

# CLAN MACMILLAN *International*

## *Newsletter* *June 2021*

### Historic MacMillan artifact discovered in England

To be loaned for display in the Clan Centre



We've learnt recently that the seal of the Reverend John McMillan, the Church of Scotland minister of Balmaghie who left the established kirk to found the Reformed Church of Scotland in the early years of the 18th century, is in the hands of one of his descendants in England. The gold-plated seal belongs to the Rev. John's 5xGreat-Grand-daughter, Mrs Stella Rogers. She's the daughter of the fifth of a line of Thomas Rowatts, the first of whom was a Reformed Church of Scotland clergyman who married Margaret McMillan, the daughter of the second Rev. John McMillan, and therefore the grand-daughter of his famous father, the first Rev. John.

Mrs Rogers wrote to us a few months ago, attaching the above pictures, and asking us if we knew anything about the seal. Since it is pictured in the Rev. R. R. Reid's 19th century biography of John McMillan, we had no difficulty identifying it, and an expert has since confirmed for Stella that it does come from the mid-18th century. Stella has offered to loan it to the Clan MacMillan Centre for display - subject to agreement about security and insurance - and hopes to bring it up to Finlaystone later this summer.

We plan to do a major feature on the Rev. John McMillan, the seal, and Stella's family, in the CMI Magazine in December. In the meantime we wonder what has become of the Rev. John's cup, which was illustrated by Rev. Reid in his biography along with the seal.



**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 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.

### The Editorial Column

Once again we have to publish a newsletter with precious little news of clan activity around the world as we continue to battle the pandemic. With the success of the vaccination campaign in Britain things are finally due to reopen here in July and August; though, after previous disappointments, we're not counting any chickens yet. Sadly it comes too late to save the Inverness Highland Games (due to have happened in mid-July) and the Edinburgh Festival (which normally lasts through much of August). Since most Brits are having to "staycation" this summer, we're hoping that Finlaystone will benefit, and that the Clan Centre will once again have some visitors. The full reopening of libraries and archives - if and when that happens - should also allow me to catch up on a backlog of research (much of it for MacMillans), the fruits of which will go some way to relieving the financial strains that the lockdown has caused.

The accounts given below will also show you how much of a strain the pandemic has put on the Clan Centre's finances. It's very fortunate that we had already decided, before the lockdown really bit, that we should discontinue producing paper copies of our publications for our members, since that saves a lot on printing and postage; though probably not enough to make up for the drop in income that has resulted from the lack of visitors to the Clan Centre. In the circumstances we really are very grateful for the ongoing generosity of the branches and of the CTS whose donations make all the difference in circumstances like these.

As you will read in the middle pages of this newsletter, my desire for access to books and records is heightened by the discovery that Clan MacMillan is going to need a new "New History". It seems only yesterday that I finished the years of research and writing that went into "Clan MacMillan: A New History" - though it was actually published half a decade ago - and now it turns out I need to do it all again. Well thankfully, not all; just the earlier chapters, dealing with the medieval history of the clan. I've explained the reasons for this in those middle pages; and I should perhaps apologise - at least to those of you who are not too interested in the detailed history of the clan - for how confusing they may be. However, since I'm asking for financial support to follow up on the new discoveries about our MacMillan ancestors, it's only fair that you get a chance to see what I'm on about, and to understand the significance of the searches that now need to be undertaken. As you'll see, in this instance - if in no other - Clan MacMillan may be lucky to have a Mackenzie at the historical helm.

*Graeme Mackenzie*

### Summary of Clan MacMillan International Accounts from 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2020

INCOME	UK Account in £ (incl. PayPal)	US Account in \$	OUTGOINGS	UK in £	US in \$
Conclave Challenge	0563.93	0518.00	Stamps/Printing	0451.92	
Subscriptions	2367.34	0125.00	Graeme	6186.24	
Donations	0238.16	0085.00	Clan Goods	0000.00	
CTS	0722.46		Miscellaneous	0060.17	
Miscellaneous	0094.10		Transfer to UK Account		15000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3985.99</b>	<b>0728.00</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>6698.33</b>	<b>15000.00</b>
TOTAL INCOME:	3985.99	0728.00	<b>COMBINED UK/US RESULT: -2144.61</b>		
TOTAL COSTS:	6698.33		Average Exchange Rate for Transfers: £1 = \$1.28		
<b>NET INCOME:</b>	<b>-2712.34</b>				
<b>OPENING BANK BALANCES</b>			<b>CLOSING BANK BALANCES</b>		
RBS	3295.57	17412.33	RBS	12281.00	3140.33
Paypal	0066.06		Paypal		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£7236.22</b>	<b>\$12541.33</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£12281.00</b>	<b>\$3140.33</b>

The income noted above includes Conclave Challenge Donations from the Clan MacMillan Societies of Australia, New Zealand, and North America; from the Pacific and the Glengarry & Ottawa Valley Branches, and from the Mississippi McMillins. Conclave Challenge donations totalling US \$1210 from the Appalachian and North Central States Branches, and from the Sept of Blue, were received before the 31 Dec 2020, but were not banked until after that date, so will be recognised in this year's accounts.

# News from the Clan Around the World

## Clan MacMillan Society of Australia: From their most recent newsletter



Clan MacMillan AGM, Oct 2004  
Myrna Robertson, June Senior, Debra Vaughan & Mick M

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear members and friends of the Clan MacMillan Society of Australia, another year has passed with little to no activity for our society. I would like to thank you all for your continued support in these difficult times, membership is at an all time low so your support is invaluable. Government restrictions have meant we couldn't attend our usual Highland gatherings this year. Our next event should be the Kirkin' of the Tartan at Scots Church in Melbourne. I have checked the "Melbourne Tartan Festival 21" web site and they have it listed for the 11th July. ... Next is the Ringwood Highland Games and Celtic Festival to be held on 3rd of October.

Between lockdowns we were able to hold our 2020 AGM. The committee remained the same apart from The Treasurer, Mick McMillan, who has resigned due to ill health. We thank Mick for his many years of service to Clan MacMillan Australia and International. Amanda Fing is our new treasurer and we wish her well in the role.

*Kaye O'Reilly, President.*

MICK MCMILLAN [pictured above with other CMSA Committee Members at the 2004 AGM]. Mick joined the CMSA in 1999 and became a committee member in 2001, assistant editor helping June Senior with printing in 2002 and in 2003 became Vice President and Editor. He took on the additional roles of Editor and Trustee in 2015. He gave up the role of Editor in 2017 but continued as Treasurer and Trustee till 2021. Mick and Mary-Anne could also be found hosting our information tent at the Ringwood games for many years. That's over 20 years of Service. Congratulations!



