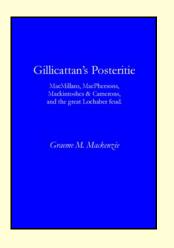
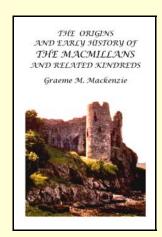
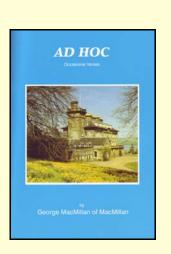


Remember your ancestors with a special plaque on the wall in the MacMillan Garden







Buy a clan history book, or a copy of the chief's verse - email clancentre@clanmacmillan.org for prices



# CLAN MACMILLAN Magazine



Nov / Dec 2009

This issue includes: The Clan Chattan Connection Issue No. 13 | Family of Charles McMillan & Caroline Lake Got Matar Update | CMSNA Gathering 2010 Profile of Lt. Gen. Sir John MacMillan



The chiefly family in the Clan MacMillan tent at The Gathering in Edinburgh



his chiefly chef's apron from Canada



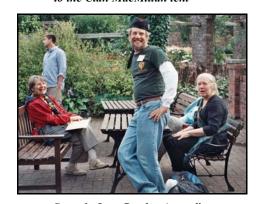
Above: The Bell family on the ferry Below: Nigel, Gordon, and Sheila Macmillan at Castle Sween



Some scenes from the Homecoming 2009 Gathering in Scotland



George welcomes visitors from Australia to the Clan MacMillan tent



Seated: June Danks, Australia, and Jane Strauss, ME, USA. Standing in front: Mike Drotar, NH, USA



Ed McMillan, TN, USA

Above: Fran & Robert Jones, GA, USA. Below: Teresa McMillan, MS, USA.





Below: The youngest member of the Norwegian clan, Vikki Sydskjor, receives her birthday gift from George and Pauline at the dinner in Greenock





The Companions of the Tonsured Servant invested at Kilmory who are named on the opposite page, along with George & Blanche.

Below are scenes from the events at Kilmory, with thanks to photographers Susan Drinkwater and Pauline.

















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

Founded in 1995: Supporting the Clan MacMillan International Centre (CMIC) at Finlaystone, Scotland, and providing educational materials & events for Clan MacMillan & Sept members around the world.

CTS Investiture Service, Kilmory Chapel, Knapdale, Scotland: This mediaeval chapel built c. 1225 and home to many early Christian and mediaeval stones, was the site of the most recent Community of the Tonsured Servant (CTS) Investiture Service on Tuesday 28 July, 2009. Nine candidates surrounded the ancient MacMillan Cross (circa 1480) for 'Alexandri MacMulen' and a second cross c. 1500 for 'Duncan and his father Colinus MacMillan' housed in the ruined chapel. The shafts of both crosses can be seen in the accompanying photograph which was taken by John B. McMillan. The candidates were invested by Chief George MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap and Blanche McMillan, Abbot of CTS. This service was part of the Clan MacMillan Homecoming Gathering 27-29 July, and part of Scotland's 'Year of Homecoming, 2009'. It was significant to be recognizing these candidates in this ancient place. There were 8 countries worldwide represented at this Gathering. There were 25 active participants in the Investiture service in addition to the 9 candidates and a 24 page souvenir booklet was produced for the occasion.

The Nine Candidates for CTS Investiture Service, pictured at the top of the opposite page, Left to Right: Honoris Causa: Sir Graham Macmillan, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, England; Companions Regular: Janie Macmillan-Howell (Mrs. John), London, England (daughter of Sir Graham); Elvira McMillan Tate of Atlanta, Georgia, USA (originally from Alabama), receiving the CTS membership on behalf of Marilee MacMoyle of Weaver, Alabama, USA; Ishtar Bell Hunter of Hamilton, New Zealand (granddaughter of Robert G. Bell of Greesboro, NC, USA); Arthur Gordon MacMillan, Younger of MacMillan and Knap 'An Tainistear' (heir) of Finlaystone, Renfrewshire, Scotland; his wife Barbara MacMillan; Chief George; Malcolm James MacMillan of Bishopton, Renfrewshire, Scotland (son of Chief George); his wife Amanda 'Tads' MacMillan; Hubert S. 'Butch' McMillan of Madison, Mississippi, USA; Blanche McMillan, Abbot CTS of Burlington, Ontario, Canada. Father Mac's photo can be seen behind George's head.

<u>The next CTS Investiture Service</u> will be held in Kingston, Ontario, Canada in June 2010 in conjunction with the Clan MacMillan Society of North America Gathering (CMSNA).

<u>Gift for MacMillan Calendars:</u> Pauline Simpson, Curator of CMIC, has produced a second excellent MacMillan Desk Calendar for 2010. In 2009 CTS will give <u>376GBP (\$618US)</u> to cover the cost of producing the current 2010 calendar. CTS is pleased to support this fundraising project for CMIC. I hope you have all ordered your copy for 2010 and some for your family and friends! Contact Pauline at clancentre@clanmacmillan.org

<u>Grant to CMIC:</u> In November 2009 CTS granted <u>1,000GBP (\$1,645US)</u> to CMIC. When added to the grant of \$2,000US in March 2009, the total granted to CMIC for 2009 including, the gift for the calendars, is \$4,263US. The total given to CMIC, is <u>\$32,643US</u> since 1996 (an average of \$2,332US per year).

<u>Mike McMillin, Minneapolis, MN, USA</u> has developed a website which replaces the clan graphics CDs he distributed to Clan MacMillan Branches & Societies some years back with the financial backing of CTS. The homepage is: <u>www.mcmillen-design.com/clan\_graphics/</u>. The printable display pages, including CTS pages, are downloadable individually. Click on "Display Materials". The CTS link is near the bottom of the page.

<u>Brig. Alistair Macmillan CTS</u>, son of Sir Graham Macmillan CTS, has been appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Renfrewshire, Scotland.

After the Clan MacMillan Gathering, John B. and I attended the Clan Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry. On the last day of that Gathering I fell and broke my right ankle. Then in early October I had a cancerous melanoma removed from my left leg. All is well now and I'll be walking normally soon and back on track.

For further information about CTS or to make a donation to the 'Father Mac' Tribute Endowment Fund (2003) or the Jane MacMillan Tribute Fund (2005), or a bequest, please contact

Blanche McMillan, Abbot of CTS, 5364 Salem Road, Burlington, Ontario, L7L 3X3, Canada. Tel: 905-637-3395. Email: jbmcmillan@sympatico.ca. Skype: j\_b\_mcmillan

This page was submitted by Blanche McMillan, 2 November 2009

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## Clan MacMillan International Centre at Finlaystone

<u>Chairman:</u> George G. MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap

Trustees:
David Brown, Scotland
Peter MacMillan, England
Lamar McMillin, USA
Connall Bell, USA
Phillip McMillan, USA
Margaret Pool, New Zealand
June Danks, Australia
Blanche McMillan, Canada
Robert Bell, USA

**Centre Curator:** Pauline Simpson

Genealogist & Editor: Graeme Mackenzie.

