

Share the Secret



*Finlaystone
Country Estate*

Finlaystone Country Estate, an established visitor attraction managed by the family of the Chief of the Clan MacMillan is located just ten minutes west of Glasgow Airport and is open all year round. With its spectacular views across the Firth of Clyde, Finlaystone offers colourful gardens, imaginative woodland play areas and tumbling waterfalls. The estate combines history with adventure in a fun day out for the family, where your dog can run freely. Step back in time and uncover its secrets.

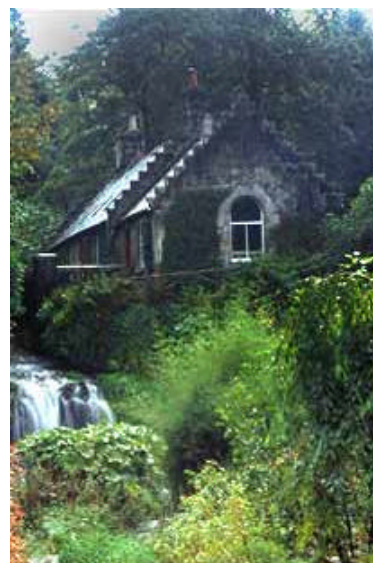
Giftshop & Tearoom



The Eye Opener Visitor Centre offers a variety of related gifts & crafts for visitors. Have a look at our Celtic Collection - ornaments, brooches, and other gifts.



As the home to the Chief of the Clan MacMillans, we offer a selection of related gifts and memorabilia. Not to mention a selection of local produce and other gifts such as books, pencils and toys.



*"And when you are hungry
visit the Celtic Tree"*



Stroll through the gardens...
pausing to appreciate the special plants and Finlaystone's renowned beauty. Don't miss the 'smelly' garden or the intricate Celtic paving. Enjoy the sweeping lawns and sculptured hedges, and relax in the walled garden.
The main design was laid out in 1900



Childrens' play areas
with wild west forts and
pirates' galleon



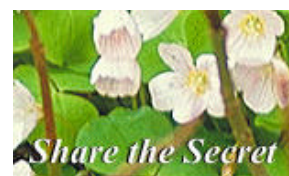
There are approximately
140 acres of woodland at
Finlaystone, including trees
estimated to be in the region
of at least 300-400 years old.



*Stop, look, listen: you may see a roe deer as you strike
into the heart of the woods. Follow the burn as it plunges
towards the Clyde, and discover wild berries & mushrooms*



*Explore the woodlands...
go beyond the adventure play areas,
picnic and barbecue sites, and follow
the woodland trails to more
tranquil corners.*



Finlaystone, Langbank, PA14 6TJ.
www.finlaystone.co.uk

CLAN MACMILLAN INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

Featuring:

The Browns

Knapdale Sites

The Liberty Gathering

Glenurquhart Legends

McMillans of Brockloch

Nov/Dec 2003

Issue No. 1



KNAPDALE – HEARTLAND OF THE CLAN



Loch Sween and Castle Sween viewed from the road to Kilmory Knap

Alexander MacMillan, who is commemorated by the cross at Kilmory, was Constable of Castle Sween in the 1470s



The chapel at Kilmory Knap in which are preserved the two MacMillan Crosses shown on the front cover

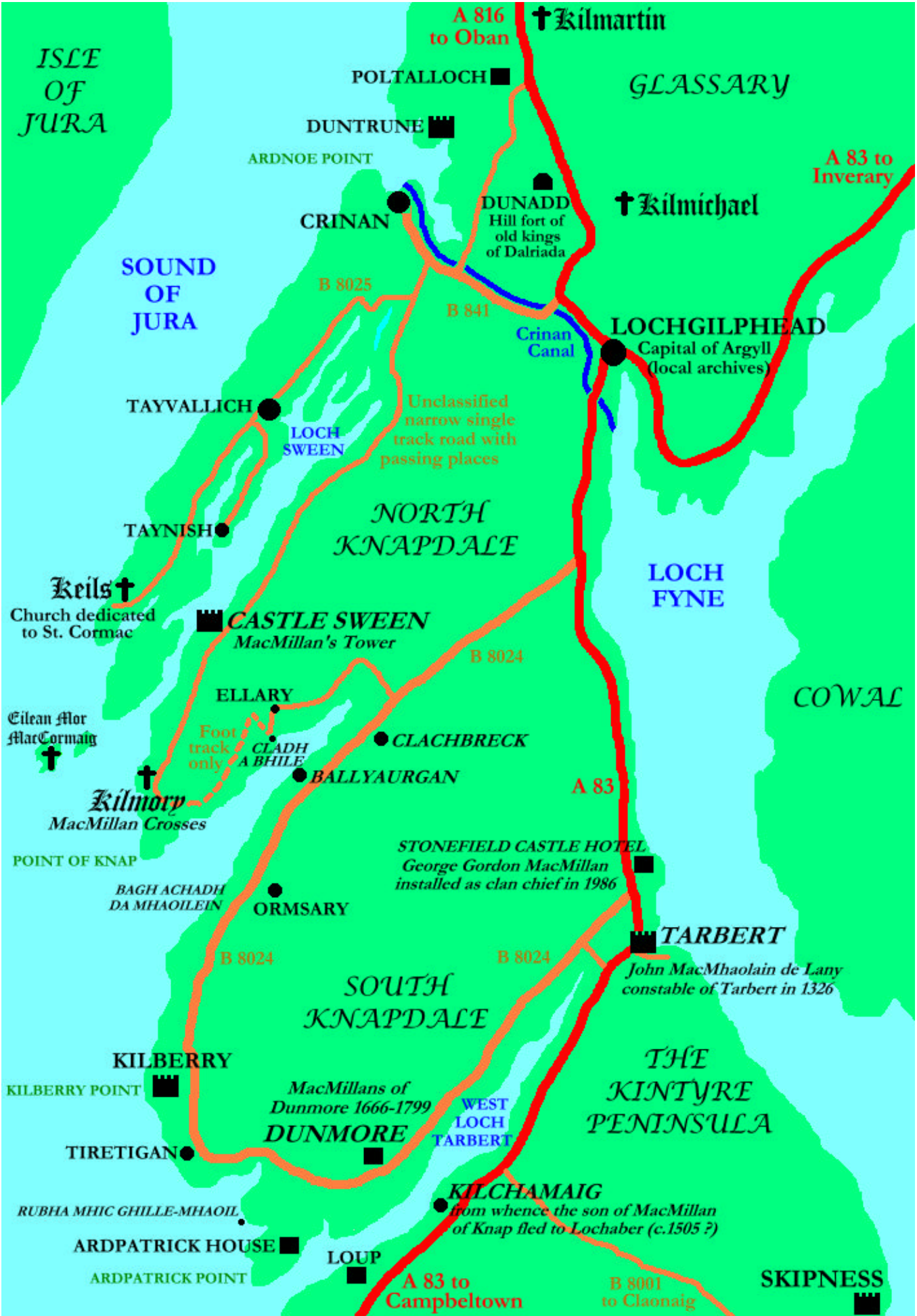


Dunmore, the 17th and 18th century home of the Clan Chiefs, seen across West Loch Tarbert from the lands of Kilchamaig, which in earlier times were also held by the MacMillan of Knap

Tradition says that it was from Kilchamaig that the ancestor of the Macmillans of Murlagan fled to Lochaber after killing an important neighbour - probably a Campbell when they were taking over Knapdale in the early 16th century



Kilchamaig is now farmed by Ben Mundell, who's pictured right with a MacNeil gravestone he dug up on what were once abbey lands ("Kilchamaig" stands for Kill-Chormaig "Cell or Chapel of Cormac"). Ben runs a herd of goats – shown left – the milk from which is made into cheese by the Kirk Street Creamery in Campbeltown, Kintyre



MORE NEWS

Dr. Charles MacMillan, Paris, TX: We very much regret to report the recent death of Dr. Charles, a past President of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America, and long-serving member of the Appalachian Branch. In addition to his medical practice Charles ran a herd of long-horn cattle on his ranch, and was well known in Texas as a bagpiping member of the Scots community. He and his wife Ann played host to Chief George and Jane in the fall of 1995, and we express our condolences to her and to the rest of Charles’s family.

The Kilmory Cross Raffle organised by Robert & Susan Bell of the Appalachain Branch raised a magnificent US \$673 for the Clan Centre, and we’re most grateful to all those who took part. The winner of the wonderful hand-carved cross created by Gregory Schaffer (SC, USA) was Gerald MacKay of Glen Allen, VA, USA.

SUMMARY OF CLAN CENTRE ACCOUNTS 1st Jan – 31st Dec. 2002

	Income			Expenditure	
	£	\$		£	\$
Subscriptions	1122.42	232.00	Telephone	282.94	
Donations	7984.05	3891.62	Postage/Printing	745.03	
Project MAOL	102.31		Secretary	1200.20	
Interest	9.59	160.56	Curator	5400.20	
Graeme’s Book	450.00		Utilities	34.77	
Plaques	400.00		ISP	310.20	
Miscellaneous	685.91	244.25	Plaques	486.92	
Held for CTS	420.00		Bank Charges	71.86	105.00
GR 2002	30185.51	4348.50	GR2002	40438.15	4571.48
Book Purchase	1004.00		Miscellaneous	133.75	
Loan					
	42255.55	8877.61		49104.02	4676.48
Excess of Expenditure	6848.47		Excess of Income		4201.13
	49104.02	8877.61		49104.02	8877.61

Note: Monies received in US Account and transferred over the period to UK Account only included in £ Column.