A VERY HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY TO LIFE MEMBER JUNE DANKS [pictured right].

As an inaugural member of CMSA, June has been a great supporter of the Clan. She joined the committee in 1997 and became President in 1998. She resigned the role in 2015.

## New Trustees appointed to the Board of the Clan MacMillan International Centre

Following the resignation of Mick McMillan (see above) as the Australian Trustee, the recent death of Robert Bell, one of the Trustees from the United States (see obituary later in this issue), and the death some time ago of Lamar McMillin, another Trustee from the USA, Chief George - after consultation with the remaining Trustees - has appointed the following to become Trustees: Kaye O'Reilly, President of the Clan MacMillan Society of Australia; Butch MacMillan, Vice-President of Clan MacMillan Society of North America and Treasurer of the Appalachian Branch; Mike McMillen, past President of the North Central States Branch and CMI Webmaster.

In the lead-up to the Trustees recent virtual meeting (May 22), Mike submitted an "Online Media Overview" which contained an analysis of visits to the CMI website. It showed the most visited pages during the week 22-28 April. The top 10 (excluding the Homepage - which was the most visited) were: Tartan 143, Septs 45, Symbols 43, History Intro 40, Genealogy 31, Emigration Map 30, Societies 29, Clan Lands Map 25, DNA Project 25. Mike also reported on the Clan MacMillan Facebook page:

*"The CMI Facebook page was launched in December 2019. ... Facebook has received much negative press, some deserved. However, it is a very popular platform and the CMI Facebook page now has over 1100 members. The posts of new members give the impression this page is the first exposure many of them have had to the clan. Many are clearly overjoyed to be able to join and interact with other MacMillans as well as discovering there is a functioning Clan MacMillan in existence. On average Facebook members appear to be younger than members of CMI and clan branches. My son Tom (who co-moderates this as well as a popular Facebook page addressing German immigration history), is much better acquainted with the medium than I. He noted that many Facebook users search for information strictly within the Facebook platform, not the broader internet as one would with Google. It is worth joining and browsing posts to get an impression of the perception, mindset and knowledge (or lack thereof) of M'Millans in the wider world. At over 1,100 the majority are not members of CMI or clan branches. This is another benefit of Facebook.*

Graeme submitted a report to the Trustees on CMI Membership, Project MAOL, and other aspects of his work for CMI (an update of material included in his Editorial in the last CMI Magazine).

## Pacific Branch of Clan MacMillan: News from the "Tonsured Times"

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings clan members. I hope everyone is enjoying beautiful spring weather. I personally am glad to leave winter behind. I'm also looking forward to things opening up again and the pandemic being behind us soon. Kern county where I live has moved into the orange tier and our restaurants are 50% seating capacity and such businesses as beauty shops, bars, museums etc., have opened. The Costa Mesa games will be virtual this year and are featuring such things as an online concert and virtual whisky tasting, I'm not sure how they are doing that. There will be online streaming of Scottish events such as piping, drumming, highland dancing and heavy athletics. Should be great fun.

*Linda Cooke, President.*

**Upcoming Events:** San Diego Highland Games have been cancelled. Pleasanton Highland games are tentatively Sept 4-5, 2021, but are subject to change based on the pandemic conditions.

## Clan MacMillan Society of New Zealand: From Newsletter editor, Jim McMillan



Marilyn & Jim (front row) with Fiona, Ross, Phillipa and Debra

“Marilyn and I celebrated a special event on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May when we achieved 60 years of marriage. We were pleased that all four children from rural Northland, Mosgiel, Wellington and Whangarei were able to travel to Wellington for a family celebration over two days with six of our ten grandchildren and other members of the family on the first weekend of May.”

*Graeme adds: It's been my pleasure to stay with Marilyn & Jim on a couple of occasions, so it's wonderful to congratulate such a hospitable, knowledgeable, and hard-working couple on their anniversary. May they have many more years together.*



6 May 1961 at the Hurst Studios, Napier

**1st January 2021:** A decision was taken to cancel the Waipu Highland Games - which are always held on the first day of the year - back in mid-2020 because of the pandemic. Had they been held, they would have been the 150th Waipu games. This anniversary will now be celebrated on 1st January 2022.

### 30 January 2020 - 157<sup>th</sup> Turakina Highland Games: Report by Jim McMillan.

These, the first North Island games since the pandemic, went ahead as scheduled. Unfortunately, Marilyn and I were unable to attend but Duncan McMillan kindly offered to travel from Wellington to Waikanae, collect the display material, drive to Turakina [2 hours], man the clan tent for the day and return everything in Waikanae later in the evening, before driving back to Wellington. Duncan reported a reasonably good attendance with several enquiries along with members joining him at the tent. He collected \$110 for the clan made up of sales, subscriptions and donations. Once again, no new members were signed up, of increasing concern for all clans.

### 13 February 2021 - 28<sup>th</sup> Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo: Report by Margaret Pool.

It was such a pleasure to be driving down to Paeroa to attend the Highland Games, even if it was at an early hour. Avon arrived before us, and with the help of his daughter Linda had erected the tent; lots of other clans and businesses also had their tents erected and there was a good representation of clans. There was a parade of clans, Avon representing Clan MacMillan and carrying our banner, followed by the official opening.

We had quite a few enquiries at the clan tent, more than usual which kept us busy, we handed out several membership forms but none have been returned with a cheque. Many people were interested to find out about their clan even if it wasn't associated with MacMillan and its septs. We had a good day, the first games we had attended in a year, thanks to helpers Avon, Linda, Fred, Margaret, Peter, Allan and Mary. Well done Paeroa for a great day ... Scottish games all well organised, look forward to next year.

## Appalachian Branch of Clan MacMillan - Expected attendance at Games:

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games are currently scheduled to take place as advertised on 8th to 12th July 2021 and it's presumed that the branch's AGM will take place during these games as usual. The branch is also expected to attend the Stone Mountain Highland Games on 15-17 October 2021.

