

CMSNA GATHERING 12-19 AUGUST 2005, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA



Preparations for the biennial Gathering for the Clan MacMillan Society of North America are progressing well. Statements of intent to attend from members and friends of the Society have been received from across Ontario as well as from New Brunswick, New York, West Virginia and Arizona...not to mention Scotland itself. Our prayers and thoughts are very much with Jane MacMillan and the Gathering, with a theme of "Clann (Children)" has been very much designed to be child friendly as she had urged when she spoke with me about the Gathering at our last Gathering in Manhattan in 2003....and that means for children of all ages!

Some firm bookings have been made. The end of event gala will take place in the Great Hall of the University of Western Ontario. An approach has been made to have the Clan given official recognition at the 60th Anniversary Fergus Games and the Chief or his representative given "Honoured Guest" status...we may have a chance with David MacMillan being the Chairman of the Games Committee.

Others initiatives are nearing completion. Bookings for a trip to the world famous Stratford Ontario Festival Theatre (pictured right) will be made in December and it is for this trip in particular that firm commitments to attend are needed so early - with payment of the deposit if possible. Some additional tickets will be procured and will be available on a first come first served basis but there will not be that many available.



Inquiries have been made as to whether an economy version of the Gathering is available. While everyone is encourage to take part in the full event those who may find it difficult to travel on 11-12 August or who wish to reduce total expenses might wish to arrive on Sunday evening 14 August 2004. There is also some scope to tailor costs and attendance to individual requirements by opting out of certain events such as the Stratford trip.



While attempts are being made to contact all members and friends of the Society both through email and the slower surface / airmail please do pass information around to anyone you know of who might be interested and tell them to contact:

Duncan D McMillan,
723 Norwood Ave,
London, ON,
Canada, N5Y 5C7.