The late publication of these accounts is due to our Treasurer Brig. Alistair Macmillan’s involvement with the war in Iraq.

DONATIONS TO THE CLAN CENTRE IN 2003:

We’re delighted to acknowledge that since January 2003 we’ve received “Conclave Challenge” payments from these branches & societies: Appalachian Branch; Clan MacMillan Society of Arizona; Clan MacMillan Society of New Zealand; Clan MacMillan Society of North America; Clan MacMillan Society of Utah; Glengarry and Ottawa Valley Branch; Glenurquhart Macmillan Society; Pacific Branch; Sept of Blue; The Clan MacMillan Society (of Scotland); Virginia McMullens.

A substantial grant was also received at the beginning of the year from the **Community of the Tonsured Servant**

We’re most grateful to have received donations since April 2003 from the following individuals: Sir John MacMillan, Thornhill, Stirling, Scotland; Elizabeth McMillan, Tain Scotland; Dugal MacMillan, St. Catherines, ON, Canada; Douglas and Janet McMillan, Melville, NY, USA; Isabel & Jay Zimmerman, Carbondale, IL, USA; Kenneth Bell, Richardson, TX, USA; Helen Hartung, Spokane, WA, USA; Phillip and Debra Branner, Baltimore, MD, USA; Emily Williams, Culpeper, VA, USA; Anne Neuman, Stouffville, ON, Canada; Lillian de Giacomo, Barnard, VT, USA.

We apologise to any branches/societies or individuals whose donations may not yet have been processed – your generosity will be acknowledged in the next issue.



The Clan MacMillan International Centre at Finlaystone

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

www.clanmacmillan.org



Graeme Mackenzie has relinquished the post of Clan Centre Curator in order to concentrate his limited regular clan-paid time on his duties as Genealogist; i.e. answering family history enquiries and furthering Project MAOL (see report on that later in this issue). The Trustees will buy-in additional time from Graeme for his editorial and other roles – e.g. updating website, compiling information leaflets, arranging displays in the Clan Centre etc. – as required, and as permitted by availability of funds. Graeme is pictured left with Edie McMillan Sutton on a visit earlier this year to her home in Louisville, Kentucky.

Pauline Simpson has stepped up from Assistant to succeed Graeme as Curator of the Clan Centre. Pauline is pictured right on the original base of the MacMillan Cross in the graveyard of the Kilmory Chapel in Knapdale.



The Front Cover Picture shows the MacMillan Cross, erected by or in memory of Alexander MacMillan of Knap, inside the chapel at Kilmory, and in front of it the shaft of the cross commemorating his son and grandson (Malcolm and Duncan MacMillan). This second cross has a carving of a mounted warrior at its base – a reference to the ancient tradition that the MacMillans’ ancestors were “...riders which is to say knights; and some of them were famous men, notably the great rider who got the claidheg [sword] from the king for his good deeds...”. The significance of the picture and of the tradition which it commemorates are discussed in Graeme’s “Origins and Early History of the MacMillans” which is still available from the Clan Centre (for details of how to order a copy see elsewhere in this issue).

International Newsletter/Magazine: One result of the redefining of Graeme’s roles is a determination to upgrade this twice-yearly publication to something larger, so members feel they’re getting more for their subscription money. It’s also hoped in the long-term to be able to include some colour illustrations if the money can be found to fund it (from advertising for instance). In the meantime, in order to defray the extra printing costs involved in this larger publication – henceforth to be called a “magazine” – it will be sent to overseas members by surface mail rather than air. Though we’ve offered to send it by email most subscribers still prefer hard copy – for passing round the family (we hope!) – so we trust this more substantial offering will be appreciated. At the same time, to improve communication with the clan branches & societies – upon whom the Centre depends for regular funding via the “Conclave Challenge” – Pauline has initiated an additional brief newsletter for them, which will be sent out between issues of this publication.

Membership Subscriptions: The cost of membership of *Clan MacMillan International (Centre)* – previously “Friends of the Clan Centre” – has remained stationary for some years now, and though originally intended to help support all the work of the Clan Centre it has never really done more than to pay for printing and posting out the Newsletter. Even with the relative success of the “Conclave Challenge” in prompting the branches and societies to regular financial support of the Centre, our annual income is still insufficient to meet our minimum outgoings, so we remain dependent for survival on lump-sum donations from the CTS and many generous individual clanspeople. The Trustees of the Clan Centre feel therefore that the time has come to raise the annual subscription to a figure which will help to defray some of the Centre’s other running costs as originally intended. The subscription will henceforth be £15 a year with the US dollar equivalent varying in accordance with the exchange rate (\$25 for year 2004). Though this is a large increase we hope members will appreciate the work on behalf of the whole clan that this money will go to provide, in addition to their own individual benefits: i.e. the magazine, the ever-expanding website, the full scope of Project MAOL, and Graeme & Pauline’s availability to help clanspeople and branches around the world in any way they can.

Spotlight on the Septs – The Browns

“Brown”, or as it used often to be spelt in Scotland, “Broun”, is one of the most common names in the country, and is usually derived from a descriptive nickname relating to the family progenitor’s personal colouring (most likely hair, complexion, or eyes). In 1128 a Sir David Le Brun (“Sir David the Brown”) witnessed the foundation charter of Holyrood Abbey, and Le Brun held lands in Cumberland in the early middle ages – at a time when it was part of the Scottish kingdom. In the later middle ages the Brouns of Colstoun emerged with a coat of arms – *Gules, a chevron between three fleur-de-lis Or* – which reflected their claim to be descended from the kings of France, and in 1686 Patrick Broun of Colstoun was made a Baronet of Nova Scotia (his descendants now live in Australia).

In the Gaelic-speaking highlands and islands the name Brown was sometimes misused as the English equivalent for names such as *Mac a'bhriuthainn* (“Son of the Brehon”) which derives from *Britheamh*, the title given to the hereditary judges of the Kingdom of the Isles. In phonetic forms such as *Mac a'Briuin* (1408) this Gaelic name came very close to some variants of the lowland English “Brun/Broun”, such as *Brwne* (1505) or *Brouin* (1546). The more usual derivation of Brown in the Gaidhealtachd was however as the English equivalent of *Mac-Mhaoil-Dhuinn* or *Mac-Ghille-Dhuinn*, meaning “Son of the brown devotee, servant, or lad” (from the Gaelic *donn* or *duinne* for “brown”). Various phonetic forms of this name appear in the 1600s in the west of Scotland, such as *M'Ilduin* in Inverchellan, Argyll, and *Makildoun* & *M'Ildyn* in Glasgow, and according to highland tradition it was during the Civil Wars of the 17th century that the events occurred which brought the MacMillan sept of Brown into existence. The story is told by Cuthbert Bede in “Argyll’s Highlands and the Lords of Lorne” (page 47):

MacMillan was a great man in Carradale Glen. He had three sons who were very strong like himself. At that time, the Atholmen used to come to Kintyre for the purpose of plunder and to drive away the cattle of the glen. Once, they made a raid on MacMillan's cattle, when he was from home; but when he returned and saw that his cattle were away, he armed himself and his three sons, and pursued the plunderers. A fierce combat ensued in which MacMillan was victorious and drove back his cattle; but his younger son, instead of returning home, continued his pursuit of the enemy. His father was afraid that he was killed; but, in a few days, he came back, carrying a great load of the Atholmen's heads. Seeing this, his father cried out, *Mo laochan, mo ghille donn! 'S tu fhein an sonn a chuireadh riu!* (“My little hero, my brown-haired lad! You're the champion yourself, to master them!”). The descendants of this man were called Brown; and that was the origin of the name in Carradale.

There are records of MacMillans in Carradale going back to 1541, and they’re said to have been the lairds of the glen until the mid-18th century. One of the townships they held there was Brackley, which in 1658 was occupied by an Archibald MacMillan. In 1692 one of the tenants of Brackley who appeared amongst the “fencible men” of Argyll (members of the local militia) was ***Ferqr Broune***.

In the succeeding centuries there were many Brouns/Browns in Kintyre, and most of them were probably descendants of the brown-haired MacMillan hero. It’s also reasonable to assume that Browns living amongst MacMillan branches elsewhere (Knapdale, Loch Tayside, Lochaber, Glenurquhart, parts of the Outer Hebrides, and the Glenkens of Galloway) would also have belonged to the clan; and there’s a good case for suggesting that even those associated with the Lamonts – the only other clan to claim Brown as a septname – could in origin have been MacMillan-Browns.

