

**CLAN MACGILLIVRAY  
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Cover: The Emigrants Monument, Helmsdale, Scotland. Image: Euan McGillivray

The inscription on the monument, in Gaelic and English, reads: *"The Emigrants commemorates the people of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland who, in the face of great adversity, sought freedom, hope and justice beyond these shores. They and their descendants went forth and explored continents, built great countries and cities and gave their enterprise and culture to the world. This is their legacy. Their voices will echo forever thro the empty straths and glens of their homeland."*

The statue is the work of sculptor Gerald Laing. It depicts four figures The kilted man is looking ahead into an unknown future, while beside him a boy is looking up to him for guidance or reassurance. The woman, wrapped in a shawl, is holding a baby and is looking back towards the home they have been forced to leave.

In September 2008 a matching statue, known as the Selkirk Settlers Monument, was unveiled in Winnipeg, Canada.

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## EDITORIAL

Euan McGillivray

In this 39th edition of the Clan Journal, it is a great pleasure to publish stories from some new members. The authors are happy to share what they know about their family history. Their stories go to the heart of what our Australian Clan Society is all about. We present these stories for members to enjoy as well as providing examples for others to follow for future Journals. The success of our publications relies on members submitting stories and pictures to share with others.

Inspired by *Outlander*, new member Jenna Farrelly, from South Australia has set out what she knows about her family heritage. What a wonderful photograph she has sent of her with her daughter Alice. Maybe one day Alice will write a story about her mother and her McGillivray connections, thereby extending the story by another generation.

Bill McGillivray from Queensland was intrigued by a family bible for many years that contained names of many ancestors. He has started on the road to discover more about his family connections. Fortunately for Bill, some other clan members have prepared some of the ground that has made his job easier.

In 2017 a Glasgow McGillivray joined the Clan. We emailed each other and agreed to meet in Glasgow during a 2018 trip to Scotland with my partner, Ann Hurley. We met Robert (Rab) and Sophie at The Counting House Bar in St Vincent Place, Glasgow. Rab, a recently retired fire officer, agreed to prepare a story about his

family history in Glasgow and his life with Sophie. Rab, Sophie and two young children, Rose and Rory, have recently emigrated to Australia. When we met in the bar, Rab was kilted in Clan MacGillivray tartan and looked splendid.

Joining Rab in telling his story is fellow firefighter Matthew MacGillivray of Ballarat. We featured a little of Matthew's life regarding his marriage to Lieve in the 2018 issue of *Dunmaglass*. In this piece he shares more of his family story.

We have a story about an unusual historical moment in the history of *Dunmaglass*. *Stones and Stories* by Ragnaid Sandilands from Strathnairn, near Inverness, was first published this year in the *Strathnairn News*. Ragnaid has updated her story, included new photographs and allowed us to publish it for our members.

We now have a digital copy of the special program the BBC made about our Commander that was screened in April 2018. Members who are keen to see the program can contact me at [info@clanmacgillivraysocietyaustralia.com](mailto:info@clanmacgillivraysocietyaustralia.com)

The Lethbridge (Victoria) McGillivrays meet annually and member Robert Scott has provided a report. Our roving reporter Ann Brown has once again provided her observations on the Ringwood Highland Games. In past Journals we have reported on the future of Dunlichity Church. This time we have an update on the future of both the Daviot and Dunlichity churches.

Also included is sections of my travel diary from my recent trip to Skye following a family history trail that began with the Highland Clearances of early 1850s.





## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Iain MacGillivray

This past year of 2017 – 2018 has probably been one of the most difficult and testing times of my life. While doing a routine fencing operation on the farm at Calrossie with another employee, the front loader of the tractor, weighing around a ton, came loose and landed on top of me, smashing me to the ground. I can only describe the feeling as being like having 5 baseball bats smacking you in the back simultaneously.

I was squirming all over the ground due to the severity of pain but remembered seeing my legs moving, was at least, something positive. But I couldn't get up and realised I had suffered a couple lacerations to the head also. After having to call my own ambulance from the ground, I was rushed up to hospital in Inverness from the scene of the accident in the middle of a field and spent a week there in the traumatic injuries ward.