Tel: 519-642-7632

Email: duncan_mcmillan@hotmail.com

Yours aye,

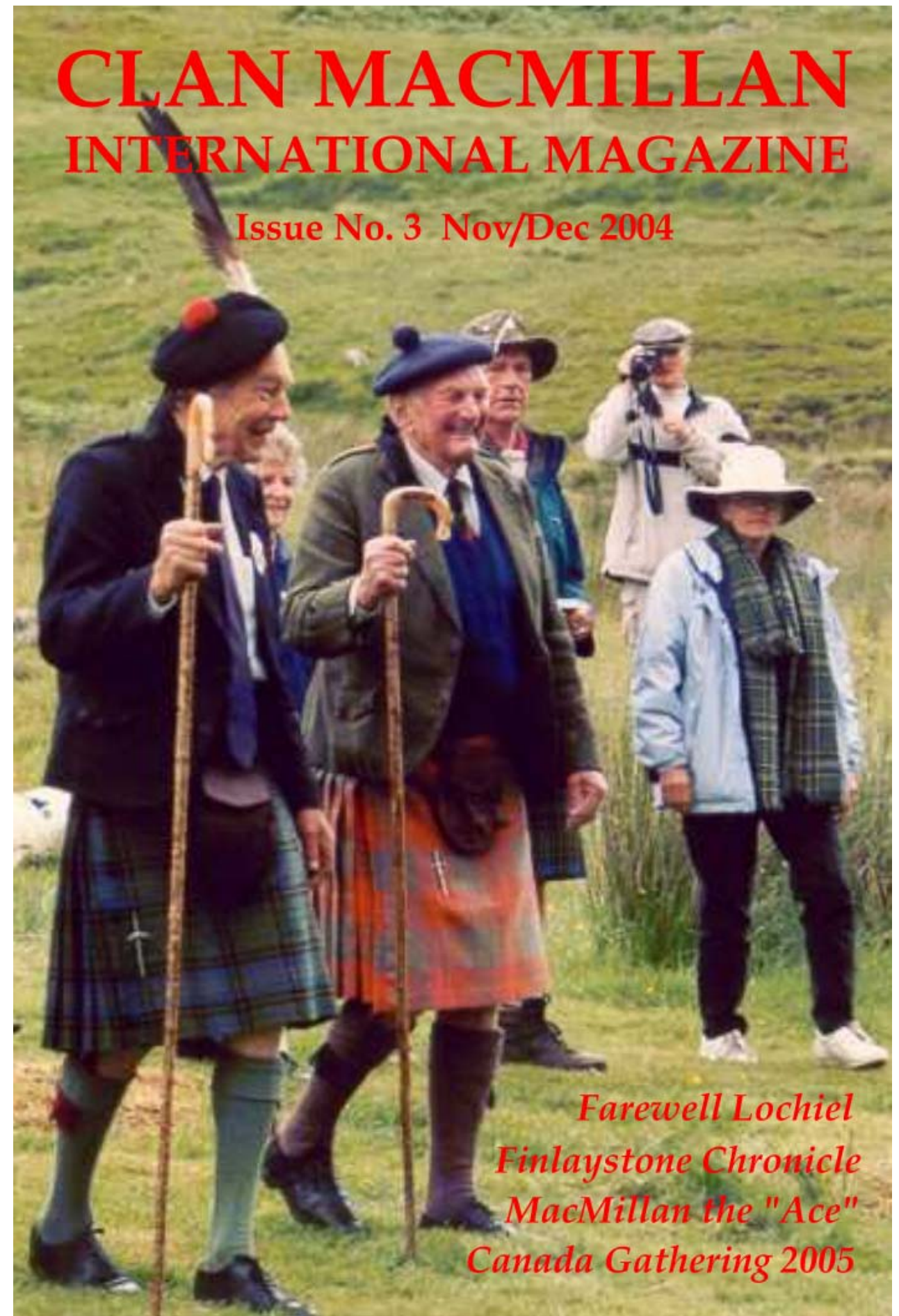
Duncan and Donna McMillan

Full details of the Canada 2005 CMSNA Gathering – Programme, Accommodation Information, Costs, and Registration Form – are included as a supplement to this issue of the magazine.

They can also be found on the website at
www.clanmacmillan.org/Canada2005/Intro.htm

CLAN MACMILLAN INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

Issue No. 3 Nov/Dec 2004



*Farewell Lochiel
Finlaystone Chronicle
MacMillan the "Ace"
Canada Gathering 2005*



The Clan MacMillan International Centre at Finlaystone

Chairman: George Gordon MacMillan of MacMillan & Knap. **Trustees:** David Brown, Scotland; Peter MacMillan, England; John B. McMillan, Canada; Lamar McMillin, USA; Connall Bell, USA; Phillip McMillan, USA; Margaret Pool, New Zealand; June Danks, Australia.
Genealogist & Editor: Graeme Mackenzie. **Centre Curator:** Pauline Simpson.

The Clan MacMillan International Magazine is published twice a year for members of Clan MacMillan International, the worldwide organisation based at the home of Chief George MacMillan. Subscriptions to CMI, which is open to all M'millans & sept-name bearers, help fund the work of the Clan Centre "...to collect, preserve, display and disseminate material about Clan MacMillan and its Septs for the benefit of clan members and other interested people; and to assist the chief, clan societies and individual clanspeople around the world in the promotion of the clan and its ideals" (Clan Centre Mission Statement of June 2000).

The current annual subscription, which runs from 1st January to 31st December, is UK £15 or US \$25. Cheques, in UK pounds or US dollars only, should be made out to *Clan MacMillan International* and sent to:
Clan MacMillan International Centre, Finlaystone, Langbank, PA14 6TJ, Scotland.
For more information about the Clan and the Centre go to: www.clanmacmillan.org

The Clan MacMillan International Magazine, Issue No. 3, December 2004

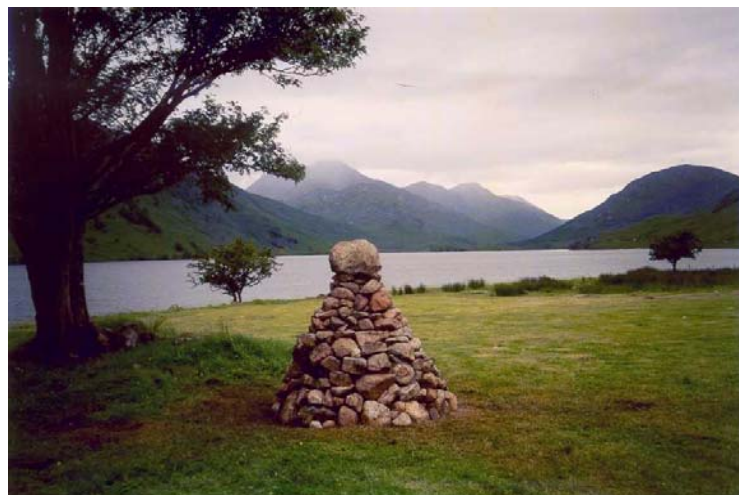
Cover Story: Farewell Lochiel. We're sad to report the death last year of Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel KT, Chief of Clan Cameron, who's pictured on our cover with Chief George MacMillan at the unveiling of the monument to the emigrant Lochaber Macmillans during the Great Return 2002 International Gathering.