The Lamonts emerged from a great northern Irish kindred – that to which the MacSweens and MacLachlans also belonged – which had ancient ties with the parent kindred of the MacMillans (going back probably to the time of Macbeth). The clans emerging from these great kindreds in the later middle ages held lands side-by-side in Knapdale and the Cowal peninsula, with the Lamonts coming to dominate the south of Cowal. In the early 14th century a member of the MacMillan kindred had been granted the lands of Glendaruel, in the north west of Cowal – at the same time as their first recorded charter for Knapdale – and while it’s impossible to say with what success or for how long the MacMillans and their cousins may have controlled Glendaruel, kindreds descended from them are to be found there amongst the small lairds and tenants recorded from the 15th century to the 18th; i.e. the M’kanes/M’channanichs, the M’gibbons, and the (Mac)Baxters. It seems likely therefore that MacMillan-Browns may also have settled there amongst their cousins, and as MacMillan power declined in the 17th century – eventually resulting in M’Channanichs and M’gibbons adopting the name Buchanan, and the Baxters becoming tenants of the Campbells – that Browns may have chosen to associate themselves with the other main power on the Cowal peninsula, the Lamonts. One indication that this might have been the case is that while the MacMillans have a very specific story about the origin of their sept of Brown, the Lamonts merely report that some of their clanspeople “changed their names [to Brown] in troubled times”.

While it may be the case therefore that the Lamont-Browns were also in origin MacMillans, any Browns who can trace their family back to the Cowal peninsula should consider themselves as belonging to Clan Lamont (though they’d be welcome to join Clan MacMillan as well). Those whose ancestors can be shown to have come from Kintyre, or from any other areas associated with the MacMillans should obviously join Clan MacMillan; and those from elsewhere in Scotland can choose to associate themselves with whatever clan was most powerful in the area their ancestors came from (assuming that clan will take them), or can choose between the Lamonts and the MacMillans, both of whom will certainly give any Browns a warm welcome

The Dunmores’ role as cattle drovers may explain how influential M’millans in the Edinburgh area in the late 17th century were involved in the butchery business, and if their trade did extend to England it might account for my discovery of a member of their family living in Cumbria in the mid-18th century bearing the unusual name – for a Gael – of “Dennis” (it probably stands for “Dionysius” which sometimes appears in official Latin records for Duncan – in the same way as “Aeneas” was used for Angus and “Eugenius” for Ewen). We know some of the later Dunmores were shipowners with connections in Ireland; but they also held land in Galloway in the 18th century, and maybe in the 17th too (if, as seems likely, the John MacMillan from Strone in Kintyre who acquired a tack of lands in Minnigaff in 1691 was a member of the Dunmore family).

M’millans living elsewhere in Argyll – in Glens Shira and Aray, just north of Inverary – are said to have consisted of two sorts: MacMhaolains from Knapdale and MacGhillemhaoils from Lochaber (who were later called Bells). At least one family of M’millans from here went north in the 17th century to settle west of Inverness; from whence some crossed the watershed to Glen Urquhart to join fellow clansmen from Loch Arkaigside (amongst whom were my own Macmillan ancestors). Recent research on the Lochaber chieftains shows they also had a continuing connection with Perthshire – Allan Glenpean’s wife was a Cameron from Loch Rannoch (rather than, as Somerled suggested, from Clunes in Lochaber) – and I’ve found branches of other 18th century Lochaber families as far afield in Scotland during the next century as Sutherland and Ross-shire, as well as in the Outer Hebrides. The traffic was two-way however, and among Hebridean M’millans later to be found on the mainland was a Roderick from Barra who went to live at Rafford in Moray in the mid-19th century. He turns out to be the ancestor of local Perth celebrity Iain Macmillan, and of Graeme Kemp in Surry, England, who’s another to contact us recently having seen his ancestor in the on-line M’millan Search Index.

One international family group that’s rapidly expanding as a result of Project MAOL are the descendants of Ewen & Eimhir M’millan, a mid-18th century couple who according to Somerled moved from Ardnamurchan to Glenkingie in Lochaber, and who are on record later in Achintore (just outside Fort William). They’re remembered in Canada as ancestors of *Alasdair am Bard* and *Domhnall à Chogaih* (“Donald of the War”) who emigrated to Ontario, while a descendant of theirs in Scotland is Ronald McMillan from Invergordon. A detailed Project MAOL submission from Lyndall Hore in Canberra has now also provided us with a whole host of their descendants in Australia. Another Canada-Australia link that has recently come to light concerns the family of Angus Macmillan explorer of Gippsland; and this is also as a direct result of Project MAOL. Angus had a first cousin called Alexander who emigrated to Canada, and we’ve been contacted by – and recently received a wonderful package of information from – his descendant Joan Burns in Langley, British Columbia, who spotted her ancestor in the on-line index. Since we now have quite a lot of information about the Scottish family and background of Angus of Gippsland I’ll be putting together a feature on this for a future edition of the magazine. Finally, continuing the antipodean connections, we were delighted to get a Project MAOL submission from an airline pilot in New Zealand – David James McMillan – who turns out to be the third cousin of our own Alistair Macmillan, Treasurer of the Clan Centre.

As well as compiling the on-line M’millan Search Index from completed family trees I’m adding to the website, as part of Project MAOL, a variety of other resources for research into the clan’s history and genealogy. To date these include a complete listing of all documented pre-17th century M’millans so far discovered, and the beginnings of lists of pre-1855 M’millan ministers/priests and military officers; plus links to M’millan material on the internet compiled by others (such as, for instance, a complete listing of M’millans in the Killeen & Kilchenzie Old Parish Register, and the on-line version of the descendants of John McMillan and Mary Arnott who I was discussing above). Please see for yourselves by going to: **www.clanmacmillan.org/Genealogy.htm**

Welcome to McMillan Hotels

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 Artic 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



Members of Clan MacMillan who had gathered to celebrate the chief's 70th birthday enjoyed meeting with Hammy McMillan at a magnificent buffet lunch in the Kirroughtree House Hotel in June 2000 whilst touring clan sites in the Galloway area

***Also owned by the McMillan family:
Cally Palace in Gatehouse of Fleet***



***Also owned by McMillan family:
The Fernhill Hotel in Portpatrick***

"As a family, we are proud to own four of Scotland's finest hotels of style and excellence"

Hammy McMillan

www.mcmillanhotels.co.uk



Graeme Mackenzie reports on developments in discovery and recording of clan genealogy

Project MAOL is not just about putting clan genealogy on the website, in its widest sense it's about gathering as much M'millan family history as can be found, and then making it available to clan members by any means possible. This requires on the one hand detailed and time-consuming

trawls of libraries and archives for stuff that other people have already researched, and on the other assistance to keen and capable clan members in tracing their own particular ancestors. It also involves a considerable amount of comparing and consolidating information from various sources so as to ensure the M'millan Search Index recognises that the Iain MacIlvoyle and John Bell appearing in different Scottish family trees are the same man; and that so too are Alasdair Cameron in Scotland, Alexander Buchanan on board ship, and Sandy MacMillan in Canada.

So far as the "On-Line" part of the Project goes the next update of the M'Millan Search Index will include some 5,000 M'millans, and the Master File which it refers to will contain a total of some 9,000 individuals (the difference being the family members – spouses, maternal ancestors and descendants of female M'millans – bearing other surnames). The same update will include the beginnings of a Bell Search Index which, although containing just a few names at the moment, is an indication of the long-term intention to have indices for all the septnames. Just completed is the entry of the many hundreds of M'millans contained in Robert H. McMillan's monumental "Record of McMillan and Allied Families", and the submissions of individuals latterly found to be connected to Robert H's family (such as Rowene Conn in California and Janet Alford in Florida). Many names on the Search Indices come from members' submissions; and while the majority of them contain only details of the submitter's own line, we're quite often sent more extensive family histories which, while not books like Robert H's, nevertheless contain details of many hundreds, or indeed thousands, of individuals. We've received two particularly striking examples of these:

The first traces the descendants of John and Catherine M'millan from Lochaber, who emigrated to Canada in 1786 following John's service there during the Seven Years War – submitted by their descendant Hugh Allan MacMillan from Toronto in the form of a Family Tree Maker computer file on CD Rom. One fascinating revelation from Hugh Allan's research is that some Lochaber M'millans who were captured after having fought for the crown in the American Revolution were repatriated by the British government after their release to northern Ireland. This may explain a couple of other Project MAOL submissions over the years showing families claiming to be of Lochaber descent who emigrated to North America from Ulster – though it's commonly assumed that all the Scots from there were of Galloway or Knapdale/Kintyre descent.

One interesting sidelight on this question emerged recently when Jim MacMillan (James Blaine MacMillan III) from Honolulu visited me here at home just outside Perth. He's a descendant of John M'millan and Mary Arnott who emigrated from Ulster to settle in New Perth (later called Salem) in upstate New York in the 1760s. This family was exhaustively chronicled long ago by William F. and Charles E. McMillan in a book called "McMillan Genealogy and History", in which they suggested that their emigrant ancestor John may have been born on the island of Arran. Somerled MacMillan appears to have accepted this claim – which seems in fact to have been based on little more than a wish to be related to the family of the publishing Macmillans – and even included John and his descendants on the huge handwritten family tree he produced which purports to show Harold Macmillan's exact descent from Alexander of the Cross. While long doubtful about the wider tree I've never had occasion previously to question John and Mary Arnott's link to it. However, as their descendant Jim MacMillan points out, a Galloway origin for this apparent Reformed Presbyterian McMillan looks far more likely; and I'm delighted to report that Jim is working hard and carefully to prove his point.