The Clan MacMillan International Magazine is published twice a year, and sent free to all members of *Clan MacMillan International (CMI)*, the worldwide organisation based at the home of Clan Chief George MacMillan.

Subscriptions to CMI – which is open to all M'millans and septname bearers – help fund the work of the Clan Centre

"...to collect, preserve, display and disseminate educational and historic material about Clan MacMillan heritage and its Septs worldwide for the benefit of clan members and other interested parties; and to assist the chief, clan societies and individual clanspeople around the world in the promotion of the clan and its ideals and charities"

(Clan Centre Mission Statement as amended at Clan MacMillan Conclave in August 2008).

The annual subscription for 1st January to 31st December 2010 is UK £15 or US \$25. Cheques – in UK pounds or US dollars only please – should be made out to Clan MacMillan International and sent to:

Clan MacMillan International Centre, Finlaystone, Langbank, PA14 6TJ, Scotland.

Tel: 01475-540713

www.clanmacmillan.org



The MacMillan Tower at Castle Sween - photo by Susan Drinkwater

Clan MacMillan International Magazine Issue No. 13, November/December 2009

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Pictured Right:
Thomas McMillan,
Brewton, AL, USA,
and his sister
Elvira Tate, Atlanta,
GA, USA,
at the entrance to
Castle Sween

Cover Picture: Thanks to Pauline for the photo of the clan gathered in the chapel at Kilmory Knap, by the MacMillan Cross, after the CTS Service



## News from the Clan around the World

## Fresh Triumphs for the Appalachian Branch at Stone Mountain Games

President Robert Bell celebrates:

Weather

Saturday - The only way to describe that is Arctic! Overcast extremely cold, and with both rain and chilling wind. The Clan site that we usually have, had been nicknamed the day before as "Lake MacMillan." Thankfully when Sue and I got there at 6am Saturday morning to set up the water was gone and the mud paddy field had firmed. Ground sheets did the rest.

Sunday - This was a lot better. Although still very, very cold the sun was out and the wind had dropped.

Despite the weather negatives we were kept busy. We had fifty-five sign in that I can locate, there may well be a few more. Many of these were accompanied by spouses.

As for new members, Sue has not as yet done the numbers but its about two, which is disappointing. This I blame on the cold weekend. Though numbers were down, there were lots of old faces.

## Clan's Duo of Deputy Lord Lieutenants

The recent appointment of Brigadier Alistair Macmillan as a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire may cause some confusion, since the county already have a Deputy LL called Alastair MacMillan - Chief George's nephew.

The Lord Lieutenant is the monarch's personal representative in a County or Lieutenancy Area and has various duties - most of a ceremonial nature - which may be carried out by his or her deputies as and when required. George himself served as Deputy LL for Renfrewshire for many years.

Alastair works with his father David in the family firm, White House Products, which "supplies a large range of oil hydraulic components to all sectors of industry".

#### Athletics - The Mile Race

Remember the constant efforts over the years that Logan [Robert's son] had made to win that thing .... well this year we actually won it, and took second place in the woman's division of it too. Both place-getters were of Mary Mancin's family. The lad that won, Ty McCormack (17), is the athletic champion of his High School with a best ever mile time of 4min 21sec, and second in the State of Georgia for cross country athletics. Second place in the woman's was Laura Mancin (Mary's grandaughter).

#### Best Clan

Once again we won the trophy for the Outstanding Clan of the Year, demonstrating the best clan spirit. We now have won this trophy five consecutive times over the past ten years. You can only compete every second year which means we have won every time we have entered. When the announcement was made you should have been able to hear the cheers over there at Finlaystone!

Official Biography as supplied by the

Brigadier Alistair Macmillan is 61 years of

age and lives in Howwood. He graduated

from Glasgow University prior to

Commission into the Royal Army

Medical Corps in 1975 when he was

attached to the Parachute Regiment.

Brigadier Macmillan was promoted

rapidly throughout his military (medical)

career and achieved the rank of Brigadier

in 2000. He was appointed Colonel

Commandant, Royal Army Medical

Corps in 2008. Operational deployments

have included Northern Ireland and

Bosnia. His interests include reading,

music, rugby and sailing.

office of the Lord Lieutenant:



Flying the Flag for the Branch

Sharon Stoneman and Ginny West of the Chlann an Taillear - pictured above at Richmond - have continued to represent the Appalachian Branch of Clan MacMillan at Highland Games in the state of Virginia.

### Pacific Branch News

The Clan MacMillan Pacific Branch AGM was held on 9th May 2009 at the The Old Ship Pub and Restaurant in Santa Ana, CA. Linda Harlow, San Marcos, CA, was elected President; Judy Young, Alpine, CA, as Secretary; and "Mac" MacMillan, Van Nuys, CA, as Treasurer.

Forthcoming events include the Queen Mary Highland Games at Long Beach, CA, on 13-14 February 2010 - for details of which see their website: www.queenmarv.com/

Retiring branch President Fred Young stepped down at the Costa Mesa Games on the weekend of 23-24 May. During his 3 years in office, Fred initiated the Jane MacMillan Memorial Scholarship Fund; and the 2nd Annual Wine-tasting & Silent Auction Fundraiser for it was held on 6 June at Vino 100 in San Marcus.

## Got Matar Update

Andrew MacMillan

I try to keep progress reports on the Got Matar website reasonably up-to-date, but I feel that time has again come round to report briefly by way of letter. My main purpose, however, is to thank you, on behalf of the Got Matar Community Development Group, for all your help and encouragement! The development of the school continues to move forward in line with the schedule on which I and the Community Development Group agreed in September 2006. It is extraordinary to look back over the past 3 years and see what an enormous amount they have achieved in such a short time under very difficult circumstances.

This year the school has a capacity of 450 pupils in 3 streams. When the fourth block of classrooms is completed within the next month or so, there will be basic space for all 600 children for whom the school was planned. This year it was possible to start building earlier than in previous years, and so there is less of a rush to get finished in time for the next intake of pupils in January.

You will recall that each year, a block, consisting of 3 classrooms and one "extra" room, has been built. In the first year the extra room was set aside as a school office cum teachers' room. In the second year, it was a library and in the third year, an interim multi-purpose science laboratory. The building now under construction includes a room to serve as a computer training centre.