Despite a distinguished career in the army, and his appointment by the Queen to the senior order of Scottish chivalry (Knights of the Thistle) Sir Donald was content to be known and addressed, according to highland tradition, simply as *Lochiel*, and remained a modest and approachable man who was always happy to receive Macmillans at his lovely 18th century mansion on the shores of the River Arkaig. The connection between the two clans goes back at least as far as the 16th century when Lochiel's ancestors became the *de facto* lairds of the old Clan Chattan lands on Loch Arkaigside – the ancient home of *Clann 'ic 'illembhaoil Abrach* (Clan Macmillan of Lochaber). In the early 18th century William Buchanan of Auchmar reported that "...The M'Gilveils of Lochaber are mostly planted upon both sides of Locherkeek in Lochaber, and live generally under and are close dependants upon the Laird of Locheal, and upon all expeditions make up a company of an hundred men, with officers, all of that sept; not reputed the worst of Locheal's regiment, being generally employed in any desperate enterprise that occurs...". The Macmillan company was out with "The Gentle Lochiel" in 1745, but towards the end of the 18th century, as the old paternalistic relationship between landlord-chiefs and their tenant-clansmen began to break down all over the highlands, the leading Macmillans on Loch Arkaigside – the "Tacksmen" of Murlagan and Glenpean – began to fall out with the Cameron chiefs and look for new opportunities across the Atlantic; hence the emigration of 1802.

Sir Donald of Lochiel, being aware of a legacy of bitterness about the events of two hundred years ago (which was perhaps over-played, much to Lochiel's regret, by Somerled MacMillan in his "Bygone Lochaber"), was particularly pleased I think to be invited to join in the anniversary events of GR2002; and his graciousness was another factor that helped make the day of the unveiling a particularly moving one for many of the Macmillans who had made the great return from Canada.

We extend our condolences to Lady Cameron and her family, and at the same time we say to Sir Donald's son and successor – also Donald – who has already done a great deal for his clan in promoting the creation of the Cameron Museum at Achnacarry, *Hail Lochiel*.

Our thanks to Jane Strauss for the pictures of Lochiel & George and of the GR2002 monument.



GR2002 Monument at Murlagan on the shores of Loch Arkaig

CURATOR'S REPORT:

Since 1st June, the following individuals have made donations towards the running of the Clan Centre and Project Maol: Rev. Chris McMullen, NB, Canada; Reginald G. F. McMillan, Basingstoke, England; Douglas MacMillan, MA, USA; Mark Blue, US Army, SVC Battery, currently serving in Iraq; Audrey MacMillan, NY, USA. **Thank you all very much.**

During the same period the following Branches/Societies have made their contributions to the Conclave Challenge: The Clan MacMillan Society (of Scotland); Glenurquhart MacMillan Society; Appalachian Branch; Mississippi McMillins; Sept of Blue. **What wonderful people you are!**

Those who have signed the Clan Centre Visitors' Book since 1st June 2004:

Neil Johnson, MN, USA; Sara and Bob Tensing, CO, USA; Gwen Fisher, NC, USA; Gail and Bill Chapman, TN, USA; Jennifer and Chris Eliasmith, ON, Canada; Margaret Pool, New Zealand; John MacMillan, Glasgow, Scotland; W.R. Miller, Glasgow, Scotland; Christine Curry, Cardiff, Wales; Deborah H. Blackman, CA, USA; William A. Howard, TX, USA; Robert MacMillan, Quebec, Canada; Paul MacMillan, Cheltenham, England; Catherine Shaw, CA, USA; Timothy and Nancy Carpenter, VA, USA; Katie and Mac McMillin, FL, USA; Anne MacMillan, BC, Canada; Elspeth Macmillan, Livingston, Canada; Janet M. Kelly, MD, USA; Marianne Widderid, MD, USA; John B. and Blanche McMillan, ON, Canada; Roscoe D. McMillan III, GA, USA; Tony Sims, Chipping Campden, England; Brian D. and Yvonne P. MacMillan, Antigua, West Indies; Margaret and Albert W. Brisbin, TX, USA; William G. A. Dunlop, Milton of Campsie, Scotland; Gilbert R. McMillan, Epsom, England; George Sanborn Jr., NH, USA; Catriona Hamilton, Brisbane, Australia.

