

# CLAN MACMILLAN *International*

## *Newsletter* *June 2017*



### **Bringing On the Next Generation**

Lynlee McMillin, pictured above, is the daughter of Stephen McMillin, granddaughter of Lamar McMillin (President of CMSNA 1988-89) & great-granddaughter of Claudia McMillin (President of CMSNA 1982-84). The family are descended from William McMillin who was born about 1763 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and died in 1845 in Louisville, Winston County, Mississippi. His descendants gather every year in Winston County, and this year's reunion - which will be the 67th - will take place at Lake Tiak O'Khata on August 6th.



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

Info on the Clan Centre & membership of Clan MacMillan International  
 can be found on the clan's official website: [www.clanmacmillan.org](http://www.clanmacmillan.org)

The Clan Centre publishes The Clan MacMillan International Newsletter each May/June and The Clan MacMillan International Magazine each December. They are sent free to members of Clan MacMillan International, the worldwide body that supports the Clan Centre's work.

## Donations

### *CMI is very grateful for donations received in 2016 from:*

Mary A. Hull, VA, USA; Earl R. McMillin, FL, USA; Isabel Zimmerman, IL, USA; Ralph and Allison McMillan, VA, USA; Diane Mather, OH, USA; Judith Wilken, MO, USA; LeRoy B. McMillen, MD, USA; Robert Baxter, Salisbury, UK; Alex and Caitriona, Stirling, UK; B. M. MacDonald, Muir of Ord, UK; Margaret Taylor and Anne Neuman, ON, CANADA; Peter MacMillan, Atherton, UK; Callum Mellon, Newcastle Under Lyme, UK; Nolan McMullin, WA, USA; Bruce Mcmillan, OH, USA; Mark Lindley-Highfield, Turriff, UK; Nigel Bacon, Wisbech, UK.

Community of the Tonsured Servant.

### *Conclave Challenge contributions have been received from the following societies/branches:*

Clan MacMillan Society of North America; Clan MacMillan Society of New Zealand; Glengarry and Ottawa Valley Branch; Clan MacMillan of Winston County (MS McMillins); Clan MacMillan Prince Edward Island; MacMillan Sept of Blue; Clan MacMillan North Central States; Clan MacMillan of Appalachia; Clan MacMillan Pacific Branch.

## Clan MacMillan International Summary Accounts for year to 31 December 2016

INCOME	£	US \$	OUTGOINGS	£	US \$
CTS		1000.00	PO Box Renewal		
Conclave Challenge	414.12	1940.20	Telephone		
Subscriptions	1419.57	480.00	Stamps/Printing	326.25	
Donations	122.54	725.00	Secretarial	35.00	
Project MAOL			Graeme	6186.24	
Publications	211.00	264.00	Utilities		
Transfer from US account	4714.75		Clan Goods [Books]	375.00	
Clan Goods	361.50		Miscellaneous	161.74	35.00*
Miscellaneous	38.63				
			Transfer to UK account		6999.99
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8068.65</b>	<b>4409.20</b>		<b>7049.23</b>	<b>7034.99</b>
Difference	1019.42	-2625.79			
<b>Opening bank balances</b>	<b>9532.02</b>	<b>9871.39</b>			
Excess of outgoings/income	1019.42	-2625.79			
<b>Closing bank balances</b>	<b>10551.44</b>	<b>7245.60</b>			

\* Postage

Average exchange rate for transfers UK \$ account: \$1.48 to £1



## The Home Team - Christmas 2016



*The Chief's Family - his children & grandchildren, his sister and brothers and their families*



### Winter Visitors to Finlaystone

George and Pauline Simpson are pictured with MacMillan descendant Linda Darhower (left) and her daughter Caitlin who dropped in during a winter tour mapped out for them by Carol Morris's *Highland Roots Ancestral Tours [HRAT]*. Linda was in the UK to spend Christmas with Caitlin who is studying in Oxford and asked Carol to map out a brief self-guided tour that would take in a few places with MacMillan connections. Their itinerary included Dunkeld (seat of Gilchrist Maolan's father Bishop Cormac), Culloden (where the Lochaber MacMillans fought alongside the Camerons), and Stirling Castle (where the portrait of George's father General Sir Gordon MacMillan hangs).