This brings us to the second major Project MAOL submission to which I referred above, since it also concerns a "Covenanter" family from Ulster; though even it's origins may not be as straightforward as one would expect. The children of Hugh M'millan – either the son of, or himself actually a minister of the Reformed Presbyterian Church – settled in South Carolina in the late 18th century, and a huge print-out of his descendants was sent to us by Sybille Pierce from Sumter SC. Sybille has also sent me details of correspondence in the late 1800s between one member of this family in the USA and a cousin in Scotland from the island of Islay; which might suggest that Hugh's ancestors came from the Knapdale branch rather than Galloway. I'm currently researching them to see if this may be the case; but my discovery that the Islay family were shipowners, along with information from Sybille that one of Hugh's probable sons in South Carolina was born in London (England), suggests that this was a merchant family who may not have been very firmly rooted in any particular branch of the clan.

If so this would be another example of an increasing amount of evidence coming to light showing that the M'millans – or at least the more prosperous members of the clan – remained mobile and involved with more branches of the clan in the 17th and 18th centuries than previously thought. This seems to be particularly the case with regard to the MacMillans of Dunmore, who would probably have seen their distant cousins the Macmillans of Murlaggan when they came north to buy cattle from the Isle of Skye to drive down for sale in the Crieff and Falkirk "trysts", in the markets of the Scottish lowlands – and probably indeed in England too.

NEWS FROM THE CLAN AROUND THE WORLD



The Clan MacMillan Society of North America have elected Capt. Duncan D. McMillan (London, ON, Canada) to succeed Andrew MacMillan (New York, NY, USA) as President of the Society on 1st Jan. 2004. Connall Bell (Pasadena, CA, USA) was elected to serve as Duncan D's Vice-President. The elections took place at



the recent "Liberty Gathering" in New York, about which Chief George MacMillan writes elsewhere in this issue. The next International Gathering of the North American Society will be hosted by Duncan D. McMillan in London, Ontario, in August of 2005 – details will be published on the news page of our website as they become available. The picture above left shows Chief George MacMillan handing over the Targe of Office in New York to Duncan D. McMillan with Andrew MacMillan looking on; and the picture right shows Connall Bell and his wife Patricia – who's an officer of the Clan Elliot Society of USA – at the Glasgow Highland Games in Kentucky earlier this year.

Prince Edward Island Chapter of Clan MacMillan gathered on the 23rd August 2003 at the Wood Islands Pioneer Cemetery to dedicate a special clan monument, which was unveiled by Frank MacMillan, the first President of the branch, and his wife Bonnie. The inscription at the base of a magnificent Cross with the clan crest on it reads: "In memory of the first MacMillan settlers who came to the Lord Selkirk Settlement, Wood Islands, on the ship *Spencer* September 1806 from the island of Colonsay, Argyllshire, Scotland". The event received extensive coverage in local newspaper "The Guardian" (and our thanks to Anne Neuman who sent us the cuttings) which featured a large picture of the organising committee: Kim MacMillan, Alan MacMillan, Margaret MacMillan, Susan MacMillan-Turner and Ruby MacMillan Matheson. A separate cutting carries the news that Ruby Matheson was among eight Scots descendants to be awarded an honorary degree in October from the University of PEI "...in recognition of the role and contribution of Scottish people and their heritage in PEI's development". We look forward in due course to seeing Ruby's recently published book "Echoes of Home: Stories of Bygone Days in Wood Islands". Coincidentally we've had word about a book that's being written about the Colonsay emigrants to PEI, with a request for information from other researchers and descendants of the MacMillans who arrived on the *Spencer*. Please contact: **Ann Bonnell, 631 Mitchell Street, Fredericton, NB, E3B 3S7. Abonnell@nb.sympatico.ca**

Pacific Branch of Clan MacMillan were joined at the San Diego Games in June by international female soccer star Shannon MacMillan – accompanied by her *San Diego Spirit* team-mate Julie Fleeting. Copies of posters signed by Shannon may still be available from Fred & Judy Young (please see the Clan Directory for Fred's contact details).

MacMillan DNA Project: The Trustees of the Clan Centre are looking for a clan member who might be interested in researching the feasibility of co-ordinating DNA tests for clan members and organising the collection of the resulting data to assist in confirming genealogical links within the clan, and ancient ancestral connections to other clans. Anyone interested please contact Chief George MacMillan: **Chief@clanmacmillan.org**

The Clan MacMillan Society (of Scotland) will hold its Winter Gathering on 14th Feb. 2004 in the *Celtic Tree* at Finlaystone. In addition to a meal there'll be musical entertainment and a quiz. Clanspeople from all branches and societies are invited. For prices and bookings please contact the Secretary, Lorna McMillan, whose contact details can be found on the Clan MacMillan Directory.

Glenurquhart Macmillan Society have suffered another blow with the recent death of their eldest member, Mrs. Katie Macmillan Campbell – known to one and all in Inverness (where she lived) and The Glen as Katie "Balnalick" after the farm where she was born in 1910. Katie came to virtually every meeting of the Society since its formation in the early 1990s, usually accompanied by her son and/or daughter, a grandchild or two, and at least one great-grandchild; and we extend our sympathy to them all at their sad loss.

Katie is pictured right at the Society's gathering in August 2000 when she celebrated her 90th birthday, along with her cousin Willie Donald Macmillan who was 80 that year, and whose death was reported in the last issue of the Clan MacMillan International Newsletter.



Folklore about the Macmillans in Urquhart & Glenmoriston

The neighbouring glens of Urquhart and Moriston run westwards from Loch Ness – the former to a pass into Strathglass and the latter to a watershed with Glen Shiel. The strategic importance of both valleys is indicated by the famous castle on the shores of Loch Ness at the mouth of Glen Urquhart, and the old military road – built in the 1720s by General Wade – which comes over the hills into Glen Moriston from Fort Augustus on its way to the west coast by the equally famous castle of Eilean Donan. Both glens contain, for the highlands of Scotland, relatively rich pasture and arable, so they were constantly being fought over in the late middle ages by neighbouring clans. In 1509 the crown tried to secure control over the area by giving the two glens to Grant of Freuchie; but with their seat in far off Strathspey it took the best part of two hundred and fifty years for the Grants to become secure enough in the two glens to control them properly.

Even as late as 1745 the laird of Grant, who was sitting firmly on the fence throughout the Jacobite rebellion, was unable to stop his tenants in the glens from joining the army of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Fortunately for them he was also incapable of capturing them to hand over to the government after the battle of Culloden, so only those foolish enough to surrender on promises of leniency (which earned them banishment to the West Indies) fell into the hands of Butcher Cumberland. Among the rebels in Glen Urquhart who narrowly avoided that fate was Graeme Mackenzie’s 6xGreat-Grandfather Iain Ban Macmillan, and among those who surrendered was Donald Macmillan “the Grey Smith of Inchvalgar” who returned from banishment to father a family from whom descend Alec Macmillan (retired Clan Centre Treasurer) and Jim McMillan, current Chairman of the Glenurquhart Macmillan Society.

The only reason we know about the fate of the Macmillans who were out in the ’45 is because the oral accounts of their adventures were taken down in the late 19th century by the pioneering highland historian (and co-founder of the Gaelic Society of Inverness) William Mackay, whose own ancestor had survived banishment in 1746. The following story concerning the Glen Macmillans comes from his classic parish history of 1893 (reprinted 1914): “Urquhart and Glenmoriston” – as does the tale on the opposite page of how “Gille Maol” (Macmillan) first came to Glen Urquhart.

Cailleach a’ Chrataich – Old Woman of the Cràach

The Hags and Goblins that haunted certain localities were almost as much dreaded as the Devil. The worst of these was *Cailleach a’ Chrataich*, the “Hag of the Cràach” – a wild and mountainous district lying between Corrimony and Glenmoriston. This being rejoiced in the death of men, the Macmillans being especially the objects of her fierce malice. Her manner was to accost some lonely wayfarer across the wilds, and secretly deprive him of his bonnet. As he travelled on in ignorance of his loss, she rubbed the bonnet with might and main. As the bonnet was worn thin by the friction, the man grew weary and faint, until at last, when a hole appeared in it, he dropped down and died. In this way fell at least five Macmillans within the last hundred and twenty years – and all were found in the heather without a mark of violence. Very few escaped from her toils. One evening, Donald Macmillan, Balmacaan, met her at Cragan a’ Chrathaich, and exchanged a passing salutation with her. He went on his way unaware of the fact that she had taken his bonnet. His eyes were, however, soon opened, and he hastened back to the Cragan, where he found her rubbing his head-gear with great vigour. A terrible struggle took place for its possession, in which he in the end prevailed; but as he hurried away from her she hissed into his ear that he would die at nine o’clock on a certain evening. When the evening arrived, his family and neighbours gathered around him, and prayed and read the Scriptures. The hag’s words were, however, to be fulfilled, and, as the clock struck the fatal hour, he fell back in his chair and expired.

