, since they’re not presently known in the Dunmore family. However, Duncan of Dunmore’s wife Catherine Buchanan had a brother called Henry, and three successive Buchanans of Leny were called Robert, including Catherine’s great-grandfather; so one would actually expect to find these names amongst the descendants of Catherine and her husband Duncan MacMillan.

The existence of hitherto unknown members of the Dunmore family – though not other sons of Duncan 3rd of Dunmore – is shown by an entry in the register of the Buchanan Society, which included many M’millans in the first decades after its foundation by William Buchanan of Auchmar. The year after *Duncan McMillan of Dunmore, Knapdale*, and *Alexander McMillan of Dunmore WS, Edinburgh* joined (in 1728) one *Archibald McMillan, cousin german to Alexander of Dunmore WS* also appears on the list. If “cousin german” is taken to mean, as it usually does, a first cousin, then this man must have been the son of a brother of Duncan of Dunmore. We know so little about the family of John in Carrine – Duncan’s only currently known brother – that it’s quite possible this Archibald was his son; but he might just as easily have been the son of a completely unheard of brother.



Alexander MacMillan 2nd of Dunmore was probably born in the 1640s – since he was married in 1667, which is also the first year in which his name appears in the index to the GRD. He died in prison in 1685 following his participation in the rebellion of that year and will therefore be referred to from here on as “Alexander the Rebel” in order to distinguish him from his grandsons (“Alexander WS” and “Alexander of Lagalgarve”, and his great-grandson “Alexander the Merchant”). There are some ten entries in the GRD index relating to the second Dunmore, most of which I’ve yet to examine; but the most informative document referring to him is the previously mentioned deed in which we learn about his loss of Dunmore due to debt. This document actually comes from the time of Alexander MacMillan WS (4th of Dunmore), who we learn from it was eventually able to redeem his grandfather’s estate in 1718 – by which time he was obviously well on his way in the legal career which was eventually to bring him to such fabulous wealth that he was able to buy up considerably greater estates in both Knapdale and Kintyre. It appears however, from another hitherto unknown document, that Alexander the Rebel had also invested in at least one property in Kintyre. In 1699 MacDonald of Sleat mentions this in a letter to his lawyer MacKenzie of Delvine:

Least I forgett itt because of what other things I have to writt I must tell you ther was one Mackmillen of Dunmore a drover that frequented here and bought cows of my father, the last drove he got he broke with and I have yet his bond but mind not the suum, he perisht in tyme of Argyle’s rising (1685), but I’m assured by a friend within these last eight days that his son is in actuall possession of a wadsett of a 1,000 merks his father held of Largie in Kintyre” [quoted by Jean Dunlop in TGSJ, XLV, page 277].

It appears from what Sleat says that the estate of Largie was either not included in Dunmore’s losses for debt in 1679 or that his son Duncan had been able to redeem it by 1699 – though it too would have been confiscated by the crown in 1686 when Alexander’s estates were declared forfeit for his participation in the rebellion. Apparently they – or those unencumbered by debt – were restored to the family in 1690, and in the interim it may be that Alexander’s eldest son continued in the business that had been carried on by his father since a deed of 1686 shows Duncan McMillan in Dunmore doing a deal with “Ronald McAlester, drover in Kintyre” [NAS/RD.2/69, page 815].

We only know of two other children born to Alexander the Rebel and his wife Geills MacFarlane, though in the eighteen years of their marriage there are likely to have been quite a few others. A daughter whose name we don’t know was married to James Buchanan, a merchant in Tarbert, and their daughter Ann was a beneficiary of the estate of Alexander MacMillan WS in 1770. Alexander the Rebel’s second son John – from whom Alexander the Merchant and the present chief’s family descend – is said to have been at sometime the tenant of Carrine in the south of Kintyre, and it’s possible therefore that he may be synonymous with the John McMillan in Strone, a township not far from Carrine, who appears in two deeds in 1691 [NAS/RD.2/73, page 408, and RD.4/69, page 71]. In one of these this obviously well-connected Kintyre MacMillan receives the tack of some lands in Galloway; and since a John MacMillan in Galloway also witnessed a bond given in 1684 by Alexander the Rebel [NAS/RD.4/81/1, page 567] the intriguing possibility opens up that some at least of the minor MacMillan lairds in Galloway may have been relatively late offshoots of the Knapdale and Kintyre branch of the clan, rather than of the McMillans of Arndarroch and Brockloch. Again there must be many additional documents waiting to be found which will reveal more about this, and about Alexander “the Rebel”, 2nd of Dunmore.