Pauline Simpson

GENEALOGIST'S REPORT:

Project MAOL is currently under-going a revamp following the acquisition of a particularly good new genealogical programme which will allow us to publish material on-line in a more informative way. The software in question is called "RootsMagic" and is available from www.genealogysupplies.com. Those continuing to use Family Tree Maker – and indeed most other leading genealogy software packages – will still be able to send us their data electronically by using GEDCOM files, and full details of our preferred formats will appear on the Project MAOL pages in due course. In the meantime anyone who has been having difficulty opening the PDF files containing the present Project MAOL M'millan Search Indices might like to try the following (it's not guaranteed to work but has enabled me to open PDFs whilst off-line which I had found impossible to do following a recent upgrade from Windows 98 to Windows XP):

Open "Adobe Reader"; click on "Edit"; click on "Preferences"; select "Internet"; uncheck "Display PDF in browser" (or perhaps, if it's already unchecked, check it and try that!).

Mark Blue: Among the most interesting of the recent family histories sent in is the one we've received from Mark Blue in Iraq (not a place we receive many communications from!) who, as noted above, has also made a kind donation to the Clan Centre. His family of Blues emigrated from Kintyre to Canada rather than, as most Blues appear to have done, to the southern United States – though some of them did later move to the States, including of course Mark's ancestors. Mark is attempting to continue his family history research using the internet – access to which is inevitably rationed by the Army in Iraq – and I'm sure Mark would welcome email contact with other Blues, and indeed M'millans, who may have advice about the subject to pass on (or who would just like to help Mark pass the hours on a distant and difficult posting). He can be contacted at mark.blue@us.army.mil

(Jessie) Chrystal Macmillan is one of the many significant feminists to appear in the New Oxford Dictionary of Biography which has just been published. She was born in Edinburgh in 1872, the daughter of John Macmillan, a wealthy tea merchant, and was one of the first women to be admitted to Edinburgh University (MA 1900). Having become involved in court cases about the right of women to stand as parliamentary candidates for University seats she went on, after campaigning as a pacifist in the First World War, to qualify as a barrister in London (again being one of the first women so to do), thereafter specialising in social and employment law. She died in Edinburgh in 1937.

Graeme Mackenzie

WING COMMANDER NORMAN MACMILLAN, OBE, MC, AFC, DL, (1892-1976)



Earlier this year we were visited by **Bill Miller** from Glasgow, followed a week later by **Christine Curry** from Cardiff, both of whom brought to our attention the exploits of flying ace Norman Macmillan (Christine's uncle and a relative of Bill's wife). He was born in Glasgow, though his father came from Galloway, and at the outbreak of the First World War he joined the Highland Light Infantry with whom he served in France and Belgium. In 1916 he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as a fighter pilot, where he became an "ace", winning the Military Cross and promotion to the rank of Captain. After serving for some time in the newly created Royal Air Force Macmillan set up as a test pilot and instructor, and became involved in various record-breaking feats – including the first flight by a British pilot over The Andes. An attempt to fly round the world in 1922 attracted considerable attention in the newspapers, with cuttings reminiscent of heroic tales in "Boy's Own" comics and the adventures of W. E. Johns' hero Biggles.

The flight, sponsored by the London Daily News, began in Croydon on 24th May 1922, with Macmillan acting as pilot for Major W. T. Blake. The third crew member was Lieutenant Colonel L. G. Broome whose job it was to record their adventures on film. According to Blake, "*Broome...kept himself busy taking movie pictures from the time we started, but just as we were flying over Dover Cliffs I caught him throwing kisses at something or somebody below. Whether he had spotted some charming English girl or was merely saluting dear old England I can't say. He won't tell me anyway. I called Macmillan's attention to it immediately, but he, being Scotch just went straight on*". They were delayed in Paris for 24 hours by trouble to the tail of their plane (a DH9) and the crash at Croydon Airport of the second plane which was to accompany them as far as Athens; and once they got going again it wasn't long before they were beset with further troubles. Whilst on course for Rome they ran out of fuel and had to make an emergency landing in Marseilles: "*It was when we were above Aix that much to our surprise we found our petrol beginning to give out... We circled round and round the racecourse... Then we saw again Macmillan's mettle. In a sideslip at such an angle that I think none of us expected to stand up whole again, he brought us down, clearing the hedge [of the racecourse] by a few inches, and making what was a truly wonderful landing.*" Unfortunately it resulted in a broken propeller and damage to the undercarriage. Once repaired their route took them over Vesuvius, across the Apennines, the Adriatic and Greece, before tackling the 800-mile trip across the Arabian desert, the way being marked only by the track of a motor convoy which had crossed the year before.