## Clan MacMillan Society of North America: Gathering postponed to July 2022

President Keith MacMillan has informed us that, all being well, their long-planned gathering in Calgary, Alberta, will now take place 20-23 July 2022. As previously, it's scheduled for after the Calgary Stampede (9-17 July). Accommodation will be available in the University of Calgary. Further details will be released on the website: [www.clanmacmillan.org/pages/societies/cmsna.html](http://www.clanmacmillan.org/pages/societies/cmsna.html)

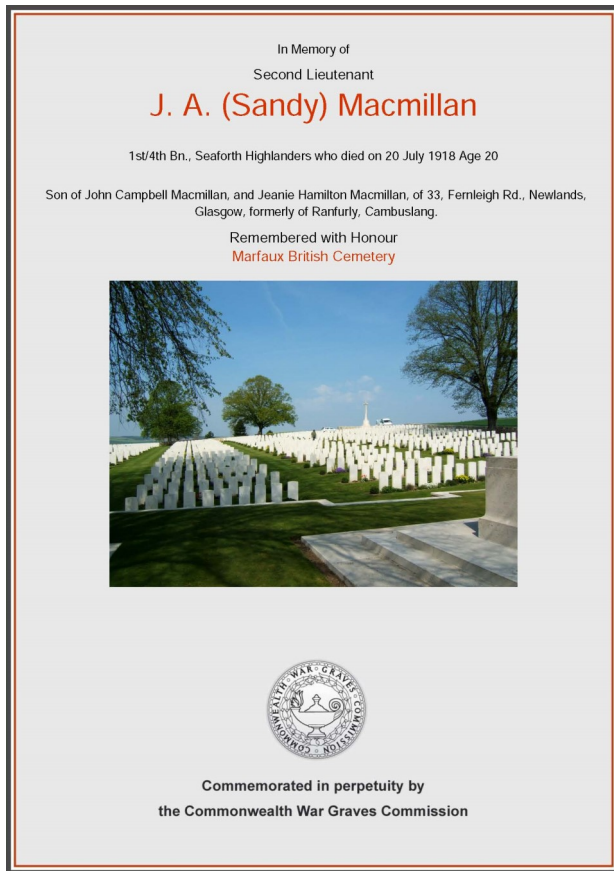
### A McMillan Sampler (pictured right)

This is a recreation of a sampler originally created by Mary Eliza McMillan - born 15 January 1850 in Tennessee (as “McMillian”) - the picture of which has been sent to us by her great-great-grandson, Chris Dey.



## Clan MacMillan Society of France: News from the President, Patrick Million

For us in France, not much is happening because of the confinement. Events are only beginning to come to life. On July 20, 2021, Hervé will represent Clan MacMillan at Marfaux cemetery in the Marne (East of France) for a moment of memory and the laying of flowers on the grave of JA (Sandy) Macmillan. In August, we will be at the *Festival Interceltique de Lorient* in Brittany.



### Who were Lieutenant Sandy's Macmillans?

Lt. Macmillan's father John Campbell Macmillan was born in 1854 in Carsphairn, Galloway, to Robert McMillan and Agnes Campbell. Robert McMillan was a House Carpenter in 1851 and a Master Joiner in 1861. By 1881 however he'd become a Grocer, and when he died in 1886 he was described as a Merchant. He left a will which was registered in both Scotland and England, and his probate in London was confirmed by a William McCall McMillan.

Robert's death certificate showed him to have been the son of Robert McMillan, shepherd, and Mary Mathewson. His baptism, on 27th August 1797 in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, says that he was their "natural son", which means it's impossible to trace the line back any further. However, the name of the McMillan who confirmed Robert the Merchant's probate in London, suggests his father Robert may have been a younger son of a well-connected family, since William McCall McMillan (1838-1923) was the name of the second son of James McMillan of Changue & Barr (c.1790-1865) and his wife Catherine McCall. James was a son of Thomas McMillan of Lamloch (c.1752-1831), who was the fourth son of David and Marion MacMillan of the Holm of Dalquhairn and of Brockloch. William McCall McMillan's elder brother, Thomas McMillan of Changue & Loxton (1836-1873) married Janet Roger, and was succeeded at Changue by their son David, born in 1866.

### The Sad Fate of Two McMillan Brothers who may have been Lt Sandy's cousins

David McMillan of Changue JP married Agnes Turner McCulloch, and their eldest son, born in 1896 at Changue, was William McCall McMillan. They had two other sons, Ian and Thomas Ralston—who would eventually inherit the estate of Lamloch – and two daughters, Beatrix and Eleanor. In 1912 David McMillan and his son Ian arrived in Canada, to be followed in due course by his wife Agnes and their two daughters (Thomas may have stayed in Britain).

In 1915 William volunteered to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force, to be followed in 1916 by his brother Ian. They both served in the 49th Battalion of Infantry, and both died in action on the Western Front: William on the Somme in October 1916 and Ian at Passchendaele in October 1917. Ian is buried in the Nine Elms Military Cemetery at Poperinge, Belgium. William is commemorated on the Canadian Monument at Vimy, France.

MACMILLAN, IAN, Private, No. 425749, 49th Battn. Canadian Infantry, Canadian Expeditionary Force, 2nd s. of David MacMillan, late of Changue Barr, co. Ayr, of 125, Wellington Crescent, Winnipeg, Canada, by his wife, Agnes Turner (19, Argyle Place, Edinburgh), dau. of John McCulloch, of Laggan, Ballantrae; and brother to Private William M'Call MacMillan (q.v.); b. Barr, co. Ayr, 26 Oct. 1897; educ. Barr and Girvan Academies; went to Canada in 1912, and entered the Union Bank, Winnipeg; volunteered for active service in Jan. 1916, and joined the Canadian Infantry; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from April, 1916, and was killed in action at Passchendaele 30 Oct. 1917. Buried in Nine Elms Cemetery there; *unm.*



Ian MacMillan.



William M'Call MacMillan.

MACMILLAN, WILLIAM M'CALL, Private, No. 425150, 49th Battn. Canadian Infantry, Canadian Expeditionary Force, eldest s. of David MacMillan, late of Changue Barr, co. Ayr, of 125, Wellington Crescent, Winnipeg, Canada, by his wife, Agnes Turner (19, Argyle Place, Edinburgh), dau. of John McCulloch, of Laggan, Ballantrae; and brother to Private Ian MacMillan (q.v.); b. Barr, co. Ayr, 10 Aug. 1896; educ. Barr and Girvan Academies; went to Canada in 1912, and entered the Bank of Ottawa, Winnipeg, also at Dauphin; volunteered for active service soon after the outbreak of war, and joined the Canadian Infantry in May, 1915; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from April, 1916; was reported wounded and missing after the fighting at the Battle of the Somme 8 Oct. following, and is now assumed to have been killed in action on or about that date; *unm.*

From De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour



Nine Elms Military Cemetery

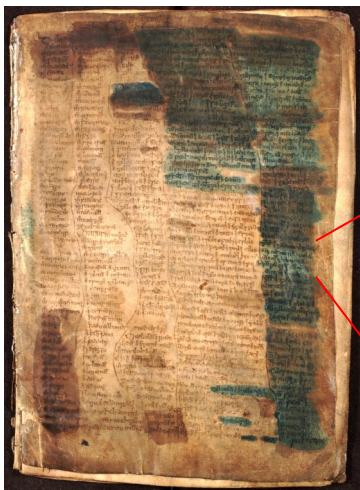


Canadian National Vimy Memorial

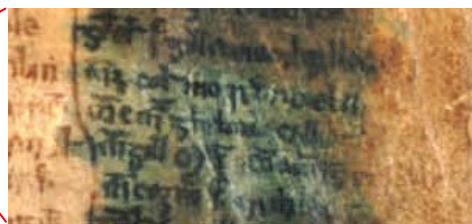
# The Trouble with History ...