*HRAT creates customised tours for MacMillans & members of other clans. For further information contact [carol.millican.morris@gmail.com](mailto:carol.millican.morris@gmail.com)*

## News from the Clan Around the World

### PACIFIC BRANCH

From "The Tonsured Times":

#### *Jane MacMillan Scholarship*

The Jane MacMillan Scholarship is available to any current member who is a high school senior or a college student. It is not a lot of money [\$300] but the extra cash can help buy a book or two.

This year we had two recipients:  
Katy Harlow-Nohe  
William Parks.

The branch is at these events:

March 25:  
Bakersfield Scottish Games  
April 29-30:  
Woodland, Sacramento Games  
May 27-28:  
Scottish Festival, Costa Mesa  
June 24-25:  
San Diego Highland Games  
September 2-3:  
Pleasanton Scottish Games  
[www.macmillanclan.org](http://www.macmillanclan.org)

### NORTH CENTRAL STATES BRANCH

Events Attended by the Branch:

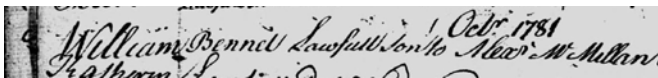
June 17:  
Chicago Scots Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Itasca IL  
July 15:  
Minnesota Scottish Fair, Eagan MN  
August 9:  
Southwest Missouri Celtic Festival & Highland Games, Buffalo MO.

# Big Mac, Little M', or no Mc at all

*Graeme Mackenzie*

I wonder how many hours I've had to spend, in the nearly thirty years that I've now been a professional genealogist, telling people not to get worked up about the spelling of their surname; indeed, warning them that if they insist on one spelling only for their family, they may miss out on much of its history. Fortunately when I lecture on the subject I can use some very telling illustrations from my own family history to make the point. They start with my father's failure to find his father's birth certificate because he looked only for the spelling that his father had told him was correct—i.e. Mackenzie—when in fact his father had been registered as a McKenzie.

M'millans (a spelling I use to cover all possible versions) often insist that MacMillan must be correct because it's the form used by the chief; but if you trace George's family back a few generations, you'll find that his great-great-grandfather William Bennett was baptised in Campbeltown in 1781 as a McMillan:



Go further back and you'll find ancestors of the chiefly family with their names spelt *McMillen* and *McMullen*. So when you look at the list of 138 documented versions of the name MacMhaolain (Gaelic original of MacMillan) on the website at [www.clanmacmillan.org/pages/genealogy/spellings.html](http://www.clanmacmillan.org/pages/genealogy/spellings.html) remember it would be rare (indeed, I suspect it has never happened) for one family to have been recorded with a single such spelling throughout its existence.

What most horrified my father when I discovered that his father had been registered as a Mc rather than a Mac, was the idea that it might suggest our family was Irish rather than Scottish. While it's true that most Irish bearers of this sort of patronymic surname spell it with a Mc, that's also the most common form found in Scottish families; often written as M', and sometimes with a line under the raised "c". If you trace it back in old handwritten records you find that the raised "c" was originally an inverted apostrophe; i.e. M' for M', showing that Mc is in fact just an abbreviated form of Mac.