The result was a crushed lower vertebra in the spine – they described it as being “crushed like a can”, due to the weight and force of the machine coming down. They didn't understand why I had not been killed, let alone paralysed. The doctors said to me, “lucky you're a very strong and fit MacGillivray and looks like your Highland Games training has helped to cushion the blow here a bit”, which I replied with, “Well doctor, between that and mainly a few angels under that machine, I'd say!” For this was a real miracle and even the doctors had described it as a 'miraculous survival'; they couldn't explain it.

So, this past year, being in recovery mode has been a frustrating and trying time, especially with 9 of those months being in a brace and crutches. From being so used to being active and on the go constantly, to resort to being stationary and physically restricted was a massive change and a very aggravating one also.

From being on such a peak high, after travelling to Portland, Oregon for the Clan MacGillivray Society USA Gathering and winning the 'Kilted Mile' race with the 'Braveheart' claymore sword in front of all the American MacGillivrays, things now descended to a peak low in the matter of a week. But more so, the overarching feeling was more of that of being so, so grateful for being alive and so very fortunate to have been given another chance at life.

The past year also held in store many positives for the Clan MacGillivray. Although against doctor's orders to travel, in October 2017, I felt it was very important to be present in Nootdorp, Netherlands for the inauguration of the Dutch MacGillivrays, to be an official Association. Dutch Commissioners James and Sean MacGillivray put together a wonderful Dutch MacGillivray Gathering along with a very successful Highland Games for all ages. Around 400 people turned out and with the BBC ALBA team capturing the footage of the event, made it a very memorable occasion.

Once more and against doctor's orders, later that same month of October, I travelled to Thunder Bay, Ontario to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the MacGillivray Pipe Band, which is also the oldest Pipe Band in all of North America. This was a particularly important event for the ties of the MacGillivray Clan are so very strong in this area. Our last Com-

mander Col. George B. McGillivray came from this area, and also it was his Grandfather John, who founded the MacGillivray Pipe Band in 1917 as a form of recruitment for Canadian troops at the time of the First World War. Also, the strong historical connection with William McGillivray of the North West Fur Trading Company is of huge significance to Canadian history. Being one of the founders of the North West company and fathering 11 children with his Cree wife, Fort William was specifically named in his honour, which later became the birthplace for the formation and later development of Thunder Bay as a growing settlement.

The MacGillivray Pipe Band Centenary was a fabulous event which drew a crowd of 800+ people and what a terrific sounding and musical pipe band, I must add also. With my father Duncan there and joining the band for a couple of numbers, being the official piper to the Clan MacGillivray, made it particularly special. Many of the Pipe Band members had also



Iain after winning the Kilted Mile event at the Portland Highland Games, Oregon, USA, 2017. Left, Jim MacGillivray, Clan Vice President, USA. Right, Ron McGilvray, Commissioner USA. Image: Jane Marie MacGillivray

remembered him and seen him before live in concert during his touring days through North America with Scottish folk group 'The Battlefield Band' during the 70s and 80s - just remarkable!

Combined with this, we also went to visit Fort William on a special tour and we were brought right back in time to that fur trading time. Fort William had given us special privilege due to the significance of the event and our visit, along with the BBC ALBA team, and allowed us to capture the sheer historical significance of this fort.

The whole setup of the fort completely transported us to that 19th Century era and with all the preserved artefacts and unique displays of every kind of fur imaginable and canoeing boats, shooting muskets, firing cannons and throwing tomahawks, you really feel like you were a fur trading explorer of that time. It was incredible, and I would recommend a visit to anyone if you are ever in that area.



Iain presenting a commemorative ceramic platter to Sean and James McGillivray, Nootdorp, Netherlands, 2017. Image supplied.

A native woman who welcomed us into her wigwam, also informed us of the strong and proud legacy of the MacGillivrays in this area and how well the Scots, in general, interacted and traded with the native peoples of that region and how they gained such high respect for each other. This was particularly pleasing to the ears to know about.

All of these events also gave me the opportunity to meet one of our Canadian Commissioners, Murray McGillivray of Calgary and his wonderful wife Georgina who were present for all this hugely special occasion and whom informed me of much of the Canadian MacGillivray history and current ongoings on the Clan front in that part of the world. We had a brilliant time all round.

After all these memorable events had passed, I remained at home being cared for by my dear mother Jane- Marie and father Duncan. In recovery mode, but needing to channel my mind to different things, I progressed with a lot of music and plunged into a post-Graduate online Project Management course through my former university in Minnesota, USA; the College of St. Scholastica. I decided to use this course as a means to plan and develop a timeline and framework of events, for our upcoming Clan MacGillivray International Gathering, which is to be held in Scotland in July of 2020.