The trouble with history is that it keeps changing. That's because "history" is not what happened in the past, but what those researching and writing about the past think may have happened, based on the evidence available at the time of writing and how that evidence has been interpreted by previous historians. So when new evidence emerges—or previously discovered evidence is found to have been wrongly interpreted—the history must change too. In the case of the MacMillans, a key point of contention in the histories of the clan written in the last century and a half has been the fourth name on the MacMillan pedigree to be found in the collection of old Gaelic genealogies known as MS1467. William F. Skene, the historian who first published them, initially read it as *Eoin*—and therefore John in English— but later "corrected" himself by referring to a copy of the same pedigree made in the mid-17th century by *Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh* [MacFirbis] which said the name was *Cainn*.

Skene's interpretation of that name as Cainn has now been called into question, in a major project that's been running for the last decade to re-examine the clan genealogies in MS1467. Two scholars of Gaelic and medieval Celtic script—one Scots (Ronald Black) and one Irish (his wife Máirie)—have been using the latest image-enhancing technology to try and decipher the most difficult to read parts of the manuscript. The results can be found on their website, which is at [www.1467manuscript.co.uk](http://www.1467manuscript.co.uk).




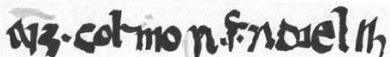
**What have the Blacks revealed about the MacMillans & Eainn/Cainn?**  
On the left is the page of the manuscript that includes the MacMillan pedigree. The green discoloration is the result of the chemicals that Skene applied to try and enhance the clarity of the most difficult parts of it (which included the MacMillan section).

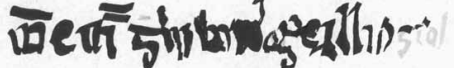


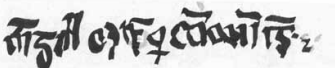
Here is an enlarged view of the Clan MacMillan pedigree, which constitutes Lines 30 to 34 of the fifth (i.e. the right hand) column.

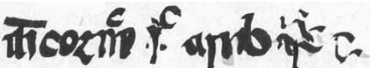
Below left is Ronnie and Máirie Black's line-by-line reproduction of what they think the MacMillan pedigree says, plus their own translation of it.

30   
genelach mhic gillamaeil gill[acolaím og]  
= "The genealogy of MacMillan: young Gille Colaim"

31   
mac gille colaim mhoir mhic [m]ael m[uire]  
= "son of the elder Gille Colaim son of Maol Muire"

32   
mhic cainn[i]gh [mhic dubgha]ill [mhic gille colaim]  
= "son of Kenneth son of Dugald son of Gille Colaim"

33   
mhic gill[e] cr[iost] dar comhainm in g[ille mael]  
= "son of Gille Críost who was also named an Gille Maol"

34   
mhic cormaic mhic airb[ertaigh]  
= "son of Cormac son of Airbheartach."

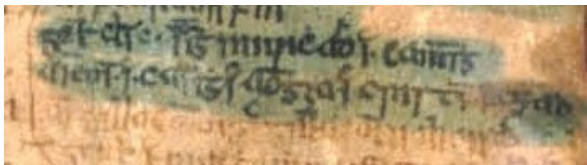
The following are Ronnie Black's comments on Line 32 of the MacMillan pedigree as it was written out in the mid-15th century by Dubhghall Albanach, a member of the famous MacMhuirich bardic family.

We are basically reliant on MacFirbis for all the key elements in this line. With regard to the first, it is only with hindsight that the reading *cainn[i]gh* becomes clear. In 1847 Skene read *eoin* 'John'. It looks like *eainn*, but again that would mean 'John'. It is by no means obvious that the following *g* is part of the name, as there is a gap where the second *i* should be. Nor is it obvious that the three minims following *g* constitute the *m* of mhic, given that Dubhghall Albanach usually (though not always) writes this with a single minim when it occurs in the interior of a line.

It is only by considering MacFirbis's reading *Dubhgaill* that we can begin to make sense of the line as a whole. Following the *m* is a *d* which has been altered by means of a vertical stroke, making it look more like a *b*. After this is a curve or minim which may originally have been part of the *d*, followed by a dark mass which must have contained all or part of the *u*. The key is the tall ascender. If we take it together with the circular character that follows, we distinguish the general shape of a *b*. After that it is possible to distinguish *g*, seemingly dotted to give *gh*, followed by what looks like *e* (but must be read *a*), then *ill*, giving *dubgheill* or rather *dubhgaill*.

The result of the Blacks' painstaking work on the MacMillan pedigree is something of a surprise, since the name in question turns out to be *Cainnigh*, which is *Coinneach* in modern Gaelic and usually rendered as Kenneth in English. It's a name that is unknown amongst recorded MacMillans before the 19th century. It's possible the *Coinneach mac Dubhghaill* who appears in the pedigree was named for a non-MacMillan ancestor (one of his mother's or grandmother's family), and that any sons or grandsons named for him failed to reproduce and thus pass the name on within the clan. It's worth remembering that *Coinneach's* descendants would have had to try and survive amidst the turmoil of the Scottish Wars of Independence and the great feud within Clan Chattan, in the course of which "the whole sept" of *Clankauel* (i.e. *Clann 'ic Mhaoil*) were "extinguished". Another possibility is that descendants of the younger sons of *Coinneach* or his immediate successors in due course chose to use—or were given—another surname. One intriguing possibility is that they might have chosen to remember their ancestor *Coinneach*, and thus became *MacCoinnichs*; i.e. *MacKenzies*! That might not have been likely in the Highlands as the more famous *Clann Choinnich* rose to power there, but it might have been possible elsewhere; such as in Ayrshire and Galloway where, as it happens, there was a kindred who used that surname, pronouncing it there and in Northern Ireland as *McKinney*, *McWhinney*, and *Mawhinney*.