In going through the Argyll Sheriff Court Register of Bonds I’ve discovered quite a few mid-18th century M’millans described as drovers or change-keepers, and no doubt they were encouraged to take up these trades by the example shown in the previous century by the MacMillans of Dunmore. The first mention so far found of their involvement in the cattle business comes in 1661 when various drovers from Argyll protested to the King’s Privy Council about an act decreeing they must pass by Dumbarton Castle and pay “customs” to the Duke of Lennox for the privilege – which payments were taken by Lord Blantyre and other tacksmen of Lennox in a way that the drovers said amounted to “spulzie”; i.e. robbery [William Fraser, “The Lennox”, Vol. I, page 123]. One of the signatories of the petition was *Alexander Macmillon*, and since Archibald MacMillan’s son of that name is referred to later as a drover, this is almost certainly him. Becoming a drover required capital, or at least the ability to get credit, and these were things that would generally only have been available in the 17th century highlands to the close families of clan chiefs or existing lairds. It’s unlikely therefore that the “New Dunmore” family were in any way upstarts; even if their enterprise may have given them an opportunity denied to perhaps more senior, but probably not very distant cousins.

Archibald MacMillan 1st of Dunmore, previously tenant or tacksmen of Clachbreck, was probably born sometime in the first two decades of the 17th century, and would therefore have participated – in what way we simply have no idea – in all the tumultuous events of the British civil wars of the 1640s, the republican “Commonwealth” of the 1650s, and the “Restoration” of the Stuart monarchy in 1660. He acquired Dunmore in 1666 by means of a “wadset feu charter” from the Earl of Argyll which was redeemable for 6,000 merks (a merk was the equivalent of two thirds of a pound). A wadset is sometimes described as a sort of mortgage. Trying to draw that parallel can however be rather misleading as it suggests the landlord lends the capital sum to the wadsetter to buy the property, whereas in fact the wadsetter gives the landlord the capital sum and in return keeps or takes the rents from the estate that would otherwise have gone to the landlord – until the landlord is able to, or chooses to, pay back the capital and thereby redeem the estate from the wadsetter. The “feu” element gives the wadsetter the rights roughly equivalent to leasehold ownership – and feus were often sold outright without the redeemability of the wadset element – but the original landlord, or “feudal superior”, nevertheless retains certain rights in the land, and is paid “feu duty” as recognition of this.

Somerled MacMillan relates a tradition about the Earl of Argyll suggesting to Archibald MacMillan’s son Alexander that he buy Dunmore, and then helping him marry Geills MacFarlane to get the money to do so – or as Somerled puts it, to “redeem” the estate from Argyll. This suggests that Somerled may well have misread the feu wadset as a sort of mortgage in the way outlined above; but the probable explanation of the tradition of Dunmore wishing to buy the estate and lacking the money to do so appears in a document I’ve recently found in the General Register of Deeds [NAS/RD.2/169/fo.117]. This shows that Alexander had to surrender his feu of Dunmore in 1679 when he was the subject of court action for debt – and since this was some ten years after his marriage it appears that any MacFarlane money may only have helped postpone the inevitable. His desire then to “redeem” the estate would have meant from his creditors, not from the Earl of Argyll.

The loss of Dunmore came only about three years after the death of Alexander’s father, whose “Testament Dative & Inventory” was probated in 1676 (no actual will has so far been found). An extract from what is one of the oldest surviving documents relating to the chiefly family of the MacMillans is shown at the top of the page after the Dunmore family tree; and anyone wishing to see it all can now purchase a digital copy of it from the National Archives of Scotland by going to www.scottishdocuments.com. The testament tells us that Alexander MacMillan was Archibald’s “only lawful son” – nothing is known about any “unlawful” sons – and he’s also known to have had a daughter Mary who Somerled MacMillan tells us entered into an antenuptial marriage contract in 1672 with Duncan Campbell of Coulaghailtro (a place a few miles to the north west of Dunmore). Little more is known at present about Archibald MacMillan 1st of Dunmore, but I have references from the index to the General Register of Deeds (GRD) for some six documents concerning him which I’ve yet to look at (and the index only starts in 1661 so there are probably deeds from earlier years too). I’ve also yet to look in the local Registers of Deeds (Sheriff Court of Argyll, Burghs of Inverary and Campbeltown etc.), which are entirely unindexed, for the period covering Archibald’s life; so there may in fact be much more waiting to be discovered about him and his family.

THE MACMILLANS OF DUNMORE
According to Somerled MacMillan's "MacMillans and their Septs" with additions and modifications based on Somerled's MS notes and Graeme Mackenzie's research

Grizel Lamont ===== John M'farlane
daughter of of Arrochar
Sir Colin Lamont

Catherine M'alester === Archibald M'millan
of the Cour family **1st of Dunmore** (charter 1666)
Tenant of Clachbreck pre-1666
B: e.1620; D: 1676



**MacMillan
of MacMillan & Knap
based on the arms
matriculated in 1742 by
Duncan MacMillan of Dunmore**