This worked very well, and though all my studied work was for course grades and end results, it taught and allowed me to orchestrate a professional format for the Clan MacGillivray Gathering Scotland in 2020, which I used for my submitted work. It obviously worked well for I achieved an A in the class – one of my few academic As I can safely hold to my name!

This will be something I will be excited to finally announce in the next upcoming days with official dates of that summer for our Gathering 2020.

Earlier this year in March of 2018, we had the privilege of visiting Australian Commissioner Euan MacGillivray and his dear partner Ann, along with Dutch Commissioner James MacGillivray and his lovely wife Elna. They both made the journey over to Scotland and we had a fabulous time showing the possible ideas and locations for our Clan MacGillivray Gathering in Scotland for 2020.

It turned to be, not only a very enjoyable visit, but also a particularly essential one too, for Euan, James and Ann and Elna were able to create and suggest ideas, along with Mum and Dad and myself, to further progress plans for the Gathering 2020, and we used our time very wisely doing this. The feedback and input from everyone involved was excellent and soon this will be established and the news and dates for the Clan MacGillivray Gathering will be official and out there.

I wish all of you very well in Australia and hope that we will see as many of you as possible for our Clan MacGillivray Gathering 2020 here in Scotland.

Currently, I am working with Elizabeth and Blair; the backbone of our Clan MacGillivray Committee here in Scotland, to organise and orchestrate the upcoming event, and dates and activities will be out there soon.

Slainte agus Beannachdan!  
Dun ma Ghlais!



# CLAN MACGILLIVRAY GATHERING 2020 SCOTLAND

Wednesday 15th to Sunday 19th July

Welcome home all MacGillivrays (of all spellings!) where you can experience your homeland, trace your lineage, and relive your history through the footsteps of your ancestors. More information coming soon.

To stay up to date with news regarding the 2020 Gathering, go to [clanmacgillivraysocietyaustralia.com](http://clanmacgillivraysocietyaustralia.com) and follow the link to the Facebook event.



## MESSAGE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN COMMISSIONER

Euan McGillivray

Clan Commander Iain prepared the following role statement for Commissioners in USA, Netherlands, England, Canada and Australia. The role of Clan Commissioner is to:

- Represent the Clan Commander at Clan and Scottish events in their own country or area and acts as official representative of the Clan
- Promote the history of the Clan in their own country or area
- Encourage involvement of current members
- Promote recruitment of new members
- Encourage communication between all people of the Clan wherever they are situated
- Maintain close contact with the Clan Commander
- Distribute by whatever means, messages from the Clan Commander as a result of that contact.

Please contact me if you can think of new or better ways for me to achieve these outcomes.

During our recent trip to Scotland we had the pleasure of meeting Clan Commissioner from The Netherlands, James, and some of his family, International Clan

Secretary, Elizabeth, Iain and some of his family, especially his parents, Jane-Marie and Duncan, brother Gregory and sister Annia.

Prior to arriving in Scotland we also had the pleasure of meeting a Clan member in near Nottingham. Australian born Colin and his English wife Anne were wonderful hosts at their home and later at the Horse and Groom pub for lunch. Colin has visited the Isle of Skye where his family left in 1838 for a new life in Australia. Colin and Ann lived in Australia for many years and have now settled in the UK to be closer to children and grandchildren.

Our catch up with Iain, the group from the Netherlands and Elizabeth began with lunch in Inverness. Over lunch we discussed arrangements for the 2020 Clan Gathering in Scotland. Iain is determined to make this gathering one to remember.



Whisky & Rye bar in Inverness, 2018. Iain and Euan toast the success of the 2020 Clan Gathering. Image: Ann Hurley

With the lunch over we adjourned to the Castle pub and later a whisky bar in Queensgate; all the while brainstorming possible dates, locations and events to ensure that the 2020 gathering will be a great success.

We again met up with Iain, this time his mother, Jane-Marie and father, Duncan, at Dornoch, near Tain. Part of the reason

for this get together was to scout around for possible locations for the 2020 gathering. We also visited Tain and its famous distillery, Glenmorangie before a splendid afternoon tea at the MacGillivray farm at Calrossie. For Iain and his family to take the time away from the farm during the very busy time of lambing, was appreciated.