All this is of course particularly intriguing for a MacMillan historian called *Mackenzie*, and since the Blacks have also looked at *Clan Choinnich*, it may be of interest to see their pedigree as well. *Genelach cloinni cainnig* can be found on the full page shown opposite as the last two lines in the greenish section at the top of the second from right column (i.e. the one before the column that includes the MacMillans) along with the first untreated line below that.



d21 *ḡēlāc̄ cloinnī c̄aīnnīgh mac̄ c̄aīnnīgh*

gen[e]lach cloinni c[a]innigh mac cainnigh = "The genealogy of the MacKenzies: Murchadh son of Kenneth"

d22 *m̄hīc̄ eoin̄ m̄hīc̄ c̄aīnnīgh m̄hīc̄ aongusa m̄hīc̄ cristin̄ m̄hīc̄ agad̄*

mhic eoin mhc cainnigh mhc aongusa mhc cristin mhc agad = "son of John son of Kenneth son of Angus son of Cristin son of Agaðr"

d23 *m̄hīc̄ gilla eoin̄ oiḡ m̄hīc̄ gilla eoin̄ na haird̄*

mhc gilla eoin oig mhc gilla eoin na haird = "son of Gilleoin junior son of Gilleoin of the Aird."

Unlike the MacMillan pedigree, that for the MacKenzies is fairly clear, and what the Blacks see is the same as that first published by Skene. Ronald Black differs from Skene however in his interpretation of the name *Agad*—at the end of line d22—which Skene translated as *Adam*, but which Black says may be the Norse name *Agaðr*.

The Mackenzie pedigree ends with *Gilleoin* of the *Aird*, who also appears in the genealogies of Clans *Matheson* and *Gillanders*. He is shown in the latter pedigree as another descendant of *Cormac mac Airbertaich*, but the *Gillanders* line is longer and it would place *Cormac* back in the early 11th rather than the early 12th century.

Apart from showing us, as nearly as is possible, what MS1467 actually says, Ronald Black has also provided commentaries on the pedigrees and the clans they concern. The import of what he has to say on the MacMillans seems to be that they started and finished in Argyll, and that *Somerled MacMillan* "should have known better" than to try and connect them with the other descendants of the "baldy" men that the spread of monasticism had seeded throughout Scotland. He deplores the fact that *Somerled* "constructed a composite picture of a family of MacMillans who appeared in Aberdeenshire in the twelfth century, then moved to Perthshire soon afterwards, and on to Argyllshire in the fourteenth"; a summary that is wrong in relation to Aberdeenshire—*Somerled* never said that the MacMillans lived there—and omits both *Old Spynie* and *Loch Arkaiside*, where *Somerled* placed the clan before they settled in Perthshire (though Black does mention, and rightly dismiss, the *Old Spynie* story elsewhere in his comments). He accepts *Somerled's* account of the chiefs after the last name on the MS1467 pedigree—even endorsing his assertion that *Lachlan Og* was "out with his clan" in support of the *Douglas* and *MacDonald* rebellion of 1455, though there is not a shred of evidence to support it—and he "sees no need to dispute" *Somerled's* interpretation of the legend relating to the clan's return to *Lochaber*, despite it probably being dated nearly two centuries too early and involving a named MacMillan for whom there is no evidence even in tradition, let alone documentation. Elsewhere he praises *Somerled's* "excellent description of the Perthshire MacMillans" before telling us that what *Somerled* says about their first chief being *Malcolm* or possibly his son *Dougall* is "certainly untrue". Despite the clear conflict in what Ronald Black says, the verdict of such a distinguished Gaelic scholar deserves to be taken seriously and certainly requires further consideration.

The conclusions that Ronald Black comes to about other clans are sometimes even more surprising. His most radical reshaping of a clan's history—actually, maybe of two clans' histories—is his assertion that the pedigree assumed by Skene to have been that of the MacNabs is actually an account of a kindred named for a mysterious "Green Abbot" (the mystery of whom he unravels) that moved all the way from Perthshire to settle in the Outer Hebrides, where they become the clan known today as the Morrisons. This is of particular interest because a key part of his case is the link between the church dedicated to Saint Catan in Strathearn—where the early MacMillans, as part of the original Clan Chattan, are said to have had a branch—and the saint's alleged burial place on the Isle of Lewis.

Black suggests the Mathesons, who are usually thought to have shared with the MacKenzies an origin in Easter Ross—and a probable relationship with the Earls of Ross—may in fact have been no more than a "minor client kindred" employed as "a mobile mercenary force based much further south in Argyll, probably in the Firth of Clyde". In support of this contention, he cites apparent evidence of MacMathans (i.e. Mathesons) connected with the Kennedies in mid-15th century Ayr and Galloway. That's where, a couple of decades later, we begin to find men called M'kenze, M'Quhinze, Makkingze, and M'Kinney, who could have been MacKenzies, or—it would now seem—could perhaps have been descendants of the Cainnigh/Coinneach in the MacMillan pedigree who came to use a different surname from their many McMillan cousins in that part of Scotland. This is an important possibility to be investigated for the new "New History" I'll be producing (with a different title, to avoid confusion).

Ronald Black was assisted in his notes on the MacKenzie pedigree by Aonghas MacCoinnich of Glasgow University, a Gaelic-speaking native of Lewis who has written a couple of the most important modern papers on the early history of the MacKenzies. Aonghas is inclined to the view that the MacKenzies may have originated in Lorn rather than Ross. He cites in support of that contention the fact that while the name Coinneach hardly appears at all in Ross before the MacKenzies made it common, it was popular in medieval Lorn and Lochaber because of a saint called "Cainnech", a companion of Saint Columba, who is said to have built a monastery on an island off Mull. As a result, the island—which is close to the seat of the MacMillans' cousins the MacQuarries—came to be called *Innis Choinnich* and is now known as Inch Kenneth. Coinneach/Kenneth also appears in local traditions as the name of an ancient ruler of Lochaber, and is sometimes linked with the legendary Banquo thane of Lochaber. Given these connections, we perhaps shouldn't be surprised to find that an ancestor of *Clann 'ic 'illemhaoil Abrach* (Clan MacMillan of Lochaber) might have been called Coinneach/Kenneth. All we have to do now is to find some record of him!

My on-going researches into all the known bearers of that name who might have been early MacKenzies (one of whom gave his name to the clan, though we don't know which one) have given me a head-start on the search. It'll take time however to discover all that can be found about each one—in the hope that one of them at least may have indications of a MacMillan connection—and it will take yet more time to write up the results in a new "New History". Though most of the later sections of this new book may remain much the same as the old one, the claimed connection in it between the MacMillans and the MacLellans will clearly have to be re-assessed since it's based on equating Skene's "Cainn" of MS1467 with the MacLellans' ancestor *Cane Mcgillolane*, whose sons bore patronymics such as *fitz Can* and *fitz Kan* ("fitz" being the Norman-French equivalent of "mac"), or *McCan* and *M'Cane*. It remains the case however that the MacMillans called Leny and the MacLellans in Perthshire shared a veneration for Saint Fillan; that the MacMillans and MacLellans lived side-by-side in the Glenkens of Galloway; and that the chiefs of the two clans are credited with bearing the same early coat of arms.