When it comes to the name M'millan in Scotland, and especially in North America, a more useful pointer to an Irish connection than the use of Mac or Mc is the spelling of the rest of

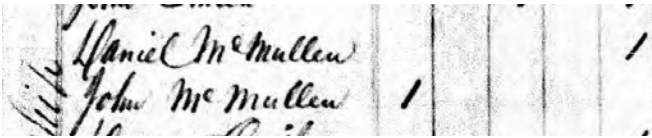
the surname. As I pointed out in the relevant section of *Clan MacMillan: A New History*, of the 969 M'millan entries in various indexes covering the years 1729 to 1920 that have been put online by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 839 spelt the name beginning **McMu**, and only 127 spelt it beginning **McMi** (with 4 as **McMe** and 2 as **McMa**). *McMu* versions consisted of 553 McMullan, 233 McMullen, 47 McMullin[g], and 6 McMullon. When you start digging down into some of the families represented in these indexes, you find the same inconsistency of spelling within individual families as you do in Scotland, and indeed in North America.

Recent research that I've been doing into M'millans in Pennsylvania and New York state shows that early members of a number of families that ended up using the form *McMillen* are often recorded as *McMullans*, *McMullens*, *McMullins*, *McMillins*, as well as *McMillans*. A particularly interesting example are the descendants of Daniel M'millan, who was born in about 1773 in New York. The entry for him in "Find a Grave" gives 1 Nov 1772 for his birth, though it's not apparent where that date comes from. It's unlikely to have come from the inscription on his grave in the Rockland Cemetery in Venango County PA which, as you can see in the photo below, is barely legible.

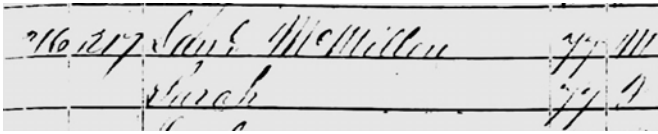
While Daniel's exact date of birth may be open to question, the basic outline of his life and of his family given on "Find a Grave" appears to be correct, though it lists only two of the seven or more children born to him and his wife Sarah Oliver. His eldest son, John, is one of those, and he appears alongside his father as the head of a separate household of McMullens in the 1840 Census for Venango—shown on the next page.







Ten years later the father appears with his wife and younger children as Dan<sup>l</sup> McMillen.



Daniel's son John and his family appear on the following page with the surname spelt McMullin.

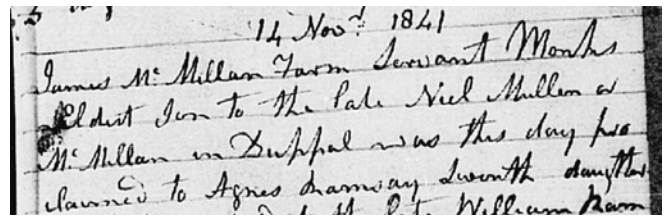
33	33	John McMullin	56	11
		Mary	43	14

John had fought in the war of 1812 against the British, and died in 1876 in Rockland. He is buried there in what is called the "McMillen Cemetery", even though the name appears on his gravestone as McMillin, which also appears to be the way the name is spelt on an old photograph of "Grandfather McMillin".



**John McMillin 1794-1876, and his grave in the McMillen Cemetery in Venango County PA**

Another family in Venango County PA in 1880, in Oil Creek, were William McMillan, a blacksmith, and his wife Rosenia Austin, who the census says were both born in Scotland. William died in 1917 and his death certificate tells us that he was born on 18 Sept. 1843 to James McMillan & Agnes Ramsey. A search in Scotland would however fail to find any record of such a birth, and the reason for that can be found in the marriage record of James McMillan & Agnes Ramsay in 1841, which is recorded in the OPR [Old Parish Register] for Kirkoswald, Ayrshire.



This record of James as son of "the late Niel Mullen or McMillan" led then to William's birth, dated 23 Sep. 1842, as a Mullen. He himself was married as such in 1865 and had his first children in Scotland as Mullens before emigrating in 1870. While it's known that some M'millans dropped the Mac/Mc when they moved to England, Millans/Mullens adopting Mc when they emigrated to America is something not noticed before; though in this case William may just have been resuming a name previously used.