Horse and Groom Hotel in Eastwood, near Nottingham, 2018. Ann, Euan, Colin and Ann after a fine lunch. Image: Ben Rockley (Colin & Ann's grandson)



Culloden Moor, 2018. The Well of the Dead is always a special place and a must visit for all clanfolk. Image: Ann Hurley



Shandwick Inn, Tain, 2018. Back row, James (Commissioner for Netherlands) Iain, Duncan (Iain's father and Clan piper), Euan, Australan Commissioner. Front row: Elna and Truus from the Netherlands, Ann, Jane-Marie (Iain's mother), Annia (Iain's sister) We all met here to discuss more about the 2020 Clan Gathering, and had a great evening. Image: Staff at Shandwick Inn



The Shandwick Inn was selected for dinner where we mulled over more ideas for the gathering. Iain's head must have been spinning as we all fired suggestion his way. Apart from the business of discussing the gathering and other Clan related matters, meeting some of Iain's family as well as the family from the Netherlands was a great thrill.



## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CLAN MACGILLIVRAY USA SOCIETY**

**Rodney McGillivray**

Greetings to the fine people of the Clan MacGillivray Society Australia.

The Commissioners and Officers of the USA Society were recently admiring the fine website of the Society in Australia. It has some features and some refinements that we would like to add to our own. I was told that your Media Manager Mary McGillivray is the one responsible for that fine work. We have since learned some valuable things from Mary and hope to work with her more in the future.

In my recent message to the Clan MacGillivray USA Society I pointed out that we have entered a period of more developing, changing, and evolving than we ever had since our organization was founded. We have a Commander of the Clan for the first time in 25 years. Iain MacGillivray's impact is already being felt world-wide and he's only just begun the work he plans to do.

I was elected President of our Society for the first time last December. I take the reins from Dan Hyde who has become

our new Commissioner for Central USA. Ron McGillivray has become our new Eastern Commissioner. They were appointed by Iain in July of 2017 and have been working to extend our outreach to the MacGillivrays of the United States.

The USA Society has our own yearly journal, called the Clach-an-Airm. It was started by former USA Commissioner, Bruce McGillivray who did a really first class job with it. Tom Cox has recently taken over the managing editor role for the Journal. Tom is an author and English Professor. We have had some great luck to have Bruce and Tom lending their talents to our Journal.

We will be holding our eighth bi-annual national gathering in Dayton, Ohio in July 2019. Dayton is home to the Wright Brothers, inventors of the airplane. At this meeting we will certainly be discussing the plans for the 2020 International Gathering in Scotland. We are eagerly looking forward to meeting our Australian cousins, and those from other parts of the world in 2020. It promises to be a memorable occasion.



Rodney McGillivray, President, Clan MacGillivray USA Society. Image supplied



## NEW ZEALAND GATHERING 2018

Johanna Clarke from New Zealand got in touch to inform us about their family/clan

gatherings. They hold them every five years with the last being in January 2018. She kindly sent a few pictures to share. I suggested that the New Zealand clan and Australian clan might join together. We will provide more information in the 2019 Dunmaglass newsletter.



Left: We are all descendants of John James MacGillivray. He left Islay because he had killed a rabbit on the laird's land, he came to NZ as he had a cousin here. He married Bessie Finlayson. They had six children; Helen, Kenny, Morag, David, Betty and Peter. Peter is the only one still with us.

Right: Peter MacGillivray, aged 88 patriarch of the family. Images supplied



Some of the clan – this one was only a small clan gathering in Taupo, NZ – the last one had 100 participants with family coming home from all over the globe. Image supplied





## INSPIRED BY OUTLANDER

Jenna Farrelly

I have only recently begun researching my family's history (an elusive search to find another red head in the family) however much to my joy this coincided with my discovery of Outlander, the blockbuster historical time travel series made by Sony Pictures. This has also led to not only my interest in the Gaelic language but also in the dusting of off my old Tenor Drum and joining my local Barossa Pipes Band in South Australia to play once again after leaving the army several years ago.

Whilst in the army I was fortunate to earn my Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in military history. I hope to use this expe-



Jenna Farrelly and daughter Alice Daly, 2017. Image supplied.

rience by continuing my research into the Highlands and the various clan conflicts.