The following is a story taken down by Rory Mackay – grandson of William the author of “Urquhart and Glenmoriston” – in the 1930s when he was a pupil at The Abbey School, Fort Augustus, and noted by Hugh Barron, Sec. of Gaelic Society of Inverness (himself distantly descended from a Glen Urquhart Macmillan) to whom we’re grateful for passing it on to us.

An t-each uisge – The Water Kelpie

One Sunday a shepherd in Glenmoriston called Macmillan was going up Allt Tarsuinn [a burn a few miles north of Tomchrasky] to see his sheep. His dog annoyed him and he cursed it only to be startled by the echo of his oath which alarmed him on account of its wickedness.

On his way home by the same route he felt that he was being followed and on turning round he perceived a horrible monster following on his trail with its nose on the ground and giving vent to horrible roars. Macmillan raced for a large high rock that he knew of and on reaching it climbed to its top drawing his dog after him. The *each uisge* went rushing round roaring horribly and after going round several times it went up the glen again.

After a while MacMillan climbed down and sped for home and on his way he heard the *each uisge* roaring in the pool of *Eas a’ Chraonich*. From that day on MacMillan never swore again.

by George MacMillan

We boarded our air-conditioned bus equipped with a radio and a loo, and, four hours later, had covered the seven miles to base, where we used old-fashioned keys to open our room doors, and opened our old-fashioned windows to the balmy evening. Even the plumbing worked. Meanwhile, the caterers had prepared an excellent meal, which we ate by candlelight, listening to Charlie Zahm singing shanties to a melodious guitar. He and Andrew had prepared a show entitled “American Scrap Book”, which became a casualty of the power cut.

Though power was restored before breakfast, next morning’s programme was disrupted. But some of us much enjoyed an afternoon circumnavigating Manhattan (“island of hills”). Because the island is barely two miles wide, and the buildings are so high, it’s much easier to grasp from a boat than from land transport.



Above: Chief George and Father Mac taking part in the CTS Investiture in New York.



As we reached our College, Father Mac (Rev. Malcolm MacMillan) and family drove up, laden with props for “The Trial of Gilchrist” (written by Mac to bring out the interest of our early clan history), which was to receive its premiere on Broadway (in the College chapel) next morning. “The Family” provided the keynote for that morning. We began it by receiving Lilian de Giacomo, who had fourteen of her family with her, into the Community of the Tonsured Servant (Lilian and some of her family are pictured left with George & Jane). As ever, Blanche McMillan, as Abbot, with her husband John’s help, had

devised a beautiful service. “The Trial of Gilchrist” (the tonsured servant himself) fitted well after that. It was performed by Father Mac and members of his family, including his young grandson Ian, with other parts taken by Andrew, Blanche, John and Robert Bell. It graphically illustrated the tension between faith/conscience/anarchy, represented by Gilchrist, and the need for order in society, personified in his father, Bishop Cormac.

Remember the national anthems? From then on it was feasting all the way. We enjoyed an excellent farewell banquet, at which we celebrated two impending birthdays (Dugal MacMillan’s 70th and Lilian’s 86th), and Glenn & Flower MacMillan’s 45th wedding anniversary. Then Andrew (visibly liberated) handed over the emblems of his office as President to Captain Duncan D. McMillan, and presented a beautiful silver quaich with a Liberty coin in its base to Jane and me. Our final feast was a lunch in honour of Father Mac on Sunday. Glenn and Blanche had been working very hard to prepare for this, and were able to announce that \$8,500 had been contributed by admirers of Father Mac to form an endowment fund to enable the CTS to continue its work as envisaged by him at its foundation.

So ended five delightful days in New York. We all felt extremely grateful to Andrew and Kitty for their huge effort in providing them.



Above Right: Bill Byers congratulates Kitty MacMillan on a successful gathering

Impressions of “The Liberty Gathering” in August 2003



Andrew MacMillan, President of the North American Society (pictured left), and his wife Kitty had devised a rich, but not dauntingly over taxing programme with “Liberty” as its general theme. About sixty of us were lucky enough to be there; and we all had a very interesting and enjoyable visit to New York. It's surprising how often the theme jumped out at us as the five days passed. We began, as we often do, by singing our respective national anthems. The word “Free” is, of course, prominent in the North American ones; but I'm always touched by the courtesy of our U.S. cousins as they help us to sing “Send her.. long to reign over us”. Time, assuredly, heals; and our monarch now symbolises not tyranny but the rule of law, without which true liberty is impossible.

Our opening Ceilidh proved to be a superb way of getting the party together. Not all the “volunteer” performers felt like totally free men; and our cultural level wasn't uniformly high. But we were all pleased to find we could still entertain ourselves without too much outside help. The next day was a veritable feast of culture. We were treated to a vital performance of “Gipsy” in which a highly dominant mother is sustained through one disappointment after another by her dreams for her daughters, who, in turn, only succeed when they throw off their mother's tyranny. Reeling from that, we crossed the street to the famous theatre-world's restaurant, Sardi's, for a magnificent meal and an equally magnificent talk by Dr. Margaret MacMillan, based on her prize-winning book on the negotiations that followed the First World War.

We rose comparatively early next morning to catch the ferry past the “Statue of Liberty” to Ellis Island, where, between 1892 and 1954, about twelve million of the poorest immigrants were “processed”. The dream of freedom, whether from penury or persecution, carried them through appalling hardships. The final ordeal was the medical examination which could result in their rejection. Those who got through were still extremely poor, but at least had grounds for hope. History did not relate what became of the others.

We, however, fell on our feet. We lunched at Fraunce's Tavern, where George Washington had said goodbye to his officers after the “Revolution” (or War of Independence). The menu was at least inspired by the food of the period. Washington had an early set of false teeth; and the food was designed not to over-strain them. Its taste was excellent. At its end, appropriately enough, we heard an excellent talk on “The Winning of New York”, the hub of the British effort to quell the revolting colonists. After that, every rise and dip in Broadway, as it took us from Wall Street to our base, conjured pictures of skirmishes or full-blown battles. That liberation cost seven years of hardship and sacrifice.

Our next engagement (the dedication of a beautiful wreath at Ground Zero) was dramatic enough in itself; but no one could have anticipated the drama that actually cut it short. At 4.10 pm electrical power from New York to Ottawa and westward to Ohio failed. In an instant, those towering symbols of the Free World's prosperity became potential prisons, with non-opening windows and no air-conditioning, light, or telephones. Those who weren't stuck in lifts emptied on to the street and started walking.

Right: Robert Bell, Appalachian Branch president, pipes at Ground Zero, with Charlie Zahm and Rev. Bill Byers



The *Gille Maol* and *An Gobha Mor*

by William Mackay



Urquhart Castle as it looked in the old days

The great legendary hero of the period [mid-16th century] was *An Gobha Mor* – the Big Smith, or Armourer, of Polmaily. The Smith and his seven sons were noted for their enormous strength. They were also as skilful in the armourer's art as any who ever struck anvil with hammer; and no weapons were to be found in Scotland to equal their cold-iron swords (*claidheamhan fuar-iarunn*) – much prized weapons in the making of which the iron was heated and shaped by heavy and rapid hammer-blows, without the agency of fire....

It happened about this time that one of Lochiel's followers slew a man in Lochaber, and fled to Urquhart, where he found shelter and employment with the Smith at Polmaily. Lochiel heard that the fugitive was in the Glen, and sent men to bring him back. But he cut his hair short, and shaved his face clean; and, although the Lochaber men saw him as he worked at the anvil, they failed to recognise him, and returned home without him. But it soon reached the ears of Lochiel that the *Gille Maol* – the Bald Young Man – whom they had seen in the smithy, was the object of their search; and he was very wroth at the Smith and the people of Urquhart, and resolved to make a raid upon them. Accordingly, he and a great many of the Clan Cameron came and seized the Castle. But not daring to meet the Big Smith and his sons in fair fight, he sent for *Gille Phadruig Gobha*, the Smith's son-in-law, and promised to give him the lands of Polmaily as his own if he brought him the Smith and his sons, dead or alive.

“Choose out for me two score of your bravest and boldest men,” replied *Gille Phadruig Gobha*, yielding to the temptation, “and I shall be their guide to-night”. The Smith's sons slept in a barn which stood on the hillock at Polmaily which is still known as *Torran nan Gillean* – the Young Men's Knoll – and at midnight the traitor and a party of Camerons quietly left the Castle, and proceeded to Polmaily, with the intention of killing the sons and then overcoming the father. Some of the Camerons remained at the door of the barn while the rest entered and attacked the sleepers, who, being without their swords, were all slain, except the youngest, whose back was broken, and who afterwards bore the name of *An Gobha Crom*, or the Hump-Backed Smith.

While the work of treachery and blood was going on at *Torran nan Gillean*, the Smith's wife dreamt that a big black sow, with a litter of young ones, was undermining the foundations of the barn. She dreamt the dream three times, and then roused her husband and implored him to go and see whether all was well with their sons. Sword in hand, he proceeded to the barn, and rushed on the Lochaber men. They fled for the Castle, and he followed, cutting them down at every stroke. Observing his son-in-law in their midst, he made efforts to reach him, whereupon the traitor cried, “*S mi fhein a th'ann! 'S mi fhein a th'ann!*” – “It is I! It is I!”