The main problem we are now facing is that, because of lack of resources, the library has few books and the science laboratory is still in need of fittings and equipment, for which at least €6,000 are needed. My brother George has kindly said he will try to raise funds for purchase of 20 "Inveneo" low voltage computers and the installation of photovoltaic panels for the computer training centre, at a cost of over €20,000. He is trying to persuade congregations in Langbank and neighbouring churches to lend a hand.

Even though most of the basic infrastructure for the school will soon be in place, further construction is still required.. Immediate needs include additional washrooms, a separate school office, and some teachers' houses. The Community is also very keen to build a girls' hostel to enable girls from outlying villages avoid having to walk to and from the school in the dark. And they are placing high priority on facilities for practical skills training, developing these in such a way that they can also generate income to pay for bursaries: the first activity is expected to be school uniform manufacture to meet the demand from a number of different schools in the district. An Australian NGO – "Bricks & Cartwheels" - has shown some interest in improving opportunities for girls' education and, hopefully, will be persuaded to help with the construction of the dormitory and the skills training

As the building programme becomes less demanding, the focus of funding can shift towards "software". The most immediate priority is to meet the costs of bursaries to enable orphans and children from very poor families to attend the school. Now the bursary programme pays for uniforms and school meals, but it may, in future, have to be amended to pay for the

costs of teachers hired locally to supplement the work of the few government-hired teachers at the school, and to reimburse bursary holders for final year exam fees. Experience so far indicates that about one third of the pupils are only able to stay in school if they receive bursary assistance. At a value of €100-200 per pupil per year, total costs for 200 children will run to between €20,000 and 30,000 per

Queen Margaret's School in York adopted Got Matar as its "charity of the year" for 2008-09, and I have been told will soon be able to say how much they raised. The school is looking creatively at ways that it can develop links with Got Matar that would be mutually advantageous for the pupils of both schools.

The development of the school owes much to the two charities that have kindly managed collected funds - SONIA, run by Vanda Altarelli in Italy, and PEAS in UK, run by John Rendell. Both have been enormously helpful in recording donations and arranging for their periodic transfer to Kenva.

Finally, John Curtin, a retired theatre manager, who has been successfully organising tours by the Osiligi Maasai Warriors for the past 4 years, has agreed to arrange one in early 2010 for a troupe from around Got Matar to raise funds for the school. The 3-month tour would be centred on East Anglia and involve performances in schools, churches, local theatres and other venues. The troupe is already rehearsing!

For more info see www.gotmatar.org



Kinrara and Ardross associate Gillicattan and his son Dugall Dall exclusively with Lochaber because the old "Gillechattan Lands" there were at the root of the 300 year long feud between the MacMillans and Clan Cameron on the one side, and the Mackintoshes and Clan Chattan on the other. We know however that the MacMillans had lands elsewhere in the Highlands - as well as in Galloway - most notably on Loch Tayside and in Knapdale. The area between Lochaber and Knapdale constitutes the ancient homeland of the MacMillans' parent kindred, the Cenel Loairn - the descendants of one of the original Scots princes who'd come from Ireland in the distant past - and though Lorn was to become first MacDougall and then Campbell country, before then it was associated with Clann Challuim, i.e. the MacColmins, MacCalmans, and Mac[Gille]Callums.

The second oldest account of the MacMillans (the 16th century de Lany or Leny family tree) shows this kindred took their name from Colmin/Malcolm mac Maolan – a relationship still acknowledged by them in the early 18th century – and their ancient homeland is littered with names and traditions associated with Clan Chattan. The histories of the Malcolms of Poltalloch, the modern chiefs of Clann Challuim, show a close relationship between this kindred and the lairds of Craignish - an important lordship that once incorporated Macbeth's seat in his ancestral lands of Lorn. Though they later took, or were given, the surname Campbell, this kindred were known for many centuries as Clandowilcraginche, Clan Dhughaill of Craignish, but were MacDougalls with no connection to the Clann Somerhairle kindred of the same name.

In fact the traditions of these MacCouls (the phonetic version of the surname they commonly used) and the names of related kindreds living nearby, indicate a connection with the MacMillans – so I've long thought their surname may have come from Dugall the son of Malcolm mac Maolan; i.e. Dugall Dall of Clan Chattan. Of all my recent discoveries therefore, the most astonishing – and unexpected, since I stumbled upon it whilst researching Munros – is the naming of an early 16th century laird of Craignish as Dugal Cattanach; Cattanach being the most well known, though now rare, Clan Chattan surname.

This potentially most significant of discoveries will clearly stimulate much more research on this subject. In the meantime, read more about it in *Gillicattan's Posteritie* - on sale from the Clan Centre (see below).

### Focus on Finlaystone - Billy Bows Out



Billy Miller (who had been working a three-day week since he turned sixty-five in 2008) retired completely towards the end of September. During his ten-year period as Handy-man he has left his very original mark on Finlaystone's landscape, with the fort, the train, the tram, the pirate ship and, most recently, the hummer. His unique gift for imaginative ideas was realised with great practical skill and an unerring eye for line. The bow and stern of the pirate ship demonstrate

But Billy's achievements didn't stop there. If you wanted the simplest and most effective solution to any practical problem - like an up-turned tractor, a leaking dam wall, a jackdawinfested chimney, Billy was your man. While others might be scratching their heads, he got stuck straight in. If you need a good bargain in building

this to perfection.

materials, spare parts for machines, or anything else, Billy was the man to ask; and he could tell you the first name of the man in the shop to deal with.

One thing is for sure his originality and enterprise will find plenty of outlets on the Isle of Bute where he plans to spend his retirement.

George MacMillan



Above: The tram - named for Jane MacMillan - which Billy rebuilt after vandals fired the first version. Top Left: The Hummer - Billy's last work in the Finlaystone woods.

#### New Edition of Graeme's "Origins and Early History of the MacMillans ..."

Following the sell-out of the second printing of Graeme Mackenzie's "Origins and Early History of the MacMillans and Related Kindreds", an enhanced third edition has now been produced.

Though the text remains the same, the print of this version is much better; it is properly bound, rather than ring-bound like the two previous editions; and it also has a colour cover. Despite this, the cost remains the same - £,15GB or \$30US, plus the appropriate P&P (for details of which please see the Products and Publications page on the website or contact Pauline at the Clan Centre). Hopefully many members of the clan who already have copies of the earlier editions may wish to have the new version as well (especially as the Clan Centre profits from each sale).

"Gillicattan's Posteritie: MacMillans, MacPhersons, Mackintoshes & Camerons and the Great Lochaber Feud" (128 pages) - as discussed above - is also available from the Clan Centre at £,8 (contact the Clan Centre for details of P&P costs).