On a whim earlier this year, I bought tickets to several Hogmanay celebrations in Scotland then proceeded to tell my husband that "we have to go now!". This has been followed by several months of excited planning mixed with dismay at the exchange rate. We are hoping to visit several locations connected to my family including the Dunlichity Church with very tentative plans to take our daughter back to the Highlands in the future.

I can trace my MacGillivray ancestors back to my 6 times great grandmother Janet MacGillivray, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Smith). I am another descendent of their daughter Catherine Jones (Shaw) who immigrated to Australia. Catherine, who was described as a very quiet, unobtrusive women must have been a force to reckon with. Not only



Hugh and Janet Shaw with three of their children. Image supplied.



Jenna Farrelly (front row, left) in the Barossa pipes band. Image supplied.

did she immigrate to Australia but along with her husband the pair built the Murray Hut Hotel and Post Office. This mud brick hotel and coaching inn was created as a wayside stop in the New South Wales Riverland, in the town now known as Finley. This locally famous Inn not only held weddings, christening and wakes but was also rumoured to have been a jumping-off place for the famous Ned Kelly gang and their raid on the Jerilderie Bank.

My branch of Catherine's descendents are still largely in the Balranald/Ouyen area in country Victoria and NSW. My parents originated from Red Cliffs, Victoria, before moving to South Australia.



## FROM SCOTLAND TO AUSTRALIA

Robert McGillivray

Hello readers, my name is Rab McGillivray and I have been a member of the Clan MacGillivray Society of Australia

since May 2016. I have been asked to write a short article for inclusion in the Clan Journal.

This came about after meeting Euan and Ann in Glasgow in April at the end of their visit to the UK. On this occasion my wife Sophie and I also had the pleasure of meeting our Clan Commander, Iain and his brother Gregory. During our time together it became apparent that we all had lots in common. Even apart from being connected to the MacGillivray clan and enjoying a wee dram!

Sophie is Australian with a Scottish mum (Sandy) who is from Dundee and an Australian dad (JD) who is connected somewhere along the way to the Forbes family! JD is a keen bagpiper and is the Pipe Major with the Hornsby RSL pipe band.

Sophie and I first met in Glasgow in 2009 and after visits to and from Australia, we were married in Sydney in June 2013. We now have two children, Rose and Rory, born here in Glasgow and we will be moving back to Australia in June on



Rab receiving a Braveheart Award, Glasgow, 2018.  
Image: Sophie McGillivray



Rab in action, Glasgow 2018. Image: Glasgow  
Fire Services



The Counting House, Glasgow, 2018, Euan, Iain, Rab, Sophie, Ann and Gregory. (Iain and Gregory wore the Clan hoodie)

a permanent basis. This was always the plan (even before the kids came along) but we decided it was best to wait until I had completed my 30 years in the fire service before we made the move. For the past 20 years I have been a firefighter in Glasgow with 10 years before that in and around Aberdeen.

Now that time has come and we are heading down under to start a new chapter of our life as a family of four!

I recently had a go at compiling a family tree but I don't think genealogy is my thing but I'll share the information I've been able to find so far. Maybe someone out there will know someone in my family. Here's what I think I know so far.

Robert Simpson McGillivray (my great grandfather) D.O.B. unknown, a tailor from Elgin, married Jemima Thorne 29/12/1884. They had 3 sons and one daughter.

William John McGillivray (my grandfather) born 27/09/1893 at 28 Cook Street, Gorbals, Glasgow.

Katherine McGillivray born 1891.  
(My great aunt Kate).

Robert McGillivray born 1889.  
(My great uncle Bert).

Peter McGillivray born 1888.  
I have no recollection of this person.

William married Barbara Stevenson on 21/10/1924 in New York USA. They had one son and one daughter.

Robert Stevenson McGillivray (my dad) born 3/2/1931 in Detroit, Michigan, USA.  
Margaret Mathewson McGillivray (my aunt Peggy) born 8/4/1934 at 103 Summerfield Street, Dalmarnock, Glasgow.

My dad married my mum, Mary McCluskey (born in Cowie near Stirling 30/8/1926) on 3/1/1953. They had three sons.  
Iain, born 8/8/1953.  
Edward, born 4/8/1957.  
Me, born 11/9/1965.

I married Sophie Wingrove 29/6/2013.  
We have two children.  
Rose born 3/2/2013.  
Rory born 8/6/2014.