In Ulster, O'Cane, O'Caine, O'Kane, and O'Kean, are phonetic forms of *Ua Cahan / Ua Cathain*, so it seemed reasonable to suppose that the forename borne by Cane Mcgillolane—and it was thought then by Cainn MacMillan—would have stood for Cahan/Cathain. This made sense in the light of the traditions connecting the Lochaber MacMillans with Clan Chattan, and the Ulster O'Millans/O'Mellens with the O'Cathans. Consideration will now have to be given to the possibility that the previously unknown and otherwise unrecorded name Cane/Kan stands for Cainnigh/Cainnech, like these early phonetic forms of the stem of the surname MacCoinnich/MacKennych/MacKenzie: *Kyny* (1265), *Kenny* (1471), *Canehe* (1492), and *Kanyie* (1587).

If you've followed me through all the complications laid out above, you'll appreciate what a task awaits in making sense of what Ronnie and Máirie Black have discovered about the MacMillan pedigree. It's just the sort of thing to excite a historian however, and I'm sure I can rely on the generous support of the clan in tackling it.

*Graeme Mackenzie*



# News from Minnesota and an idea from Alberta

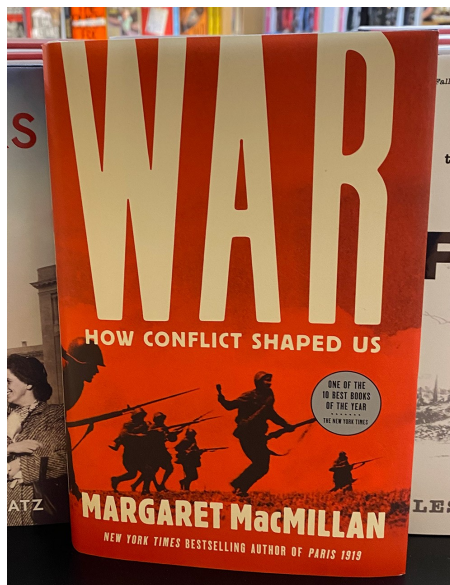
For many years one of the most entertaining shows on American Public Radio - at least for a visiting Brit - featured ... *the latest news and views from the little town where "all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average"*; i.e. Lake Wobegon in Minnesota. Mike McMillen's report on the activities of the North Central States Branch of the clan reflected a similar level of frenetic activity to that depicted weekly by Garrison Keillor on his now lost and much-lamented programme:

"So little is happening with our branch (event-wise at least) we are not charging membership fees this year. Both the Minnesota and Chicago Scottish fairs are cancelled for 2021. We had our first meeting last weekend and initiated an impromptu fundraiser for CMIC. Hopefully it will meet or exceed the annual Conclave Challenge."

Mike later emailed this postscript: "We were at a bookstore today and a display featured Margaret MacMillan's latest - cover photo attached. NYT claims this is among the top ten books of the year. Not sure if that warrants mention." Well it certainly does, since Margaret MacMillan now ranks amongst the most distinguished members of the clan, and ought to feature prominently in a project recently suggested by Alberta resident Keith MacMillan, the current President of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America. This is Keith's idea:

"My proposal is to start a MacMillan (with all its spellings and Septs) Honour Roll for North America. This would include the captains of industry, medicine, public service, religion, philanthropy, sports, etc. The top 10 names that will bring pride and recognition to our name. If all our Branches think about this and all contribute some names to us, I think it would be truly impressive. It could also be a lot of fun!! Each Gathering, new names can be presented and considered for addition. Off hand, I think of people like those behind Cargill (the largest private company in the world which happens to be owned if not managed by MacMillans), the MacMillan family involved in MacMillan-Bloedel Ltd in Vancouver, Doug McMillon CEO of Walmart, Rodney McMullen CEO of Kroger, and I heard a rumour about Paypal. I think this would also give us a common goal to work on and share."

The PayPal connection is a new one on us. Does anyone know anything about it?



**Margaret Olwen MacMillan CH, CC, FRSL, FRSC, FBA, FRCGS** is a Canadian historian and professor at the University of Oxford where she was Warden of St Anthony's College from 2007 to 2017. She is a former provost of Trinity College, Toronto, and Professor of History at the University of Toronto and previously at Ryerson University. She specialises in British Imperial History and International Relations, and is a great-granddaughter of the First World War British Prime Minister, David Lloyd George. She's also an aunt of the British television historian Dan Snow, whose father, the British journalist and TV news anchor, Peter Snow - who's married to Margaret's sister Anne (a Canadian journalist and TV news reporter) - was taught at Wellington College by a certain George MacMillan; otherwise known today as the Chief of Clan MacMillan!



## Macmillan Cancer Support Emergency Appeal

Corona Virus means people need their help more than ever

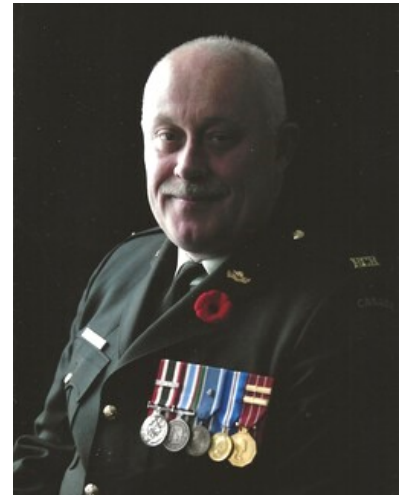
Help fund vital new services while the Macmillan Nurses support the NHS frontline

<https://donation.macmillan.org.uk/>

# Duncan Daniel McMillan 1955-2021

by *Graeme Mackenzie*

Clan societies are bodies that often attract individuals who not only like dressing-up, but want to be seen and heard too. When two or more such men - and they are usually (though not always) of the male persuasion - compete for the limelight, the resultant clash of tartaned-titans can be an off-putting sight. Duncan McMillan - or Duncan D. as he was always known, so as to distinguish him from other Duncan McMillans - didn't go in for that sort of self-puffery. Like many military men, he was used to working as part of a team and getting his assigned job done with the minimum of fuss and the maximum effect. That's why he was one of the most popular leaders of Clan MacMillan.



Duncan was born into a family whose ancestors had come to Canada from Knapdale. He joined the Royal Canadian Regiment and when I first met him, on a visit to Finlaystone in the 1990s, he was serving with the UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon. Though keeping the peace in such a volatile part of the world was not an easy task, the crusader castles and other monuments to the area's fascinating past gave Duncan ample opportunities in his time off to indulge his interest in history. This was shared by his son Steven who was eager to talk castles and medieval history with me when he came to work one summer at Finlaystone.