This discovery was made during a search for the origins of another family of M'millans whose ancestor, also called William, came to PA in 1871, having been born in Scotland after the start of compulsory registration. Hours of fruitless searching for the birth certificate of a William born on the 30/31 May 1858/59 in Stevenston, Ayrshire, to a James and Sarah M'millan, was rapidly followed then by the finding of a birth registered in Stevenston on 30 May 1857 of William the son of James and Sarah Mullen.

William and his parents, and an elder brother, appeared as Mullens in the census of 1861 in Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, and the births of a further five children were found there in the next ten years; two as Mullens, and one each as a Millin, Mullon, & Millan. The birth certificate of the last of these gives the date & place of his parents' marriage as 1852 in Banbridge, Co. Down, and the 1861 census shows that William's parents and elder brother were born in Ireland. Though that contradicts what William's US census entries say about his parents' births (always given as in Scotland), such confusion is not uncommon, and can be understood, given the historical context.

Many M'millans emigrated to America in the 19th century from Scotland, to work on the railways, in coal mines and in steel-plants. The fathers or grandfathers of some of them may previously have immigrated to Scotland, to work in exactly the same industries, from Ireland. A few generations before that their ancestors may have moved from Galloway to Ulster as part of the Protestant plantation; and long before that, the clan's progenitors came to Argyll from Ireland. So the Scots-Irish came to Ireland from Scotland; and the Scots came to Scotland from Ireland. Plenty of scope for confusion then.

# More News from the Clan Around the World

## NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY

### President's Report 2016

Another year has gone by and what a year. Unfortunately due to weather conditions, a lot of events that we usually attend were either cancelled or washed out: Waipu being cancelled except for some Dancing & Piping which were transferred to other inside venues after many people (us included), had travelled long distances to attend, setting the standard for several events to follow.

With better weather, the 152nd Turakina Games were attended by many members. The Paeroa Games provided a better day weather-wise but the crowd appeared less than previous years. The inclement weather that continued throughout spring over much of the country forced the organisers to change the outdoor venue of The Upper Hutt Gathering on 12 November from Harcourt Park to the indoor locations.

The 2016 Auckland Games on 19 November were held at the Three Kings Domain, where they have been for many years. The day started out cloudy with some wind but we managed to get the tent up without too much trouble; but, unfortunately, we were forced to pack up early due to the weather... "Pipes in the Park" for St Andrew's Day at Waitangi, Wellington, on 27 November were also cancelled due to dangerous weather.



*Jim McMillan's camper van makes it's last appearance at the Turakina Highland Games on 28th January 2107*

Thank you to all members who braved the elements and manned or in some cases, held down the tents at these events.

We ran a couple of membership drives contacting MacMillans in Wellington and Christchurch which has gained us several new Members but we still appear to be in decline. In October, Jim produced our 100th Newsletter celebrating our 25 years of existence thanks to our Patron and Genealogist Margaret who was instrumental in founding The Clan Macmillan Society of New Zealand. She was our First President and Newsletter editor for many years. **Peter Pool.**

## AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY

### Presidents' Report - November 2016

Our annual gathering of members in August to select a committee to manage the affairs of the Society was attended by five members. Luckily according to our constitution that was just enough for a quorum. All positions remain the same as last year ...

Jan Brooks, Myrna Robertson and I attended the Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group lunch and AGM. Always a good occasion and this year was no exception.

The speaker was Don Mercer from the Victoria Scottish Heritage & Cultural Foundation. Don is on the fundraising & communications committee and as such has the ability to offer support to Scottish Groups....

In October I was fortunate to go along to the West Gippsland Historical Society at Warragul, to attend a talk by Jeannie Houghton who spoke of her time with author Cal Flynn. Cal wrote the book "Thicker than Water: History, Secrets and Guilt: A Memoir" a story regarding her ancestor Angus McMillan and his role in massacring Gippsland Aborigines. **Kaye O' Reilly.**

## APPALACHIAN BRANCH



### From The Chatterbox:

We had planned on Logan Bell run the tent at the Central Florida Scottish Games in Orlando this January; however, he and Sarah have received some wonderful news and they decided to stay home ... making sure SWEET BABY BELL stays healthy and strong! Please plan on attending Orlando in Jan. 2018.