I hope you find this article of some interest and maybe our paths will cross in Australia.



## **WHENCE WE CAME, ALEXANDER MACGILLIVRAY 1793 - 1885**

### **William Robinson MacGillivray**

My late father, Alexander Robinson MacGillivray, bequeathed me a large Bible which contained family records. The first entry is for the marriage of Alexander Sykes MacGillivray to Catherine Elizabeth Cocks at Derrinal near Heathcote in 1879. Thereafter there are births, marriages and deaths for this line, entered in a variety of handwritings and with gaps in the information. My father was the son of Dudley Robinson and Jane (nee Petersen), Dudley being the fourth and youngest child of Alexander and Catherine born in Cloncurry, Queensland, in 1889.

The Bible sat silently for many years while life was very busy, but it was never forgotten, and the promise was that the pursuit of its information and beyond would be undertaken in the future. Well, the future is now and for the past few months I have been learning about this wonderful line of my family.

Alexander Sykes MacGillivray, born in 1853 at Crawford River in Victoria, was the oldest child of George and Janet (nee Haxton) who arrived at Portland in 1852 as assisted migrants. The first few years of George and Janet in Australia are covered in a lovely article by Lorraine and Rob Ratcliffe under the Stories & Publications section of the Clan Society's website (Lorraine is descended from Alexander Sykes' sister Constance). The whole story of George and Janet is one of pioneering adventure and warrants a blockbuster movie to be made. However, in this article I wish to delve further back to Scotland and focus on what I have discovered about George's parents, Alexander and Margaret (nee Kerr).

Alexander was born in Invernessshire on 8 July 1793 and baptised in the Dores Church of Scotland. His parents were William and Jean (nee Fraser). The Parish Register spells the family name as McGilvray and the place of birth as Aldowry, which is probably the small crofting village of Aldourie just north east of Dores. Alexander had an older sister, Anne, born in 1786.

I have yet to find records of the early part of Alexander's life. He was married to Margaret Kerr around 1820. Others record Margaret's birth date as 24 November 1794 in Kincardineshire but I have yet to discover her birth or baptismal notice. Margaret's parents were William and Margaret who were farmers. It seems that Alexander travelled east to Kincardineshire to marry Margaret because their first child, Jane, was born in Aberdeen in 1822. While I have not been able to find a baptismal record for Jane, the information concerning her birth is contained in the 1851, 1871 and 1881 censuses.

Alexander and Margaret had a further six

children, William (1823), James (1825), George (1827), Anne (1830), Robert (1832) and Alexander (1835). William and James were born in Dores while the remaining children were born in Glenbervie in Kincardineshire.

On two censuses, Alexander's profession is listed as a wood carver or a dirk handle carver. However, on his wife Margaret's death notice, he is described as a retired farmer. Of course, there is no reason that he could not have had more than one career. The residential address given for the family on the baptismal record for George is Mains of Dillavaird. Mains refers to the main buildings of a farm (see Mains of Dunmaglass cited in the 11 November 1858 article reproduced on the Clan Society's website, relating the welcome dinner for the new Clan Chief). This would suggest that Alexander was farming at that time.

By 1841, the family was starting to disperse. The census of that year finds William in Edinburgh and James and George studying in Fetteresso near Stonehaven, a town on the North Sea coast about 12 km from Glenbervie.

1851 sees most of the family in Edinburgh. According to the census of that year, Alexander was living with William (who was recorded as the head of the house), Jane, Ann and Alexander Jnr in 4 Northumberland Place, the Parish of St Mary's. This census provides an insight into the occupations of the men in the household. Alexander was a Carver of Dirk Handles, William an Advocates Clerk and James an apprentice Stockbroker. There was also a lodger from Aberdeen living with them, one Charles McDonald, who was listed as a teacher of Latin and Arithmetic.