"*At El Jid we landed in order to get water for the engines. We were well received by the Arabs in the district, one of whom wore a rusty Gillette razor suspended from his right ear. After we had all kissed the sheikh and the headman, a sheep was killed in our honour and we were obliged after we had consumed many cups of sour milk to carry away the complete bleeding carcass in our machine*". This made them so long overdue that two planes arrived from Baghdad looking for them. Whilst crossing Pakistan they encountered monsoon rains and high winds causing Blake to report, "*The machine and engine stood the test wonderfully...as we landed [in Lahore] I saw an ambulance waiting; but luckily it was not needed, Macmillan landing perfectly after we had flown seven hours fourteen minutes.*" Over the border in India the engine began to fail and further inspection showed that it and the propeller were both finished, the latter having been partially eaten by white ants. "*We were informed that the Maharajah of Bharatur had several aeroplanes...and he offered to lend us a new engine and propeller*". The adventurers were feted by British residents when they landed in Calcutta; "*...they presented us with an address of welcome enclosed in a silver casket and also with a magnificent carpet from which the Prince of Wales stepped when leaving India*".

Sadly Major Blake had taken ill in Agra and was hospitalised in Calcutta with appendicitis. His plane was auctioned, and his companions flew on in a Fairey seaplane. After their departure from Calcutta however they came down in heavy seas in the Bay of Bengal. They managed to restart the engine and taxied some eight miles to shelter where they "*...spent the week-end in tiger and crocodile infested swamps, putting the engine right...*"; but... "*it was obvious that the old bus couldn't stay upright much longer...as she turned we clung to her...below us were sharks, near the land crocodiles.*" Undercurrents took the machine out to sea again and by this time the airmen were suffering from exhaustion and thirst was beginning to parch their lips and tongues. They were rescued by Banff man Lieutenant Commander John Cumming (assistant harbour master at Chittagong) who at first thought they were fishermen, but recognised the SOS they signalled with their distress flag. The Reuter's final report of the expedition stated that "*...they are still feeling the effects of their privations, especially from exposure to the sun's rays and sores and bites they received while taking refuge on the seaplane floats. They can walk, but only with difficulty*". Macmillan's flying feats continued as Chief Test Pilot for Fairey and Principal Foreign Representative for Armstrong Siddeley; and in 1936 he started a distinguished career writing about flying – which was interrupted only by his return to the colours in 1939 in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve where he rose to the rank of Wing Commander.

Pauline Simpson

NEWS FROM THE CLAN CENTRE

Alexander Ross Macmillan, former Treasurer of the Clan Macmillan International Centre (pictured right) has died after some years of ill-health. "Alick" was born in Tain, Ross-shire, in 1922 and was a descendant of Donald Macmillan "the Grey Smith of Inchvalgar" who was sent to Barbados in 1746 after participating in "The '45", and was one of the few banished rebels to return from the West Indies to his home in Glen Urquhart. Alick was very proud of his ancestry and his family were strong supporters of the Glenurquhart Macmillan Society from its foundation in 1991. His participation was a great boost to the society since he was one of the most successful Macmillans of his generation, having risen through the ranks of the Clydesdale Bank to become the "Chief General Manager" (in modern parlance, the CEO) between 1971 and 1982. As such Alick's signature appeared on all Clydesdale banknotes produced during this period – a set of three of which (£1, £5, £10) he kindly donated for display in the Clan Centre. When the Clan Centre Trustees were formed in 1993 Alick agreed to join as the Centre's first Treasurer, and he guided us with care and patience through the first seven years of our existence, continuing thereafter as a Trustee so long as his health allowed. He'll be greatly missed by all at the Clan Centre and by fellow members of the Glenurquhart Society, as well as by his family to whom we extend our deepest sympathies.



Charmaine McMillan Butler, sister of Scottish Society secretary Lorna McMillan, was named in the Queen's birthday honours list and has been awarded an MBE for Service to Young People in Hertfordshire.