Graeme's long-awaited "The Macmillans in Glenurquhart" will be available early in the New Year (price etc. to be announced).



## Patron of the New Zealand Clan - and Ex-Prime Minister - moves to the UN

Note from the Editor of the New Zealand Clan Newsletter

Observant readers will have noted the absence of the name of the Patron on the letterhead in the July issue. We say a farewell and a big thank you to Helen Clark, Clan Patron for the last five years.

As you will all know, Helen resigned from Parliament earlier this year and was appointed 'Head of the United Nations Development Programme', the third-highest position of the UN in New York. We wish Helen well in this new challenge where she will once again, proudly represent our nation in this forum.

The position of Patron for the clan is under discussion and the committee will announce an appointment following our next AGM in January.

Jim McMillan.

## Glengarry Branch at the Maxville Games

As reported to the AGM on October 17 at Hawkesbury, ON.

"Table attendance was very good and the assistance of Ernie MacMillan and Carlyle MacMillan has been acknowledged with a letter of thanks from the president, Wm I. MacMillan. George McMillan and Shona MacMillan, daughter of Carol and Wm. J. also assisted at the table. Anne Neuman, President of North America Clan MacMillan, and her sister Margaret Taylor presented a display showing some of the historic sites of the venue for the 2010 North America MacMillan Clan Gathering in Kingston, Ontario. Our representation in the Parade of the Clans was significant as usual with a goodsized troup of MacMillans."

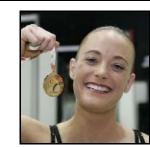
Photos of the Maxville Games have been put on the web by Secretary Jerry Stubbings at: <a href="http://picasaweb.google.com/jerry.stubbings/GlengarryHighlandGames2009#">http://picasaweb.google.com/jerry.stubbings/GlengarryHighlandGames2009#</a>

The Branch's AGM also heard that Harold MacMillan had been bequeathed Mary Beaton's genealogical materials and collected papers, and it was proposed that the branch provide assistance to Harold in his database organization for this.

The branch voted generous donations of 100 pounds each to the Clan MacMillan Centre and Project MAOL.

Harold, who was re-elected as branch treasurer, is also working on a "Historic Sites Tour" for 2010 - following the success of this year's event.

The elections for branch officers also saw Jerry Stubbings re-elected as Secretary; George McMillan elected as Vice-President; and Anne Neuman elected as President to succeed Bill MacMillan.



#### McMillan World Champ from New Zealand

Angela McMillan, who was World Champion in gymnastic aerobics in 2004, narrowly missed another gold medal at this year's World Games in Kaohsiung, Taiwan - by 0.3 points. She and her sister Diane run the Vortex Aerobic Club in Howick, NZ, and Angela is now acting as coach to 4-times world and national champion Charlotte Bass.

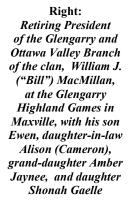
With thanks again to NZ Newsletter

#### A genealogical query from Margaret Pool in New Zealand

There is an entry in the International Genealogical Index submitted by an LDS church member for the baptism of John McMillan, 18 Nov 1820 in Kilmallie, parents are John McMillan and Catherine Cameron. There is no entry in the OPR.

John and Catherine are my ggg grandparents, their previous children were: Janet bap 1814, Gordonsburgh; Angus bap 1818 Gordonsburgh; and Dougald bap 1819 at Coirere; father John described as a shepherd, so this John fits in with the family, and being the 3rd son was named after his father.

The lady that submitted the information on John was called Catherine McMillan Wiseman , but the LDS could not tell me where she was from. Does anyone know her?







## Clan MacMillan joins in at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival

Mike McMillen reports

A popular event with our branch members is the annual Minnesota Renaissance Festival. It is the largest in the country with annual attendance grown to 275,000, including more than 500 entertainers, 275 crafters, and 120 food booths. The permanent site is a few miles southwest of Minneapolis, Minnesota, with beautifully crafted, permanent structures that could be a movie set (if somewhat idealized) of a 16th century village.

Running from mid-August through September, each weekend has a theme. One of these is the Highland Fling weekend, featuring a "Scottish village" devoted to clan tents, relevant vendors and, this year, the World Amateur Highland Heavy Games Championship. We adjust our apparel to fit the period. Participants get free admission.

The large attendance gives our branch much greater exposure than dedicated Scottish events in the area. The picture above shows Kim Wahl carrying the clan banner at the Festival. More photographs of our participation in it can be found in the drop-down menu of our "Calendar & Events" page at:

http://www.mcmillen-design.com/clan/pages/calendar.html



#### News of the Arizona Branch of Clan MacMillan

Clan MacMillan Arizona attended the 45th Scottish Gathering and Highland Games in the Margaret G. Hance Park at Phoenix on 21 & 22 February. Their tent at this event is pictured above.

According to their website - which is at <a href="www.clanmacmillanaz.org">www.clanmacmillanaz.org</a> - the branch were also planning to be at the 23rd Annual Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games on 6, 7, & 8 November.

## Washington Clan goes sheep reiving

Clan MacMillan in Washington State took a full part in the Tartan Day Scottish Festival at the Puyallup Fairgrounds on 28 March - including joining in the "Sheep-reiving Contest". This apparently involves surreptitiously stealing a stuffed sheep from the table of another clan and trying to keep it secure on your own table while all the other clans try to abduct it. The winners are the clan on whose table it is found at the end of the day. Unfortunately the MacMillans didn't win - despite the clan's reiving reputation back in Scotland - but a great day was had by all. Later in the year the clan also participated in the Bellingham Highland Games.



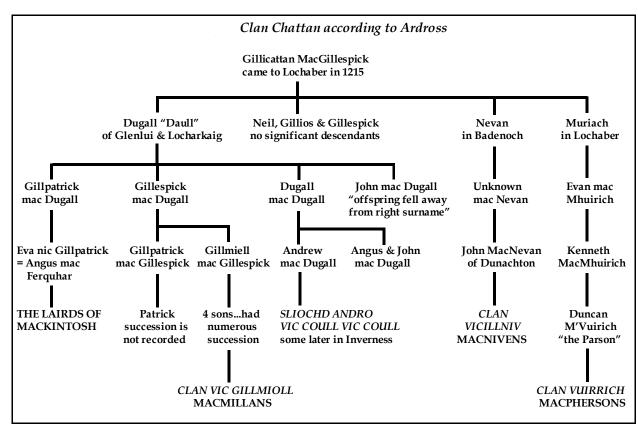
### A Message from the Chief

I hope that by now most clanspeople will know about the 'Tartan Sneakers' project. For myself, I see this as a highly original solution to my Christmas present problem; but they're probably best used in summer. They will be available from 14 December; but you can order now.