**Right:** Alicia MacMillan danced at Stone Mountain 2016 and won 2nd in Sword, 2nd in Fling, & most promising novice.

**Left:** Carol Millican Morris and her cousin Fran sport their Millican tartan sashes at the Smoky Mt. Games 2017.





## Appalachian Branch loses a founding father

As we were going to press we received the following announcement from R. Craig Bell:

*I am writing with the sad news of the passing of my dad on Mothers Day. He passed peacefully and although his health had been failing we believe he was not in pain. The family gathered a week later to celebrate his life. Seventeen of us crowded into moms room at the Good Samaritan Center at Dowling Park. Dad's involvement in Clan MacMillan was one of the highlights of his life. He often talked about the memories that were part of all our lives. His interest has been passed to all the Bell family children, grand children and great grand children.*

James W. "Jim" Bell CTS (pictured right) was one of the founders of the Appalachian Branch of the clan, and we extend our sympathies to his widow Beverly, and to all of his family.



## Romilly Squire of Rubislaw, born 3 April 1953, died 7 December 2016

### George MacMillan

I first met Romilly in the mid-late 1970s in characteristically unconventional circumstances. At that time he was 'marking time' as an art teacher in a Scottish state secondary school, with occasional sallies into the world of soap opera. At week-ends he and his lawyer friend, George Way, would occasionally join with friends in the Sealed Knot to re-enact, or even fabricate, battles in the style of the British Civil War period. My imaginative late wife, Jane, arranged for such an event to take place around our house; a reconstruction of the capture of the 9th Earl of Glencairn during the Civil War (around 1650). The battles were indeed spectacular, but hardly more so than the mountain of German lager bottles retrieved from the Sealed Knot camp site next morning. An enterprising S.K. member had got his hands on an unwanted pallet-load on a freighter moored in Leith Dock and taken his chance, to universal delight.

As consciousness dawned over the camp, my ancient General of a father was surprised to spy two gentlemen dressed in bright, but fairly flimsy, yellow tabards making towards him, bearing a scroll, which they handed to him with due deference. The scroll contained a beautifully executed petition addressed to the chief of Clan MacMillan that he might be graciously pleased to admit the petitioners to his Clan.

As a detached observer I found it hard to determine where make-believe ended and reality began. How much harder for my father, who found himself landed in it! He took on his role with grace, and the two young strangers were duly admitted. Later - not much later - they got jobs; George Way as Secretary to the Standing Council of Chiefs, and Romilly as official painter to the Lord Lyon's Court. That was the point at which reality kicked in. If you doubt that, turn to the introductory pages of George Way's and Romilly Squire's authoritative book on Scottish Clans and families (Scottish Clan and Family Encyclopedia). In the discussion of clan-related Scottish heraldic principles, the arms chosen to exemplify a Chief's 'achievements' are not those of Lord Macdonald or the Duke of Argyll but those of a comparative 'mouse' - the Chief of Clan MacMillan.

## Trees Planted at Murlagan

*It's not known how long the MacMillans have been associated with Murlagan, at the west end of Loch Arkaig, but they probably held it when their seat was on Loch Eil (in the early 15th century) and then further east on Loch Arkaig (in the early 16th century). The first documented MacMillan of Murlagan was William, a son of the Duncan Ban mac Finlay who was in Creiff in 1588, and who appears on the record as a follower of Cameron of Lochiel in the 1540s. As we've recorded previously in the newsletter, Keith MacMillan (Cochrane AB), who is descended from a Loch Arkaigside family, has taken a particular interest in the burial ground at Murlagan. Here's his report on the latest developments:*



There are references to the graveyard in 1746 when Bonnie Prince Charlie and many clan leaders met there, and there is a letter to Archie "Murlagan" in Montreal dated 1 July 1803 which talks about the delivery of a gravestone to Murlagan for someone close to him who appears to have died about the time the MacMillans left Scotland the year before. On May 11, 1970, a government official visited the site and in addition to the size and shape of the graveyard he noted that it was in a total state of disrepair but that "...several upright gravestones are evident."