Anne Ross MacMillan from Nanaimo in British Columbia is pictured left with the family bible she recently gave to the Clan Centre for safe-keeping and display. The bible, dated 1759, belonged originally to her ancestor Thomas MacMillan and his wife Agnes Brown, and descended through Andrew MacMillan & Janet Findlay (married 1836), Robert MacMillan & Thomasina Nicol (married 1873), to Alexander Nicol MacMillan & Eileen N. R. Mackay (married 1928) who were Anne's parents. Her father was born in Glasgow but emigrated to South Africa where Anne was born in 1929. She became a teacher, and in 1962 moved to Britain where she taught for a while at the Rachel MacMillan Nursery School in Deptford, London (Rachel MacMillan and her sister Margaret, from Glen Urquhart, were pioneers in the nursery school movement in the early 20th century). In 1963 Anne obtained a post at Princeton, British Columbia, and in 1974 she was appointed Co-ordinator of Early Childhood Education and Care at the college in Nanaimo, BC. She retired in 1992. Since neither she nor her younger brother had anyone to pass the bible on to, and her local museum were not interested in it because Anne was not born in Canada (!) she decided to offer it to the Clan Centre back here in Scotland. Since we have virtually no archives or artefacts pre-dating the time when George's father Sir Gordon MacMillan became chief this is a very welcome and valuable addition to the Centre's collection, and much thought is being given to the question of how best to preserve and exhibit it.



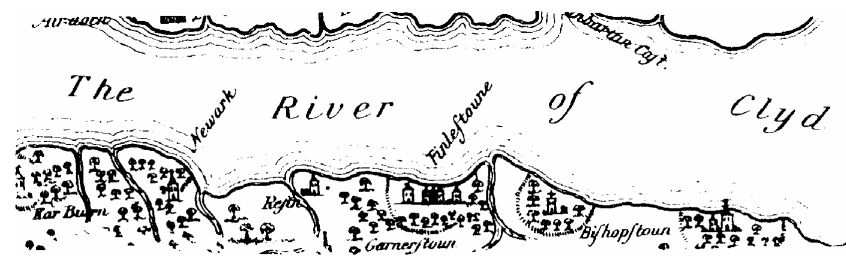
Lillian de Giacomo from Barnard in Vermont has also recently made a gift to the Clan Centre – though sadly she wasn't able to travel to Scotland as planned to present it in person. The magnificent doll pictured left is dressed in the Hunting MacMillan tartan and carries both targe and basket-hilted sword. Finlaystone is of course renowned for the "Dolly Mixture" exhibition – Jane's collection of dolls from around the world – which forms an important part of the displays in the "Eye-Opener" (the Finlaystone Estate Visitors' Centre).

Jane MacMillan has completed a course of treatment for her cancer, but sadly it doesn't seem to have stopped the progress of the disease. She continues to attend the Beatson Hospital for periodic consultations, and most of the time actually feels better than she did previously with the side-effects of the drugs. She and George are grateful indeed for all the expressions of concern from the clan, but would continue to ask people not to send cards.

The Finlaystone Chronicle, composed over the centuries by a time-travelling lairdly bard (or perhaps bardly laird!), and first revealed to the world at the GR2002 gathering, is printed on the centre pages of this issue for the first time in response to public demand.

The Finlaystone Chronicle by A Lairdly Bard

A recently discovered manuscript,
'The Chronicle of Finlaystone' y-clept,
(My friend, Geoff Chaucer, might have used this word
Where you, dear reader, might say 'called', I've heard)
Records the musings of an ancient seer
Inspired, no doubt, by pots of ancient beer.
Eight centuries he covers; but we're happy
To tell you that his inspiration's gappy.
With any luck, a medium will produce
Whatever folk the Chronicler may choose
So peal your eyes and listen very hard
For words of wisdom from the ancient bard.



..First come I: my name's Sir John
The mighty laird of Danielston.
I'm in King Edward's census books
Compiled in 12 and 96.
A silver penny paid each year
In Renfrew (not too far from here)
To Stewarts (from whom will spring one day
Prince Charles) is quite enough to pay
For vast estates round Kilmacalm.
While Danielstoun's my stateliest home,
Another couple of keeps I own –
Upper and Nether Finlaystoun.
My son, Sir Robert – brave young chap –
Will help the king hang on to Knap
By fending off MacMillan chieftans,
Supporters of the Lord o' the Isles.



Ah! Here's his daughter, Margarite –
The genuine article – no Conn –
For wealth and beauty hard to beat,
Heiress of Upper Finlaystone.
Bill Cunningham will take her hand
And get his hands on lots of land.
Four centuries will come and go,
And see their fortunes ebb and flow;
Full fifteen Earls, some good, some great,
Important both in church and state.

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

Supporting the Clan Centre at Finlaystone, and providing educational materials and events for the clan around the world.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY 1995-2005

The New Year of 2005 will mark the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the CTS. It was initiated by the Rev. Canon A. Malcolm MacMillan, Abbot Emeritus, as a community of honour within Clan MacMillan at a conclave of Clan MacMillan at Chautauqua, New York, USA, in September, 1995. There are now 100 members from 5 countries.