Just in case you're wondering what they are, picture a tennis shoe dyed in the colours of the Ancient MacMillan tartan. The big feature, in my opinion, is that you can show you're a MacMillan without going to the expense of buying a kilt and all that goes with it. Besides, a substantial proportion of the money you pay will go to help Clan funds.

For this novel idea we're indebted to Andres Linholm, who has recently become a member of the clan.

Full details can be found on www tartansneakers.com



The known history of Clan Chattan, some of it related by Kinrara himself, supports Ardross's account. Once the MacMillans had renounced their acceptance of Eva's descendants as chiefs - something Ardross makes a special note of and therefore in effect walked out of the clan, the MacNivens would have been the next known male heirs of Gillicattan. Their line however petered out in two heiresses who, as Kinrara is careful to point out, were both snapped up in marriage by Mackintoshes. Thus the only known male heirs, still within Clan Chattan. were the descendants of Muriach mac Gillicattan - who, as the MacPhersons, did indeed challenge the Mackintoshes for the captaincy in the 17th century (unsuccessfully).

The most significant new information to emerge from my recent work on Clan Chattan is in relation to what Kinrara and Ardross have to say about when and from where Gillicattan came to Lochaber. The fact that their stories about this are virtually identical shows that both of these late 17th century shennachies were using the same source material. In fact we even have a note made by Ardross saying that in 1701 he had in his possession several genealogical manuscripts obtained from Kinrara –

which presumably included one or more of the three since-lost sources quoted by Kinrara as the "amanuenses" for his clan history. Once again however Ardross includes some extra information that allows us to expand and explain what at first appears an unlikely story – especially as Ardross puts it.

Wheras Kinrara simply says that Gillicattan came to Lochaber from Connaught in 1215, Ardross states that he "came out of the county of Connacht, in Latin Conatha, in Ireland (in the reign of Aede the 2nd of that name Kg of Scots) and fixed his habitation in Lochaber in the year 1215 ...". Not only is there no known link between Clan Chattan and Connaught, but the one and only Scottish king called Aed died in the late 10th century. This would appear therefore to be a piece of nonsense that discredits Ardross – until one goes into it in more detail.

It will be noted that Ardross qualifies his Connacht – which might well stand for Connaught – with Conatha, which doesn't look anything like that (and which is presumably the name used in the original source). If however you combine the different elements of these two names you come up with Connachta, and that looks very like *Ciannachta*, the name of the territory belonging to the Irish O'Cathans.

In the early 13th century the Ciannachta was part of the kingdom of Tir Eogain, which was ruled by *Aed Meith mac Aeda*; i.e. Aed of Meath, son of Aed – or, to put it another way, "Aede the 2nd of that name ..." (and a king of Scots because that was the name of the Irish long before some of them settled in the later Land of the Scots).

From 1212 onwards this part of Ireland had seen bitter fighting as Allan of Galloway attempted to make good the theoretical grant of lands in Tir Eogain given him by the English king John (who was distracted from his Irish ambitions by the little local difficulty that resulted in his having to sign the Magna Carta - in 1215). Since Gillicattan's family had strong links with Galloway as well as with the Ciannachta they were bound to have become involved in such a struggle - though on which side it's impossible to say - and that would certainly explain why Gillicattan would have been in this part of Ireland at that time.

If Gillicattan was, as I've suggested, Maolan's son Malcolm, then he'd have been an old man by 1215; so he may well have retired to Scotland then to ensure the succession of his son Dugall; and probably not only to the lands in Lochaber mentioned by Ardross.

### The Clan Chattan Connection

### Graeme Mackenzie

It was back in 1995-6 that I first took a serious look at the MacMillans' alleged connection with Clan Chattan. At the time I was researching a paper for the Gaelic Society of Inverness to mark the 600th anniversary of "The Battle of the Clans", and a critical part of that task was to evaluate the claims made by Somerled MacMillan – in his clan history in 1951, and then in an article for the *Clan MacMillan Magazine* in 1959 – that the MacMillans had been one of the clans involved in that bizarre event.

Though the evidence that Somerled used and the arguments he made were not in themselves totally convincing, his contention had been supported in 1967 by Sir Iain Moncrieffe's discovery of a vital piece of evidence relating to one of the names used by the medieval chroniclers of the battle, which he published in the MacMillan section of his encyclopaedic The Highland Class. Building on Somerled and Sir Iain's work, I was able to confirm that the linguistic evidence supported the identification of the MacMillans as one of the clans at Perth, and then to show that recent work on the political context of the times indicated why they might have been involved in the battle.

The name of Clan Chattan does not appear in any written account of these events until the early 16th century, but Highland tradition had always linked this kindred to them; and one reason Somerled was so convinced of the MacMillans' part in the battle was the strength of the traditions in Lochaber that Clann 'ic *'illemhaoil Abrach* had once been part of Clan Chattan. I therefore followed up my initial paper - which was published as "The Rarest Decision Recorded in History: The Battle of the Clans in 1396" – with an attempt to discover what new light the MacMillan connection could shed on the origins and early history of Clan Chattan. This resulted in a paper called "Forever Unfortunate: The Original Clan Chattan" which was delivered to the Gaelic Society in 2001. While the earlier paper has long been available to MacMillans as a booklet sold through the Clan Centre, the second one has only hitherto been available in the Gaelic Society's "Transactions".

Since the booklet of "The Rarest Decision ..." has now sold out it seemed sensible, when considering a reprint of it, to add the other paper as well in a more substantial booklet, which could also be made available through the Clan Centre.

The need to prepare the papers for re-publication has prompted some further research on the subject, and this has resulted in two or three new discoveries that add significantly to the strength of the original case for the MacMillan–Clanchattan connection. The rest of this article will summarise that case and show why these new discoveries are so important.

Clann Ghille-Chattain ("Family of the Devotee of Catan") is named for a 6th century saint whose cult was particularly strong in medieval times in the western highlands and islands of Scotland, where it was believed he was buried at Braighe on the isle of Lewis. Since Catan's cult was also significant in northern Ireland, where it was believed he was buried at the abbey of Derry, there was a kindred there named for the saint as well: the Ua Chathain or O'Cathans. While traditional genealogies derive these two clans from different sources, it's striking that just as Lochaber tradition has the MacMillans being a leading branch of Clan Chattan, so in Ireland the O'Millans were one of the two most important septs of the O'Cathans. This might be taken as a mere coincidence were it not for the fact that the other leading O'Cathan sept was McGilligan – the same name as MacKillican, which in Scotland is considered a sept of Clan Chattan (they're both versions of MacGhille-Fhaolagain, "Devotee of Little Fillan", and as such alternatives to MacGhille-Fhaolain or MacLellan).