“I know it is you”, replied the Smith, at the same time striking off the dastard's right ear, and placing it in his trembling hand as he crossed the stream ever since called *Allt Gille Phadruig Gobha*; “I know it is you; deliver that letter to *Mac Dhomhnuill Duibh* [Locheil], and tell him I shall breakfast with him at break of day.” But before daybreak *Mac Dhomhnuill Dubh* had left the Castle, and was far on his way to Lochaber. Returning to the barn, the Smith found all his sons dead, except the *Gobha Crom*. His heart broke with sorrow, and before long the Glen of Urquhart knew him no more.

The factual event behind this story is “The Great Raid” of Glen Urquhart in 1545. It was carried out by the Macdonalds of Glengarry, Glencoe, Ardnamurchan and Clan Ranald as well as the Camerons. The list of tenants in the Glen who were looted includes one *John Macmul* (probably MacMhaoil) who, if he's a MacMillan, is the first recorded in the Glen; and when the crown punished Lochiel and his followers in 1547 they included *Duncane Beane McFinlay* – later found in Crieff on Loch Arkaiside - father of William mac Dhonchaidh Ban who appears in 1598 as the earliest documented Macmillan of Murlagan.

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

Supporting the Clan Centre and providing educational materials & events for Clan and Sept members around the world.

INVESTITURE OF OUR NEWEST CTS MEMBER AND FATHER MAC'S PLAY "GILCHRIST'S TRIAL"
Lillian de Giacomo of Barnard, VT, was invested into CTS in James Memorial Chapel at Union Theological Seminary in Manhattan on 16 August 2003 in connection with the Clan MacMillan Society of North America's *Liberty Gathering*. On 17 August 2003 Lillian celebrated her 86th birthday. She brought 14 members of her family with her to the Gathering. The Chapel provided a good Celtic presence for the investiture service and for Mac's play "*Gilchrist's Trial*". Father Mac researched, wrote and produced a dramatic presentation of the story of our Clan's origin told in an imaginary trial setting to present the story of Gilchrist and the issues and conflicts that may have produced our history. Writing this play gave Mac a great deal of pleasure and we in turn were entertained and taken back in time to the twelfth century. If you would like a copy of the play, please contact Fr. Mac. He hopes this play will raise many questions, provoke lively debate and cause members of Clan MacMillan to explore their heritage with new enthusiasm. Thanks Mac. (Lillian de Giacomo is pictured later in the mag)

'FATHER MAC' TRIBUTE ENDOWMENT FUND

In 2002, Glenn and Flower MacMillen designated their CTS memberships to be used to establish an Endowment Fund. Glenn had offered to become fundraising co-ordinator for CTS and created *The Rev. Canon A. Malcolm MacMillan and Sally Mark MacMillan Tribute Endowment Fund* as a way to honour Mac and Sally for their many contributions to community and clan and also to add to the Endowment Fund. Glenn felt it was important to begin a Tribute/Endowment Fund to build a foundation of investments to eventually provide a steady source of income for the Clan MacMillan International Centre (CMIC). This has been CTS's major fundraiser for 2003. We owe Glenn a tremendous vote of thanks for all his efforts and generosity on behalf of CTS and CMIC.

We also thank the people listed below who have given or pledged gifts to the Tribute Fund of approximately \$8,000.00 US. At present, \$4,500.00 US and \$1,800.00 CDN has been received and invested by Dugal MacMillan, Almoner of CTS. We are very grateful that so many of Fr. Mac and Sally's non-MacMillan friends have supported this Tribute Fund. The names that follow are in roughly the order in which the gifts and pledges were received.

Chief George & Jane MacMillan, Finlaystone, SCOTLAND; Flower & Glenn MacMillen, the open road, USA; Blanche & John B. McMillan, Burlington, ON, CANADA; Carol & Lamar McMillin, Vicksburg MS, USA; Dugal MacMillan, St. Catharines, ON, CANADA; Anne & Charles McMillan, Paris, TX, USA; Judy & Stan McMillan, Canajoharie, NY, USA; John Whitehead, Birmingham, AL, USA; Robert Cutter, Lima, OH, USA; Ginny West, Roanoke, VA, USA; Harriet & Marius Bressoud, Bethlehem, PA, USA; Ann & Albert Skinner, Colorado Springs, CO, USA; Mary Louise & Addison Bross, Bethlehem, PA, USA; Clan MacMillan Northeast Branch, USA; Emily & Edwin Wallace, Bethlehem, PA, USA; Margery Acres, Dutton, ON, CANADA; Emily & Ed Williams, Culpeper, VA, USA; June & Harry Nicholson, Sacramento, CA, USA; June Senior, Glen Waverley, Victoria, AUSTRALIA; Ginnie & Robert Benedict, Chautauqua, NY, USA; Virginia Handley, Allentown, PA, USA; Karen & Richard Fecko, Glastonbury, CT, USA; Roy McMillan, Portage La Prairie, MB, CANADA; Judith & Bruce Eitzen, Nazareth, PA, USA; Rowene & Ralph Conn, Newport Beach, CA, USA; Mr. & Mrs. Wallace MacMillan, Berkeley, CA, USA; Linda & Warren Armstrong, Allentown, PA, USA; Flora & Ross MacKenzie, Lakewood, NY, USA; Rev. Clifford Carr, Allentown, PA, USA; Jean Bennion, Whitefield, NH, USA; Rev. Donald Knapp, Allentown, PA, USA; Sir Graham Macmillan, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, ENGLAND; Phyllis Arbegast, Allentown, PA, USA; Duncan Macmillan, Knutsford, Cheshire, ENGLAND; Ann Harms, Memphis, TN, USA; Megan Mac Millan, Lafayette, CO, USA; Anonymous; Brig. Alistair Macmillan, Howwood, SCOTLAND; Clan MacMillan Society of North America, USA/CANADA.

Cuile Colm, 706 Eighth Avenue, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Dear MacMillan cousins and friends:

I am still stunned by the number and generosity of all of you who have contributed to the Tribute Endowment Fund in honor of my late wife, Sally, and me, for the future support of the Clan MacMillan Centre. I am told that as of this date more than eight thousand dollars has been given or pledged to the Fund, and has been invested by Dugal MacMillan, the Almoner of the Community of the Tonsured Servant, for the work of the Centre. Fifty four individuals from six nations and twelve states in the USA, together with branches of the Clan MacMillan Society and several anonymous donors have so far made gifts to this Fund.

I know how very thankful Sally would have been for this tribute to her because I know how much her relationships in the Clan MacMillan Society meant to her, and also because I feel myself such profound appreciation for the honor this undertaking has extended to both Sally and me. From the time of our first visit to Finaystone, and from a most delightful dinner we shared with George and Jane, Sally and I both felt deeply indebted to our Chief and his wife for their providing such warm hospitality to numerous members and friends of our Clan and for giving such enthusiastic support to the Clan Society. We were determined to do find some way to encourage members of the Clan to support the Clan Center themselves, and the founding of the Community of the Tonsured Servant was the result. Establishment of an Endowment Fund however, and designating it in our honor, is beyond anything of which we had thought, or of which ever dreamed. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and may God bless each of You!

Fondly, Father Mac (Reverend Canon A. Malcolm MacMillan)

**For more information please contact Blanche McMillan, Abbot CTS,
5364 Salem Rd., Burlington, ON, L7L 3X3, Canada. Email: jbmcmillan@sympatico.ca**

GLENGARRY GAMES AND GR2002 CEREMONY

The Glengarry & Ottawa Valley Branch of the clan attended the Maxville Highland Games on Saturday 2nd August as usual, and the following day gathered in the grounds of the nearby St. Raphael's Church for the unveiling of a copy of the 1802 emigration plaque put up on the Memorial Wall at Finlaystone during GR2002. Branch president Susan Drimkwater has sent us this account:

The Highland Games was another great success with numerous MacMillans visiting our table and renewing their membership. Genealogy has become a very hot topic, and thanks to many that have donated their work, this has enabled us to help others find their roots. The Games were opened on Saturday by The Speaker of the House of Commons, Hon. Peter Milliken.



Officers of the Glengarry Branch beside the plaque:
From left: Treasurer Harold MacMillan; President Susan Drinkwater; Vice-President Bill MacMillan.

Williamstown & Martintown gave her blessing for the Protestant side of things, and The Daughters sang "Braes of Lochiel". Bill MacMillan then read Chief George's reflections and Harold MacMillan followed, reading "Lament for MacMillan" while Hugh Allan played a very nice lament in the background. John B. McMillan read a certificate issued by the Minister of State & Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and also MP for Prescott, Russell & Glengarry, Don Boudria. This was followed by the last number from The Daughters, "Harriet's Song". We had a small reception afterward and a birthday cake for Father MacDougald, who just happened to celebrate his 78th birthday on Sunday. We received many compliments for a really fine ceremony and reception. Right: The Daughters of Glengarry, accompanied by fiddle-player Hugh Allan MacMillan.

As Susan says in her report the interest in clan genealogy has never been stronger and we have received many enquiries relating to M'millans associated with Glengarry County and other parts of Ontario. When we have no information on file at the Clan Centre about these people we pass the enquiries on to Susan and Harold who are always happy to help if they can. The Glengarry Branch's involvement with genealogy has also been expressed by a recent financial donation to Project MAOL for which we are most grateful.