**Duncan at the 2005 CMSNA Gathering in London ON, with his mother Catherine and wife Donna**

Many members of the clan from other branches probably first met Duncan and his wife Donna when they helped John B. McMillan organise the Clan MacMillan Society of North America [CMSNA] gathering in Glengarry County, ON, in 1997. In 2002 they joined many other members of the Glengarry & Ottawa Valley Branch in Scotland for "The Great Return" gathering.

Duncan became a regular attendee at other CMSNA gatherings in the years after that - when his military duties allowed - and in 2005, when he had become the President of the CMSNA, he hosted a memorable gathering in his home city of London, ON.

When Dugal MacMillan retired as Treasurer of CMSNA, Duncan volunteered to take on that vital role, and he was still performing it when I last saw him; at the 2018 CMSNA gathering in Maine, where we enjoyed a few evening drams down by the sea as we were eaten alive by the local mosquitoes (almost as bad as Scotland's midges). Duncan will be sorely missed by those attending the next CMSNA gathering - when that eventually takes place - and by the many other MacMillans who had the pleasure of meeting the epitome of "an officer and a gentleman".



**Duncan & Donna in 2005 with their sons Steven (left) & Neil**

***Susan Drinkwater, one of Duncan's successors as President of the CMSNA, wrote on 4th March 2021:***

*My sincere condolences on your loss Donna. I first met Duncan around 1997/98 in Ottawa when the Glengarry & Ottawa Valley Branch of the Clan MacMillan was resurrected. Duncan was a kind and generous Man and always willing to assist whenever needed. I've had many long discussions with him over the History of our Clan and the Scots in general. He will be missed by many.*



**Duncan at The Great Return 2002 with Bill MacMillan and Susan Drinkwater**

# Robert Gladstone Bell 1938-2021

by *George MacMillan*

Like very many others (and particularly members of the Appalachian Branch) I was very sad to hear of Robert's death earlier this year. What follows is an effort to paint a portrait of him, drawing on recollections – probably distorted by time – of personal experiences and on Robert's own stories. In this endeavour it's often difficult to discern where Robert's input ended and Susan's began: they were a remarkable team.

From Robert's accounts of his father (a senior Inspector of Schools in New Zealand, with a distinguished war record), he was an extremely upright man — perhaps a little short on human kindness — someone whose approbation (even after his death) Robert was keen to gain, particularly through public service and military prowess. Not content with normal military life, he joined the SAS (a unit that specialised in daring exploits). He entered politics at a tender age in New Zealand, and, after migrating to the USA continued that interest in Greensboro NC. He threw himself wholeheartedly into any project he took on. It might be selling kilts or piping, in both of which he made himself an expert.



**Robert with the Chief during the International Gathering held at Finlaystone in 2000 to celebrate George's 70th birthday**



**Robert and George's grandson Hugo at Kilmory Chapel, Knapdale, in 2009**

That was nowhere more apparent than when he accepted the Presidency of the Appalachian Branch. Using all available technical resources along with his considerable experience of PR, he invested huge quantities of energy (his own and Susan's) into building up a highly successful branch of Clan MacMillan – successful in its numbers, and also in its attendance at the various Highland Games, where meticulous planning and the creation of a buzzing atmosphere produced amazing results both on and off the field.

I sometimes got the feeling that some of Robert's reminiscences had lost nothing in the telling. One hint of that (which proved perfectly true, as it turned out), occurred when he introduced me to a 'Green Beret' veteran of the Vietnam War, with the words 'Meet my friend Colonel..., who saved my life in Vietnam'. I assumed that the gentleman had dragged a wounded Lieutenant Bell off some distant battlefield. He could easily have left me with that illusion. But, after a slight pause, he added 'He advised me not to swim in the Meekong River'. But Robert didn't need to elaborate his tales: he was a larger-than-life character without that. He impinged on so many facets of life – and particularly Scottish/American life – that he'll be much missed by vast numbers of people. At least, though, it's re-assuring to know

that the Appalachian Branch is now in the safe hands of his son, Logan and his daughter-in-law, Sarah, to whom we send our very warmest wishes, together with Hamish and Kirstie and their families, and, above all, Susan.

Finally, Clan Macmillan International is extremely grateful for almost \$2,000 which, on Susan's suggestion, were subscribed by friends and relations in Robert's memory – a wonderful shot in the arm to ward off insolvency in times of financial stringency.

## **Graeme's Afterword:**

*Being with Robert was always memorable; whether it was arguing in Conclave, roaring down the interstate in the Pimpmobile, being piped through the empty corridors of an airport close to midnight escorting a late-arrival for the gathering, or inspecting the supply of whisky that he kept hidden in a secret closet in the Bell house in Greensboro - and then sampling some of it (lots of it!). When Robert wasn't working for the clan, he entertained us - and not just by playing the pipes; hence this last picture to remember him by: It was the Glasgow KY Games in 2002. Susan had been asked to judge the knobbly-knees competition and Robert couldn't resist finding out if his wife would recognise his knees; which of course she did. He's a great loss to the whole clan.*



## **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.*

*The Next CTS Investiture Service hopefully will take place in Calgary, Alberta, Canada next July 2022.*

*During this time of uncertainty because of the Pandemic, please keep watching the Clan MacMillan website for information about the next Gathering at [www.clanmacmillan.org/pages/societies/CTS.html](http://www.clanmacmillan.org/pages/societies/CTS.html)*

**This issue brings the sad news of three of our very faithful CTS members who have passed away this winter.**



**William S. "Stan" McMillan, CTS**, 96, Canajoharie, NY, died peacefully on Dec. 10, 2020. Stan grew up in Rochester, NY, and following graduation, while working at Eastman Kodak, WWII began. Stan enlisted in the US Navy and served until his honorable discharge in 1945. During that time, he was stationed on the USS Bull and USS Bates. He was a sonarman on a destroyer escort where he made 14 trips across the Atlantic Ocean. His ship was also part of the D Day invasion. After the war, he earned BA & MA degrees in Music Education and had an extensive career as an educator, bringing his love of music to multiple generations. He was married to Judith Higgins for 60 years. He will be missed by Clan MacMillan friends.

**Robert Gladstone Bell, CTS**, passed away peacefully on 21 January 2021 at 83 years. He lived in Greensboro, NC, USA. He was from a small town outside of Hastings in New Zealand. He was drafted into the New Zealand Army, and earned the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. After he completed his time in the military, Robert got into politics. He was also an insurance salesman. He was very involved in his Scottish heritage. He played the bagpipes for 73 years. He shared his passion by teaching bagpipe lessons to countless pupils for nearly 30 years. Robert was a past President for Clan MacMillan Appalachian Branch for 27 years. He never missed a Grandfather Mountain Highland Games since arriving in the United States in 1980. Robert and Sue travelled all over the world, attending different Scottish functions. He hosted many Gatherings of MacMillans over the years.