Phonetic versions of O'Cathain include O'Caine, O'Kain, O'Kean. This suggests the name of the

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individual who appears in the MS1467 MacMillan genealogy as *Cainn mhic Dubgaill*, and who is on record in 1273 as *Cane Megillolane*, was [Gille] Cathain. This reinforces the connection of the MacMillans – and the MacLellans, who take Cane/Cathain MacGhille-Fhaolain to be their oldest documented ancestor – with Clan Chattan.

Unfortunately there is no reliable early genealogy showing the ancestry of the Scottish Clan Chattan. There is however a seemingly botched pedigree in MS1467 that is clearly designed to connect Clan Chattan with the Mackintoshes – the kindred who as Clan Shaw defeated the MacMillans to take the "captaincy" (chiefship) of Clan Chattan in 1396 – and this seems to indicate a Cenel Loairn origin for Clan Chattan, like that shown for the MacMillans.

The earliest surviving account of the new Captains of Clan Chattan, Lachlan Mackintosh of Kinrara's Epitome of the Origin and Increase of the Mackintoshes, only takes the history of the old Clan Chattan back three generations before Eva nic Gilpatrick, whose marriage to Angus mac Ferquhar brought the clans together in the 1290s. The Kinrara MS is contemporary with the third oldest account of the MacMillans, which comes in Murdoch Mackenzie of Ardross's Origin of the haill tribes of the Clan Chattan. This also only takes the clan back to Eva's gt-grandfather Gillicattan MacGillespick; but wheras Kinrara is solely concerned with demonstrating Eva's descent through the eldest son of the eldest son (Gillepatrick mac Dugall mhic Gillicattan), Ardross gives a much fuller account of Gillicattan's progeny. In addition to noting the descendants of Nevan mac Gillicattan and his brother Muriach, he also shows how the MacMillans were descended from Dugall's younger son Gillespick - and as such were the senior male representatives of Gillicattan when William mac Angus claimed the chiefship of Clan Chattan through his mother Eva.

## Homecoming 2009 - Clan Events in Edinburgh and Around Finlaystone

### George MacMillan

The end of July saw the culmination of months of planning, as we gathered to welcome fellow clansfolk from all over the world to our little tent in the Homecoming Village in Edinburgh, to be followed by a three day MacMillan Gathering in and around Finlaystone.

The Edinburgh week-end was physically taxing – two twelve-hour sessions end on. About a hundred people signed the visitors' book; and Pauline would have lost her voice from talking continuously from 9am till 6pm had Ed McMillan (TN, USA) not rescued her with cough sweets and expert technical support. Thanks to him and all our helpers.

On the Saturday evening, the Clans were to march up the Royal Mile from Holyrood House to the Castle esplanade. A highlight of the weekend as Robert Bell, president of the Appalachian Branch, reports:

"The Parade of Clans up the Royal Mile was a thing that will remain in my memory. The slow climb up that one mile slope from Holyrood Palace to the Castle was of little effort and we waved at the cheering crowds.

Then followed the historic pageant performed on the esplanade of the Castle. A "trip", that traversed down the path of history of seven generations of Scots."

Monday saw us back at Finlaystone for the MacMillan Homecoming where we were joined by, amongst others, six Norwegian MacMillans, including Victoria, who had her 5th birthday with us.

We spent part of the afternoon tossing cabers, welly boots, bags of sand etc., and finally tugging on a rope. This year the rope did not break in spite of the added strength of the Norwegians, who always seemed to be on the winning team.

After supper Hugh McMillan, Clan Bard (UK), history teacher and poet, read some of his works, having first schooled us in the appropriate responses (laughter, applause or a ruminative 'mmmm'). We were enthusiastic pupils. David Brown was about to recite the 'Ballad of Sir Patrick Spens' (all about Scotland and Norway) when the Norwegians had to dash for a train: the rest of us enjoyed it, and then dispersed to get

a good night's sleep before setting off for Castle Sween and Kilmory (Knap) next morning,

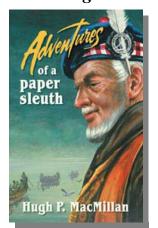
Everyone was so punctual for the bus to Knapdale that we caught an earlier Gourock - Dunoon ferry than planned; so there was time to loiter in Inverary, and chat with Councillor Donnie McMillan in Lochgilphead – an unexpected pleasure. Our reason for visiting Castle Sween was that 'MacMillan's Tower' is a very substantial part of it.

At Kilmory Chapel, Blanche held a lovely little service to receive nine people into the Community of the Tonsured Servant. Hugo, one of my grandsons, piped a duet with Robert Bell, and the sun shone.

On the final day a large group of us sailed to Bute to visit Mount Stuart, a Neo-Gothic 'pile' built around 1900 by the then Marquis of Bute. This trip was followed by an enjoyable formal dinner in Greenock before we all went our separate ways.

Thank you, Pauline, for flawless planning, and everybody for graceful co-operation.

## "The 'Indiana Jones' of document hunters ..." rides again



A paperback edition of Hugh P. MacMillan's memoirs is coming out. The Penumbra Press blurb has this to say about the author and his work:

"Hugh Pearson MacMillan roamed the highways, attics and basements of Ontario seeking out the often forgotten, usually unappreciated treasures of our documentary heritage. He involved himself in the founding of the Glengarry Historical Society, the Dunvegan Pioneer Museum, and the Nor'Wester and Loyalist Museum at Williamstown.

In 1964, Hugh persuaded the Ontario Archives to hire him as a 'roving archivist.' Over the next 25 years, he secured the deposit of an invaluable mass of documentation. All Canadians are in his debt for his initiative in 1967 to retrace voyageur canoe routes and to re-enact fur trade history. In 1984, MacMillan was honoured with a Doctorate of Letters by Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario.

Here are just a few of the treasures located and acquired for the Archives of Ontario from 1964-1989, as recounted by Hugh P. MacMillan in *Adventures of a Paper Sleuth*:

The papers of Sir John Graves Simcoe, first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada (Ontario), found with a farmer from New Zealand.

A station wagon full of the papers of Colonel RR McLennan, CPR contractor, world champion hammer thrower, and Glengarry militia leader.

The bugle from Canada's first warship, The Rainbow.

A piece of presumed human skin in a small tin box, with a note announcing "This is a piece of skin taken from the neck of Cut Nose, Sioux Indian chief hanged at Mankato, Minnesota Territory in 1866."

A previously unwanted collection now known to be the largest cache of 28mm film ever found in North America."

If you can't find a copy of Hugh's adventures in your local bookshop you can find out how to order it by mail from the man himself - by going to his new website: <a href="http://hughpmacmillan.com/">http://hughpmacmillan.com/</a>

## CMSNA 2010 International Gathering in ON, Canada

The 2010 International Gathering of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America will take place in June in Kingston, Ontario.