NEXT INVESTITURE SERVICE

Although CTS is an independent group, it usually meets in conjunction with a Clan MacMillan gathering. Our **100th member, Rev. Andrew Keith Moore** from Chino Valley, Arizona, USA, will be invested at a service on Sunday, 14 August, 2005 in Knox Presbyterian Church, Kintyre, West Elgin, Ontario. This Investiture Service will be held in conjunction with the *The 47th Anniversary of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America 1958-2005*.

To Celebrate the 47th Anniversary, The Clan MacMillan Society of North America, and their President, Captain Duncan D. McMillan, will host an International Gathering of Clan MacMillan in London, Ontario, Canada, 12 to 19 August 2005. All MacMillans and Septs are welcome. For further information please contact: **Duncan D. McMillan, 723 Norwood Ave, London, ON, N5Y 5C7, Canada. Tel: 519-642-7632; Email: duncan_mcmillan@hotmail.com**

ADDITIONAL REGALIA

The official regalia of CTS consists of three elements: The *Medallion*, the *Badge*, and the red *Sash*. The medallion is derived from the back of the monumental MacMillan Cross at Kilmory Knap, Scotland. The Badge of Honour is adapted from a design incorporating St. Andrew's Cross. The Sash is approximately 6 feet long. CTS has recently ordered and received new regalia. It is handsomely crafted by Terra Sancta Guild in the USA.

FUNDRAISING

CTS is the Fundraising wing of Clan MacMillan International Centre (CMIC). There are many ways you can help raise money needed to continue the work of the Clan MacMillan International Centre (CMIC).

- * CTS memberships: Now that you are members of CTS, you can encourage others to join, or you might consider an annual donation to CTS.
- * The Rev. A. Malcolm MacMillan and Sally Mark MacMillan Tribute Endowment Fund is our way of honouring Mac and Sally for their many contributions to clan and community. Funds raised are invested in order to build a base of continuous funds for CMIC. It remains open for contributions at all times. The Societies, Branches, Chapters etc. of Clan MacMillan worldwide are encouraged to think about contributing as a corporate bodies to the Endowment Fund.
- * Donations are always welcome to help defray the cost of producing and sending the CMIC Newsletter
- * Bequests: Remember Clan MacMillan in your will
- * Conclave Challenge: Encourage your Branch, Society or Chapter to make their yearly Conclave Challenge contribution to CMIC.
- * Purchase Graeme's new book "*Origins*". A portion of the sales goes back to CMIC and contact Graeme for any genealogical inquiries you may have. Graeme answers family history inquiries and compiles and enters material for Project MAOL (MacMillan Ancestry On Line).
- * Memorial Plaques: Think about putting a plaque in memory of a loved one on the wall in the "MacMillan (Memorial) Garden" located between the CMIC and Finlaystone House, home of our Chief George and his wife Jane in Renfrewshire, Scotland. For plaque sizes and costs, contact CMIC.
- * Memorial Fund: to remember those who have died.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Make all cheques payable to 'CLAN MACMILLAN'. For CTS memberships, Tribute/Endowment Funds, or Bequests, please send your cheques to Blanche McMillan, 5364 Salem Rd., Burlington, ON, L7L 3X3, Canada, and for contributions directly to CMIC, send your cheques to Finlaystone, Langbank, Renfrewshire, SCOTLAND, PA14 6TJ

*TUM POSTLADH DORUS NA BLADHNA UIRE CHUM SITH, SONAS IS SAMCHAIR
May the door of the coming year open for you to peace, happiness and quiet contentment*

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL BEST WISHES FOR YOU AND YOURS IN 2005

Prepared by Blanche McMillan, Abbot CTS, 5364 Salem Road, Burlington, ON, L7L 3X3, Canada
e-mail: jbmcmillan@sympatico.ca ph: 905-637-3395 **November 2004**

This place he rented to a hunting croup,
 Who made his pile by running tugs on t' Clyde:
 Dave had the house: George Kidston had the money;
 The family grew... Then Mrs Kidston died.
 Gerorge Kidston was heard to opine
 That having nine children is fine
 While their mother's alive;
 But how to survive
 If she went and left him with the nine?
 He needn't have worried: his sis,
 Miss Hamilton Campbell – no less -
 Takes the household in hand
 And with gentle command
 Makes certain nothing's amiss.
 She's know as 'Aunt Hammy' for short
 Or at times 'Aunty Buy'. It is thought
 That, to keep the girl sweet,
 If she started to bleat,
 He'd say 'BUY yourself jewels of some sort.'