REV. DR. DONALD NEIL MACMILLAN, who died in July at the age of 93, served for 24 years as minister of Kenyon Church at Dunvegan in Glengarry Co., Ontario. Though Donald Neil himself was born in Finch, in Stormont County, ON, his emigrant ancestor Ewen MacMillan from Corriebuie in Glengarry Scotland had originally settled in Locheil Township in Glengarry Canada. Donald Neil had an MA from McGill University, Montreal, and a PhD from Edinburgh University. He was called to Kenyon church in 1935, but at the outbreak of war he enrolled in the RCAF and returned to Scotland as district chaplain at Inverness, which enabled him to become well acquainted with the land of his forefathers. He came back to Dunvegan in 1945, and in 1959 was appointed Professor of Theology at The Presbyterian College, Montreal; where he also served as Principal from 1972. In addition to his definitive history of the kirk in Glengarry (1984) he wrote regular features for the programmes of the Maxville Games, and produced a delightful historical sketch of the church at Dunvegan. Donald Neil and his wife Jean Macleod (married in 1936) sadly lost one daughter as an infant and their younger son in his early manhood; but their eldest son Donald Alexander grew up to become a medical doctor in Finch, to where Donald Neil returned after his retirement in 1978. Donald Neil is survived by his daughter-in-law Claudette and grandchildren Sebastien & Sarah. For more on Donald Neil's life please go to <http://www3.sympatico.ca/comflex/mcmillan/donaldneil.htm>



This Brockloch genealogy remains a tentative revision because as yet I have not been able to examine most of the actual documents (not to mention all those yet to be referenced), and with so many John McMillans succeeding each other – three of whom at least appear to have had two wives, in addition to the first John – there is clearly ample scope for confusion. As well as two extra Johns in this line, the most significant change from Somerled’s genealogy is the apparent disappearance of James the son of Donald and grandson of the first John of Brockloch. In fact this James McMillan of Knockengoroch has merely been shunted sideways, because it seems he was the younger brother of the John of Knockengoroch (later of Brockloch) from whom the later Brocklochs descended - both being the sons of Donald McMillan of Knockengoroch & Brockloch. Given the limited number of documents that Somerled found - and what those few actually said - it's not surprising that he made this mistake; and it's unfortunate that the printed summary of the 1612 charter showing the true situation wasn't published until 1958 (though I don't recall ever having seen any revision that Somerled might have made to his Brockloch tree before his death in the 1970s).

I’ve been prompted to spend some time considering this material and trying to sort it out because last year we were contacted, as you may remember seeing mentioned in the newsletter at the time, by a German descendant of one *Johannes Jacobi MacMillan*, said to have been "*of Brockloch and Knockingirroch*". The father of this "John son of James MacMillan", who settled in Germany in the 1650s, turns out to have been - most likely (but as yet, if ever, not certainly) - the same James McMillan of Knockengoroch that Somerled thought, quite understandably, was the ancestor of the later Brocklochs. The relatively small amount of information that his descendant Fritz Weissgerber was able to give us about James and his son John ties in so well with that available from the charter of 1612 that I feel reasonably confident we have cracked that particular puzzle. Many more remain however to be solved in the Brockloch tree, and will only be done so when I can find the time (or rather when someone in the clan can find the money to fund the research) to locate and look at all the other documents in detail.

The same is of course true of the other branches of the clan. While George has been financing my looking at some of the many documents (again far more than Somerled found) relating to the Dunmore M’millans, and Hugh P. MacMillan has financed some work on the Murlaggan and Glenpean M’milans, neither of them can afford to bankroll all the work on the documents so far discovered about those branches. For all the branches there remains an immense amount of material yet to be searched out and looked at before we have the main stems of the clan worked out properly, and can thus hope to be able to pin on the trees of those clanspeople fortunate enough to connect up with them. Some are luckier than others however, as we can see at the other end of the Brockloch tree.

One of the younger sons of the union in 1741 of Marion McMillan of Brockloch and David McMillan of Holm was Robert McMillan in Palgowan, who Somerled records as dying in 1841. I found out in Scottish sources that he had married the daughter of a neighbouring Kennedy laird; and in American sources, turned up whilst trawling in the Library of Congress in Washington DC, I discovered that at least three sons of the said Robert had emigrated, first to South Carolina, and subsequently to Alabama (two sons) and Idaho (the other one). Not long ago the Clan Centre was contacted by a descendant of one of those sons who went to Alabama with further information about his family, and that was enough for me to identify some incomplete details that we had had for some years in the filing cabinet at the Centre as relating to another of the emigrant sons in America - the one who went to Idaho. So I have recently been able to send the descendant of the Alabama son a contact address of her distant cousin descended from the Idaho son who lives in Washington state. Needless to say this activity has also resulted in extra information that I have added to the Project MAOL search index to appear in the next update.

One of the most famous M’millans to come from Galloway was the Rev. John McMillan of Balmaghie. He’s thought to have been a descendant of the later McMillans of Arndarroch, and it may well have been their adherence to his views – and later to his Reformed Presbyterian Church – which led to that family’s disappearance from the ranks of the Galloway lairds in the 18th century. Many of the Rev. John’s followers fled from persecution in Galloway to nearby northern Ireland where branches of their families had probably been established since the “plantation” of the early 17th century (though one parish elsewhere in Scotland where “McMillanites” were also found is Kilmacolm, just over the hill from the Clan Centre at Finlaystone).

By the mid-18th century the economic and social advantages enjoyed in northern Ireland by Presbyterians from Scotland had diminished, and the sons and grandsons of the original McMillanite emigrants – many of them probably relations of the Rev. John himself – began to look to the New World for greater prosperity and the freedom to practice their religion without interference from the government. In common with other Ulster-Scots they settled initially in Pennsylvania, where the Quaker traditions inherited from John Penn guaranteed religious tolerance; but in due course many of them relocated to South Carolina which is where we find the greatest concentration of “Covenanter” McMillan families. A good deal of information about these families has been in the Clan Centre archives for some time now, and we’ve recently had a lot more sent in as submissions to Project MAOL; so the latest update to the MAOL M’millan Search Index will contain many entries relating to them – and thanks for information supplied goes to (amongst others) the following sets of cousins belonging to two of the best documented such families: Edie Sutton (Louisville, KY) & Bill Williams (Paris, TN), and Jim McMillan (Lexington, VA) & Sybile Pierce (Sumter, SC). One branch of the latters’ family ended up in Illinois; but that’s another story.

Graeme Mackenzie

Revising the History of the Galloway McMillans

Current accounts of the Galloway branch of the clan are all based on Somerled MacMillan’s work as published in his 1952 history, “The MacMillans and their Septs”. In that work he gives the following genealogy of the McMillans of Brockloch back from the marriage in 1741 of Marion McMillan heiress of Brockloch to David McMillan of the Holm of Dalquhairn (from whom descend the later chieftains of the Galloway branch):

Marion daughter of John son of John son of John son of James son of Donald son of John in Brockloch in 1580s
Somerled mentions – but in most cases fails to cite with any proper references – fifteen documents which he used to build this tree; and in a subsequent article in the Clan MacMillan Magazine of North America (Vol. 2, No. 1, July 1959, pages 26-33) he refers to another four documents in which the Brockloch McMillans appear. He seems therefore to have found **nineteen** documents in all relating to the McMillans of Brockloch.

So far I have found references to some **sixty eight** documents featuring McMillans of Brockloch and of Knockengoroch – the same family - between 1584 and 1733; which appear to include the majority of those used by Somerled, so far as one can tell. These mostly appear in the indices to the following: General (i.e. national) Register of Deeds (assorted legal documents); General Register of Sasines (land ownership records); Particular (i.e. local) Registers of Sasines for Dumfries, Kirkcudbright & Wigtown; Registers of Testaments & Inventories (i.e. wills) for the same counties. They do not however include any to be found in local registers of deeds in the Galloway shires which may be expected to yield many more when I get the chance to investigate them.

Looking at the early history of the Galloway McMillans as a whole, the first, and the most dramatic change to Somerled’s account that has to be made comes not from new material but from a proper interpretation of that which he already had to hand. As the local historian Daphne Brook pointed out in an article entitled *The Glenkens 1275-1456* which was published in 1984 in the Transactions of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society (Vol. LIX, pages 41-56), the record of the first documented “MacMillan” in the south – the *Gylbycht McMalene* that Somerled claims escorted Robert the Bruce from Lawers to Galloway – actually shows him being dispossessed by Bruce of his estates in the Glenkens for supporting the king’s rivals the Balliols. This attachment of the late 13th and early 14th century M’millans to the Balliols and their allies the Comyns is apparent from the documented history of the wider kindred to which they belonged in Galloway, and from the fleeting glimpses of early Macmillans as part of Clan Chattan in Lochaber (for the evidence and the explanation of which see Chapters 3 and 4 of my “Origins and Early History of the MacMillans”).