The historic city of Kingston, which served as the capital of Canada between 1841 & 1844, is situated about half-way between Montreal and Toronto, at the point where the Saint Lawrence River flows out of Lake Ontario.



Because of its strategic position Kingston has always been an important military centre for Canada. The entrance to the Rideau Canal, and the adjacent Naval Dockyards, were protected by Fort Henry - now a popular visitor attraction - and the city also boasts Canada's only Military University (the Royal Military College - the "Mackenzie Building" of which is pictured above), where Chief George's father taught in 1935/6.



Other historic buildings include the city hall - pictured below right - which is said to have been commissioned with a view to becoming the home of Canada's parliament; and the General Hospital which did actually house the Canadian Parliament whilst Kingston was the capital. The hospital is now affiliated to Queen's University, which was founded as "Queen's College" by the Church of Scotland in 1841. Your editor can vouch for the quality of the beer in the students union!



The waterfront is an attractive part of Kingston, and the gathering will include walking tours of such areas - plus a boat trip to the famous "1000 Islands" which are pictured at the bottom of the page. A "Mystery Day Trip" is also promised.

The programme for the gathering will include the Biennial General Meeting of the CMSNA, and a meeting of the Trustees of Clan MacMillan International. The Community of the Tonsured Servant will also have a business meeting, as well as an Investiture Service

The gathering is being organised by Anne Neuman, the current President of the CMSNA, and her family. Anne is the daughter of Elizabeth MacMillan Heath, a sister of the Mary MacMillan Beaton - the leading genealogist of the Glengarry Co. MacMillans - and a cousin of Hazel "the Hat" Huckvale. Elizabeth, Mary, and Hazel, were amongst the 85 great-grandchildren of Ewen Ban MacMillan and his wife



Christy MacLeod. The latter, who was known as "Granny Bheag", lived to the age of 99, and there's a wonderful picture of her with four generations of descendants in Mary, Hazel, and their cousin Elsie MacMillan's "Butternuts and Maple Sugar" which can be found online at the Calgary University website.

For further details of the CMSNA gathering watch Anne's blog at <a href="http://macmillan2010.spaces.live.com/default.aspx">http://macmillan2010.spaces.live.com/default.aspx</a>



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Someone seeing this unscripted exchange thought John was going to have a heart attack, as both participants faces became puce in the effort not to laugh.

On retiring from the army, John and his wife Belinda (or 'Blynda', as she is widely known) bought a thirty-acre farm where they grew and sold 'pick your own' fruit and vegetables. On top of that, they both played a very

active role in the life of Thornhill. In addition, John chaired Erskine Hospital (for disabled service personnel) at a moment of radical transformation, and Queen Victoria School, Dunblane – both of which involved huge fundraising efforts.

In spite of becoming a very senior officer, John's feet have remained firmly on the ground - not to say 'in it'. Though he had a

natural resistance to the lure of self-importance, his close contact with nature and his wife Belinda must certainly have helped. Recently, thanks to her efforts and to his mental and physical strength, he seems to have fought off a vigorous attack of cancer. Let's hope the gardening will continue for many years to come - even if not on a commercial scale.

## "Shug" the Clan Bard

Clan MacMillan has had its fair share of bards over the years: Douglas Macmillan (founder of Macmillan Cancer Relief): Somerled MacMillan (previous clan historian); and of course our present chief. None of them could be said to have been famous outside the clan; and sadly, if you put "Macmillan poets" into Google today - one indication of status in the modern world - you don't, yet, find anything on the first few pages about our new clan bard. You do of course find many entries for the great Yorkshire radio bard Ian McMillan, who most British clan members will have heard of; and top of the list from America is one Sou[ci] MacMillan who appears both as poet & musician - having apparently been the singer in a 1990s punk band playing "tantrum rock" ("fast, loud, and angry" they say - how unusual for so-called "punk"!).

Put in "Hugh McMillan" however and you'll find this on the website of the National Library of Scotland:

## National Poetry Day 2009 **Hugh McMillan**

 Hugh McMillan is one of the poets we chose to feature for National Poetry Day 2009.

Hugh McMillan lives in Penpont, Dumfries and Galloway, and has published five full collections of poetry. His numerous pamphlets include 'After the Storm', an award winner in the 2005 Smith/Doorstep Poetry Competition, and most recently 'The Spider's Spin on it'. A new collection will be published by Roncadora Press next year.

Keep looking and you'll eventually come across *Dark Mutterings from Drumsleet* where Hugh puts his own spin on the resulting "frenzy":

#### Pottery Frenzy

A period of strange and uncharacteristic activity over the next week in the pottery field for the self effacing bard of Park View.

Firstly the bard Shug will appear at Wallace Hall Academy on Wednesday morning in three workshops with weans.

Then Thursday 8th October is National Poetry Day, or Notional Poetry Day as I prefer to call it, in which a galaxy of stars will appear at the Poetry Porch in the Midsteeple.

The bard Shug is favoured to be one of the 8 poets chosen (others include Norman McCaig and Jackie Kay) to represent the theme 'Heroes and Heroines' in a series of poetry postcards issued by the Scottish Poetry Library.

So Shug's spider will be ubiquitous. He will also appear in the National Library of Scotland's website on NPD with some of the poems from Postcards from the Hedge.

On Friday night, 9th October, the bard Shug will be in Montrose reading with Raymond Vettese in a gig arranged by the brilliant Rachel Fox at the Links Hotel. 7.30 kick off. Then on Monday 12th October he will appear in Poetry Doubles with the excellent Imtiaz Dharker in the Robert Burns Centre in Dumfries starting 7.00pm.

Round about 10 in the evening of 12th October the bard Shug will then disappear, like Brigadoon, for another 100 years.



#### **About Me:**

I live in a little village in the south west of Scotland, dominated by the mighty Iron Age Fortress of Tynron Doon. I am married and have three cute weans. I teach history, and write poetry.

#### **Interests:**

Reading continually about poets who die premature deaths, writing mostly, especially poetry, though I am also a keen traveller.

#### My Blogs:

Dark Mutterings from Drumsleet.

Hugh's books are all listed on his Blog. "The Spider's Spin On It" is available from himself for £6 at: Park View, Main St.

Penpont, DG3 4BP.