Another century goes by.



George Jardine Kidston's company,
 Now led by his great-grandson's son,
 The Clydeside tugs has ceased to run
 Still Glasgow-based, it spans the sphere,
 Making and selling steering gear,
 Achors and windlasses for lots
 Of power boats and sailing yachts
 Now, ere the mists my vision hide,
 Meet Arthur and his lovely bride.
 Let's pray they live for many a year.

About this point the text becomes unclear.
 Did someone interrupt the flow of beer?
 If you've enjoyed it, please emit a cheer.
 To welcome Clan MacMillan here.



Above: The John Knox Tree in the garden at Finlaystone

Alexander, for instance, 'The Good'
 The one with the beautiful locks –
 Would certainly do what he could
 For the turbulent cleric, John Knox.
 But the Earl of Glencairn puts his shirt on
 John Knox to come in with the prize
 For Reforming the Church. And their union
 Will Succeed where all others have failed.
 By holding John Knox's communion
 Right here, they'll be first in the field.

'Pray, what can we use for the wine?'
 Queries Knox with his usual frown.
 'No prob,' says the Earl: 'I incline
 To use candlesticks turned upside down.'
 For two hundred and forty years more,
 These cups went to Old Kilmacolm
 For Communions, and back into store
 As soon as these treasures came home;
 But then on a day disappeared –
 A movement that nobody logged.
 Some believe they're still here, but immured;
 But others maintain they were flogged.

Earl number nine our eye now catches:
 For dash and skill he has few matches
 And yet, they say, the flesh is weak:
 He has a slight Clintonian streak.
 He also had a narrow squeak:
 He backed the hapless Charles the First,
 And very nearly bit the dust.





Captured, imprisoned, facing death,
 He thinks he's drawn his latest breath.
 But don't despair, dear reader: read on:
 An amnesty secures his freedom.
 And here's a thing to marvel o'er:
 He's now the Lord High Chancellor.
 To cap it all, mid tears and smiles
 The Earl is buried in St. Giles.
 The girls of Kilmacolm know well
 That won't prevent him going to hell.

The 14th Earl, whose name is James,
 Wins fame by patronising Burns.
 The surest path to fame, it seems,
 To spot a talent others spurn.
 In gratitude the immoral bard
 His first-born 'James Glencairn' will name,
 And, at the passing of his Lord,
 Lament his end in fulsome rhyme.
 But stay! I see the poet come
 In lamentationising mood.
 Open your ears to her him hum
 While ambling through the doleful wood.

So spake oor Rabbie and departed,
 Looking unco broken-hearted

Burns dies in 1796:
 So did the 15th Earl,
 That put the dynasty in a fix:
 His heiress was a girl.

But not for long: Young Robert Graham,
 Laird of Gartmore, arrives:
 The lady simply cannot say him
 Nay; so in she gives.
 From them the Cunningham-Graham line
 Will trace its first beginning -
 A line danger of decline -
 Both sinned against and sinning.

Poor 'Wicked William's' gambling debts
 Are better not referred to.
 Instead let's chronicle the feats
 Of dashing don Roberto.
 He knew this place till he was nine;
 But then the house was sold.
 He took to horse in the Argentine,
 Where he was extra bold.



Once home, he entered Parliament,
 A kind of Liberal; but
 So 'left' he came to represent
 A pain in Gladstone's...
 He went to jail for urging men
 To strike for wages higher;
 And had his portrait painted in
 His prisoner's attire.

At 70 he rode his horse
 Across the widest part
 Of South America - a course
 To test the bravest heart.
 His physical agility
 Was matched by agile wit,
 A jokey versatility
 He champed at every bit.

He died in 1931 -
 Give or take a year.
 So someone old enough to have known
 Him could be sitting here.



Hang on! Hang on! I have outstripped myself,
 Carried away by Don Roberto's dash.
 We left old Finlaystone upon the shelf,
 For sale, to settle Cunningham-Graham's hash.
 The year? Well, 1860 more or less.
 The country nearly bought it for Lord Clyde
 To thank him for resolving India's mess;
 But then, alas! His gallant lordship died.

It went instead to David C. Buchanan,
 Master of foxhounds, rich in real estate,
 Entrepreneur, perhaps tobacco baron,
 Who leased out houses to the rich and great.