My involvement started in 2014 when I tried unsuccessfully to purchase the site from Lochiel. However, he was very supportive of the graveyard project and gave me permission to do "scientific dowsing" on the site, which was done in September, 2014, by Dr. Ian Orkney a long-time friend of our chief George. Ian concluded that there were 49 adult graves and identified the oldest and newest. The Cameron Chief agreed to lease the site to me and by June 2015 the Licence to Occupy was signed and returned. It took some time and a lot of discussions with MacMillans and others to finalize a plan to put a few trees around the perimeter of the graveyard to mark its location. Then it was a matter of choosing the type of tree and finding a project manager. Thanks to Lochiel, who introduced me to his good friend and former manager of the estate, Richard Sidgwick. Richard not only recommended the sycamore tree but arranged all the details, the work crew and the materials as well as the supervision. The project - the planting of six trees using 6 foot high guards with strong mesh, fertilising, aftercare, etc. - was completed in January of 2017. The trees are small, but I understand they will grow quickly, reach great heights, have large canopies and live a couple of hundred years. Check it out in 100 years - it should look great !!!!

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

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

### *Regalia given when a candidate joins CTS*



### **CTS INVESTITURE SERVICE CANCELLED**

Our next Community of the Tonsured Servant (CTS) Investiture Service was supposed to be held at Finlaystone Country Estate, Scotland, the home of our Chief, George G. MacMillan, CTS, of MacMillan and Knap, on 6 August 2017. The service was to be held in conjunction with a MacMillan Gathering which will be taking place at Finlaystone Estate on 6 August and in Edinburgh, Scotland, 7 August 2017 when all MacMillans have been invited to take part in the Edinburgh Festival Tattoo performance.

We have two new candidates: Dr. Iain Clifford Macmillan of Hexham, Northumberland, England, and Freya Alexandra Mae Tugwell, of Quedgeley, Gloucester, England. Unfortunately, neither candidate is able to be in Scotland for the Investiture on 6 August 2017, so just the Investiture Service has been CANCELLED for this Gathering. Everything else continues. Iain and Freya will be invested at the next CTS Investiture opportunity.

The next opportunity for a CTS Investment Service will be next summer in Belfast, Maine, USA in conjunction with a Clan MacMillan Society of North America (CMSNA) Gathering, 28 June to 2 July 2018. Hope to see you there. Contact CMSNA President Jane Strauss CTS at [jmacstrauss@aol.com](mailto:jmacstrauss@aol.com) if you have any questions.

**Grants by CTS to Clan MacMillan International Centre (CMIC):** the total CTS Grants to CMIC to date is \$43,143.00US since 1996 averaging \$1961.05US per year for 22 years.

### **CTS has also set up two Tribute Investment Funds and welcomes donations:**

**(1) The Rev. Canon A. Malcolm and Sally MacMillan Tribute Endowment Fund:** Established March 2003. Sally, Malcolm's wife, died 1 March 1999 and "Father Mac" died 9 September 2008.

**(2) The Jane MacMillan Tribute Fund:** Established 15 June 2005. Jane was the wife of Chief George MacMillan, and died of cancer on 27 June 2005, at age 74. It is a fitting way to remember her tireless work, wisdom and friendship and her founding of the Clan MacMillan International Centre in 1991.

**We thank you for your tremendous support over the last 22 years**

For further information about CTS memberships, Donations, Tribute/Endowment Funds, Bequests or Memorial Gifts, contact Blanche McMillan, **phone: 905-637-3395** or **e-mail: [jbcmillan@sympatico.ca](mailto:jbcmillan@sympatico.ca)**  
For more information about Clan MacMillan's CTS, please go to **[www.clanmacmillan.org/CTS.htm](http://www.clanmacmillan.org/CTS.htm)**