## The Spider's Legend of Robert the Bruce

Ah aot scunnert tryin tae spin a web for denner, the stane wis a slaisterie, ah couldnae get a grip, ah wis hauf stairved by the end, no even a midge tae claucht, then a big lug o a mon cam in, raggety, right dosser, mair hungert looking than me, stairted eyeing me up, ah thought, am off, swung like tarzan oot the cave on a thread thick as a wean's wrist. Seemed tae cheer him up. Hugh McMillan

eemea vae cheer nim up. <sub>agh McMillan</sub>

## Lt-Gen. Sir John MacMillan

by George MacMillan

When I offered to write a profile of my brother John (born 8 Feb, 1932), I thought it would be easy: after all, we spent at least twenty-one years of our lives in close, and generally harmonious, proximity, and ended our Cambridge days sharing a set of rooms and many friends. Then I realised that since 1953 our contacts have been less frequent. So this piece will not be a biography but a series of incoherent snapshots.

Younger brothers are reputedly less inhibited than the first-born, who are sometimes embarrassed by that fact. It was certainly so in our case. I recall a children's party on board S.S. Athenia (tragically sunk at the start of World War II), as we crossed the Atlantic to join our parents in Kingston, Ontario in May 1935. It was suggested at a children's party that someone might like to sing a song. Without hesitation, John was up on a table with a passable rendering of 'Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer, do...'. Even as a senior general, he retained the urge to puncture what he saw as misplaced solemnity and pomposity - as when he took the final salute of an Edinburgh tattoo topped by a pink wig.

Big John' was a considerable oarsman, captaining both his school and college boat clubs, not to mention rowing in the winning Cambridge crew in '53, and participating in the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki. He later became President of the Army rowing club.

But it wasn't just the rowing. When competing in an army pentathlon, he beat all comers in the long-distance running event.

I remember going with him to Ben Lawers to reconnoitre for a ski-ing expedition for his regimental unit. So far as I remember, he carried my skis as well as his own, while I trotted along behind. Eventually, on the top of the mountain we found a few square yards of snow, down which we skidded, before returning to the car park below. While in Borneo on a littleknown, but highly successful campaign, it's said that he took a series of visiting officers for trips through the jungle and returned them exhausted to HO.

You might not think that the

nomadic life of the army would lend itself either to gardening or to rowing. But he contrived to do both. He sculled on the crocinfested Demerara River in British Guiana. He also sculled on the Wanzee in Berlin, where the main hazard was not crocodiles but the irregularity of the border with the Russian zone. There are few continents where he hasn't created a garden. The first was, again, in British Guiana. There it seems that ants were the main threat. He dealt with them by devising a system of moats. While commanding a brigade in Northern Ireland, he became friendly with a policeman who grew lettuces on a commercial scale. His own gardens were normally fertilised by the Regimental Mascot, a diminutive Shetland pony.

In the course of his army career, John served in several actual or potential hot spots. That some of them are now almost forgotten indicates the success of the operations, which were designed to contain, rather than to inflame, violence. He himself



was well suited to that policy: I'm sure he didn't lack for courage and physical strength. But he made full use of his head too. In Northern Ireland he addressed his troops on the necessity of being polite to all with whom they had contact. That inspired a cartoon depicting a soldier confronting an I.R.A. suspect with the words: 'Excuse me, sir, but I don't suppose you would have an armalite under your bed?'

John's army career culminated, as our father's had done, with his installation as General Officer Commanding in Scotland and Governor of Edinburgh Castle. Members of his family attended the ceremony on the Castle esplanade where the Gordon Highlanders of which John was the Colonel provided the guard of honour. His son Gordon, who was at University on an Army Cadetship and doing his attachment to the Gordons, had the task of presenting the key of the castle to his father. The witty lad attached a Regimental key fob to the key, and stuck a tourist ticket to the castle on to the cushion "in case the key didn't work". What he didn't know was that John had a message for him to deliver to the Gordons' CO; so he got a surprise when his father pulled it out from inside his frock coat and placed it on the cushion.

## MacMillan Heritage Cemetery in Glengarry ON



This item is lifted almost wholesale from MacMillan History Pieces on the Glengarry & Ottawa Valley branch's website.

Ancestors of MacMillans, McMillans, MacDonalds, McDonells, MacLeods, MacIntyres, McIntyres, Camerons, Carrs, Clarks, Henrys, Lashams, Munros, Quinns, to name a few, dating back to the 1820s, are laid to rest in this beautiful setting of the MacMillan Cemetery at Lot #19, Concession #1, Township of Finch.

Better known to the older generations as the "Laughing John Cemetery", this hilltop location is the resting place of many denominations. This being a Heritage Cemetery, very few people know about or visit this burying ground of their ancestors. If

you do visit the cemetery you will find that many traveled to this area in the late 1700s and early 1800s from Scottish homes such as Lochaber, the Isle of Mull and Fort William. Walk among the stones and sense the hardships that families faced with many young deaths but also their hardiness with many aged more than their three score and ten years.

The small volunteer board of directors have tried to maintain the site in its current state. With finances getting to a very minimum, they are requesting the support of all

descendents to try and help keep this burial grounds up in its present condition. Without your help, they will not be able to finance the upkeep of this Heritage Cemetery much longer. For more information, call 613-933-0469, or email to dona@ontarioeast.net.

Directions for finding the McMillan Heritage Cemetery can be found at the end of the piece on the Glengarry Branch's website at:

http://www3.sympatico.ca/comflex/mcmillan/mac hst1.htm



### The Charles McMillan and Caroline Lake Family



The genealogy of this family comes from one of the most impressive of the many privately printed MacMillan family histories held in the Clan Centre library.

"A History of My People and Yours" was produced in 1956 by Reverend Claud Nelson McMillan pictured above - who traces his family back to his grandfather Charles McMillan, a shoemaker who also became a church minister.

Charles is said to have been born in Scotland, and his date of marriage would suggest a birthdate of about 1800, though there seems to be no clue as to the part of the country he came from. He's said first to have emigrated to Maine, USA, before settling in Canada West (Ontario) in the 1830s.

Charles McMillan married Caroline Lake, daughter of John Jacob Lake and Sarah Stover, in 1835 in Ernes Town, Canada West. He was obviously a remarkable man since he graduated from tradesman to teacher and eventually minister in the Winebrenarian Church of God. As such he became a missionary and ended up travelling the world for the church; dving in Belgium in 1871.

Charles and Caroline's eldest son Dennis, who was known as "The Big Auctioneer" moved to Illinois where he was married in 1858, and ended up in Wyoming, Iowa. Claud McMillan, who was a Methodist minister, was the seventh of Dennis's ten sons - eight of whom are pictured right - and many of their descendants later settled in California.

Charles is known to have had two brothers who also emigrated to Maine and Ontario. One of them, John, went on in due course to Texas where he's said to have surveyed large parts of the state for which he was rewarded with huge grants of land upon which he raised a numerous family - about whom nothing is presently known. Can anyone in Texas help identify them?