**Ret. Capt. Duncan Daniel McMillan, CTS**, passed away on Thursday February 18, 2021 in his 66th year. Duncan will be deeply missed by his wife Donna of over 42 years. Duncan was a career army officer in the Royal Canadian Regiment retiring in the rank of Captain in 2009 and volunteered at the RCR Museum in London, ON, Canada. Duncan was Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ontario I.O.O.F., Elder at St. Lawrence Presbyterian Church, and Past President of the Clan MacMillan Society of North America (CMSNA). Duncan volunteered with many organizations including three mission outreaches in Malawi East Africa. He hosted a CMSNA Gathering in 2005 in London, ON, Canada

### **News of CTS Members:**

**Stephen McMillin, CTS**, of Vicksburg MS was selected to serve as Warren County's Interim prosecuting attorney by the Warren County Board of Supervisors on January 21. A special election will be held in Nov 21. He is a son of Lamar McMillin Jr., MD.

For information about the clan's Y-DNA Project, see [www.clanmacmillan.org/pages/genealogy/dna.html](http://www.clanmacmillan.org/pages/genealogy/dna.html) or go to the CMI Facebook page.

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

- (1) *The Rev. Canon A. Malcolm and Sally MacMillan Tribute Endowment Fund: **Established March 2003.***
- (2) *The Jane MacMillan Tribute Fund: **Established 15 June 2005. Jane, was the wife of George, Chief of Clan MacMillan.***

*We thank you for your tremendous support over the last 26 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: [blanchemcmillan64@gmail.com](mailto:blanchemcmillan64@gmail.com) (Please note e-mail address change)*

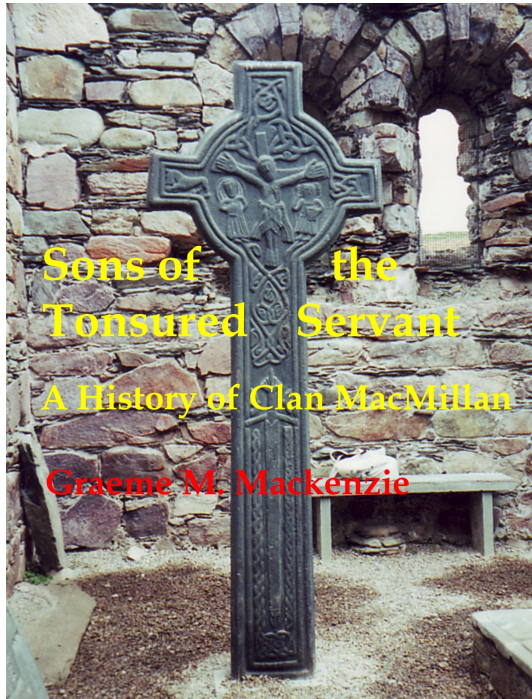
*For more information about Clan MacMillan's CTS, please go to [www.clanmacmillan.org/pages/societies/CTS.html](http://www.clanmacmillan.org/pages/societies/CTS.html)*

*Stay Well!*

*This CTS page was submitted by Blanche McMillan, Abbot CTS, 12 June 2021*

# Sponsor or Subscribe to the forthcoming “Sons of the Tonsured Servant: A History of Clan MacMillan” by Graeme M. Mackenzie

*A revised version of the clan history published in 2016 which will take into account the reinterpretation made by the leading scholar in Scotland of medieval Gaelic and Celtic scripts of the name of the great-grandson of the founder of the MacMillans as shown in the oldest surviving genealogy of the clan*



The purpose of sponsorship is to help fund some of the time to be spent looking for any records of the newly-revealed great-grandson of the name-father of the clan, and researching the implications of any such records for the early history of the clan; and then for the rewriting of the early chapters of the previous history to take into account these new discoveries. However, sponsors and subscribers will also receive a complimentary pre-publication copy of the appropriate edition of the book, plus a 10% discount on the purchase of any additional copies; and their names will be listed at the beginning of the book. As with the New History, two editions of “Sons of the Tonsured One” will be available: Special Edition, with colour illustrations inside; and Standard Edition, with black-and-white illustrations inside. The categories available are:

- Gold Sponsorship for 200 GB Pounds or 275 US Dollars –**  
signed Special Edition with name dedication sent to you
- Silver Sponsorship for 150 GB Pounds or 200 US Dollars –**  
signed Special Edition sent to you
- Special Subscription for 100 GB Pounds or 150 US Dollars –**  
Special Edition sent to you
- Standard Subscription for 50 GB Pounds or 75 US dollars –**  
Standard Edition sent to you

It’s hoped that publication will be in early 2022. To become a Sponsor or Subscriber please complete the form below, then mail this whole page with your payment to the appropriate address shown at the bottom of the page.

NAME OF SPONSOR/SUBSCRIBER:.....

YOUR ADDRESS (to which book will be sent):.....

**Please tick your chosen category and circle the currency you are paying with:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ..... Gold Sponsor @ £200 or \$275       | ..... Silver Sponsor @ £150 or \$200.   |
| ..... Special Subscriber @ £100 or \$150 | ..... Standard Subscriber @ £50 or \$75 |

**METHODS OF PAYMENT:**

Paying in GB Pounds Sterling by cheque or bank draft made out to *Graeme M. Mackenzie* and sent to him at:  
 1 James Close, 29 Station Road, Thornton, Kirkcaldy, KY1 4AX, Scotland.

Paying by Bank Transfer/Wire to Bank of Scotland, Inverness Branch (2-6 Eastgate, IV2 3NA), Sort Code 80-91-26 [BIC code BOFSGB21125]; to credit *Graeme M. Mackenzie* (Address: 1 James Close, 29 Station Road, Thornton, Kirkcaldy, KY1 4AX; Tel: +44-7901-764329), Account No: 00644010 [IBAN Number GB86 BOFS 8091 2600 6440 10]. Please take care to get these long numbers correct as one wrong digit sends payments into banks’ cyber-vaults and it can take weeks to find them.

Paying in US Dollars by check made out to *Highland Roots USA* and sent to:  
 331 Royal Oaks Drive, Maryville, TN 3701, USA.

**Please do not send sponsorships, subscriptions, or payments for Graeme’s books by cheque/check or transfer to the Clan MacMillan Centre or its PayPal account. If you have any questions about Graeme’s books or payments for them, please contact him directly via [graeme@highlandroots.net](mailto:graeme@highlandroots.net) or phone +44-7901-764329.**