The arms of MacMillan according to Alexander Nisbet, which also appear on an inscription at Carsphairn amongst graves of the McMillans of Brockloch



Nisbet: “I have seen the arms of the name of M’Millan painted thus, argent on a chevron between three mullets sable, as many besants or”

Somerled MacMillan says that the Galloway clan were supporters of the Douglasses later in the 14th century, and this assertion is supported by the only contemporary record of a M’millan in that period, which is to be found in the “Rotuli Scotiae”, and shows one *Thomam McMolyn* as a follower of Archibald Douglas lord of Galloway in 1377. The traditions which Somerled relied on report that the downfall of the Black Douglasses in 1455 caused their followers the McMillans – and incidentally the southern Bells too – to lose many of their original lands in Galloway. One boon to the clan historian of this disaster is that when the crown took over the Douglas estates the tenants on their lands suddenly appear in royal records such as the Exchequer Rolls. This is where, in the late 15th and early 16th centuries, we find the apparent McMillan chieftain due for, but not paying, tax on the motte (i.e. castle) of Earlston, and subsequently – if it is the same John McMillan – as the laird of nearby Arndarroch.

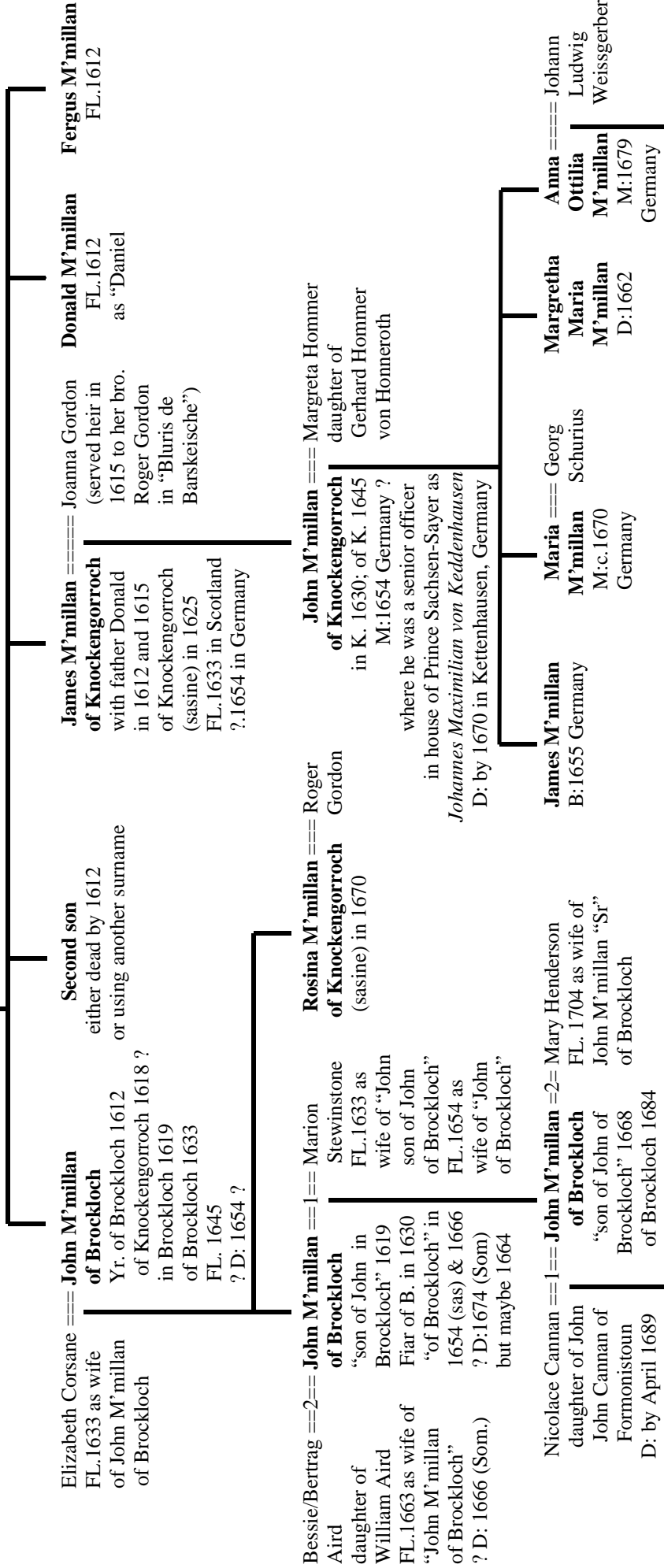
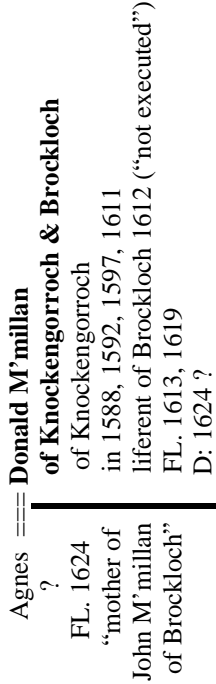
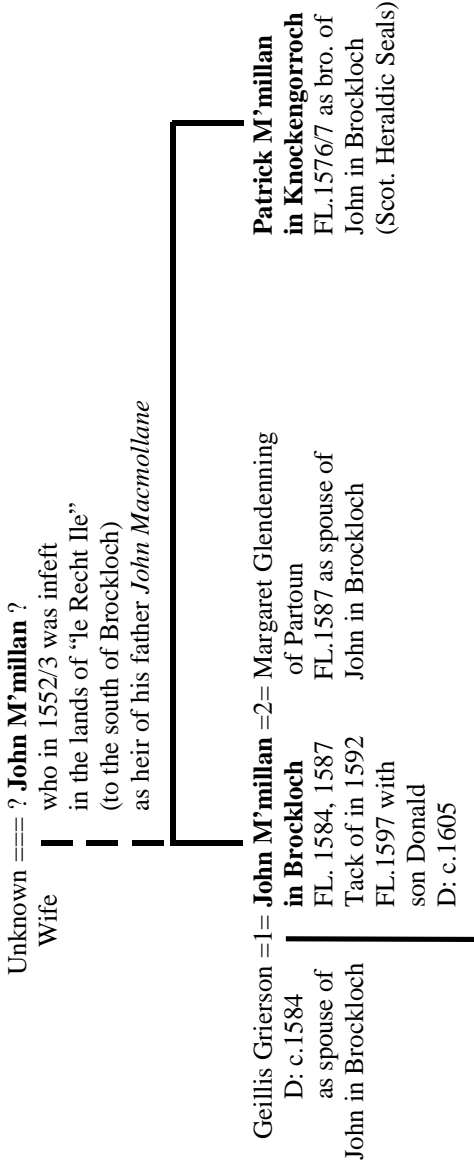
The Arndarroch family seem to have been the first branch of the clan in Galloway to have had crown charters for their lands in the 16th century; but, though they continue to be an important family into the 17th century, the leadership of the clan in Galloway appears by then to have devolved onto the McMillans of Brockloch – who were in any case almost certainly a junior branch of the same family. Their rise may well have been a result of a marriage connection made with the Griersons; a clan claiming to be descended from the MacGregors who had become the most powerful family then in the Glenkens. *Johne McMillane in Brockloch* is mentioned in 1584 in the testament of his wife Geillis Grierson; and he appears with his son Donald in 1597 when they are the subjects of a bond given by Douglas of Drumlanrig “not to harm Andro, Lord Stewart” (so the Douglas connection remained).

In 1613 the son appears on an assize in Kirkcudbright as *Donald McMillane of Brockloch*. The difference in terminolgy is critical: “in” means being merely a tenant of the lands, while “of” means being the laird. In the Grierson of Lag papers can be found a charter drawn up in 1612 by which Sir William Grierson grants Brockloch in liferent to *Donald Makmillane in Knockingarroch* and in fee to his eldest son John Makmillane and his heirs; “whom failing...” then to Donald’s younger surviving sons – who are all named (see tree overleaf) – and their heirs; “whom all failing...” then to “the nearest heirs male of the said John Makmillane whomsoever bearing the name and arms of Makmillane...”. This wonderfully informative document is the key to the early revision of the Brockloch line as given by Somerled MacMilan; and it, along with all the other index and summary entries that I have so far found would appear to suggest that the ancestry of the heiress of Brockloch in 1741 should actually read:

Marion daughter of John son of John son of John son of John son of John son of Donald son of John in 1580s

THE MACMILLANS OF BROCKLOCH – A Tentative Tree as of 1st Nov. 2003

This family tree is tentative because it is largely based on index entries. Examination of the actual documents to which these entries refer may result in further revisions in due course (when the funds can be found to carry on the research). The indices were: Registers of Deeds, Registers of Sasines (sas) – both the General (i.e. national) and the Particular Registers for Kirkcudbrightshire and Dumfriesshire – plus Testaments & Inventories for same counties. Other sources are as indicated; plus unchecked information from Somerled MacMillan (Som).



THE PLACES – all on OS Landranger No. 77
Le Recht Ile: 556935 (though not named on modern map).
Just south of Holm of Daltallochan (held by another branch of the
family from 1588 to 1637) which may well originally have been
part of or identical to Le Recht Ile.
Knockengarroch: 555971
Brockloch: 538959
Holm of Dalquhairn: 655990
Lamloch: 525964
Palgowan: 373833

WEISSGERBERS
IN ALTENKIRCHEN
WESTERWALD, GERMANY
to the present day