Somewhat surprisingly, George and his





Dores, on the east shore of Loch Ness, 10km from Inverness. Image supplied



Stonehaven Bay, on the north east coast about 20km south of Aberdeen. Image supplied

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Names	Father	Mother	Place	Day	Year
Donald	John	Ann	Donn	6	1793
Duncan	William	Elizabeth	Donn	7	1793
Donald	Malcolm	Ann	Donn	7	1793
Donald	Thomas	Ann	Donn	30	1793
Thomas	John	Ann	Donn	11	1793
John	John	Ann	Donn	11	1793
Billy	John	Ann	Donn	4	1793
Billy	John	Ann	Donn	12	1793
John	Don	Ann	Donn	13	1793
Ralph	John	Ann	Donn	16	1793
Donald	William	Ann	Donn	22	1793
James	David	Ann	Donn	9	1793
Billy	Will	Ann	Donn	22	1793
John	Will	Ann	Donn	17	1793
William	Donald	Ann	Donn	17	1793
Andrew	John	Ann	Donn	10	1793
Meg	John	Ann	Donn	21	1793
Simon	Donald	Ann	Donn	13	1793
Donald	William	Ann	Donn	17	1793
Alasdair	James	Ann	Donn	10	1793
Mary	Will	Ann	Donn	17	1793
Thomas	John	Ann	Donn	17	1793
Rose	John	Ann	Donn	13	1793
Lachlan	John	Ann	Donn	18	1793
Alasdair	William	Ann	Donn	8	1793
Rose	John	Ann	Donn	10	1793
Mary	James	Ann	Donn	10	1793
William	William	Ann	Donn	20	1793

1793, Old Parish Registers, Births, 096/A10 60 Dores (page 60 of 134). Image: Crown copyright. National Records of Scotland

mother were not living at Northumberland Place but rather about a kilometre away at 93 Bedford Place in the Parish of St Cuthbert's. George was listed as a General Clerk to the Solicitor of the Supreme Court. No inking there of his adventures to come. George married Janet Haxton at St Cuthbert's on 8 June 1852 just before they sailed for Australia.

Sometime after 1852, Alexander moved back to Aberdeenshire. At the time of the 1865 Valuation Roll, he was residing at the Fishcuring premises in Stonehaven. On 31 October 1866, Alexander's wife Margaret died of bronchitis at North Leith in Edinburgh. It appears Alexander was not living with her then as the death was reported by her son (probably William).

Alexander remained in and around Stonehaven for the remainder of his life, living with his oldest daughter Jane as reported in both the 1871 and 1881 Censuses. He died in Stonehaven on 12 January 1885 aged 91. A notice of his death was placed in the Brisbane Courier on 3 March 1885 by his son George. The notice stated that Alexander was a descendant of the main branch of the MacGillivray's of Aberchalder, of which he was entitled to be a chieftain. He was a splendid Gaelic scholar and took a warm interest in the welfare of the Highlanders.

This is where my research on Alexander currently lies. It provides a sketch of an interesting man and requires much more investigation. I am hoping that I shall discover more for his narrative when I am able to visit Scotland.

I would like to thank the Clan Society's Archivist, Lynda Collier, for locating Alexander's birth register entry.



## MY SKYE JOURNAL

Euan McGillivray

I am descended from Charles and Mary McGillivray from Lower Breakish, Isle of Skye. In extreme poverty they were 'cleared' to Australia in 1852. Charles died as part of the HMS Hercules story, but Mary and 7 children later made the voyage to Victoria on the HMS Australia arriving in 1854. I was keen to learn more about their lives prior to forced emigration from the highlands.

### Isle of Skye, 15 April 2018

One of the main reasons for the trip to Skye this time was to visit an area just south of Portree called The Braes. This is a special place where a number of Highlanders were cleared, though not without a fight. While some were cleared, some stayed to take on the landlords who continually raised the rents in order to force the remainder from their land.

Crofters from The Braes including Gerrintailor and Peichorin staged a resistance fighting off police and soldiers sent from Inverness. Braes women were heavily involved in this action. The incident became known as the Battle of the Braes. A handsome monument has been placed nearby. Of importance to me is the location of the Braes Hall. This is where Donald McGillivray, the son of Charles and first wife Marion McLeod, gave evidence to the Napier Commission.

The Commission was run by a group of influential men interested in the treatment of crofters by landlords. Donald was





Aerial view of Breakish, Isle of Skye. The road which wiggles across the picture from bottom left to top right is the main A87. To the left is Broadford, ahead is Kyleakin and the Skye Bridge. The straight road across the centre of the picture is one of a grid of roads in Breakish. Lower Breakish can be seen just below the shoreline. This includes number 10 and Fossil Cottage. Image: Lower Topographical Mapping

asked by his community to speak on their behalf to Lord Napier at the first meeting of the Commission in the Braes Hall. This would have been a high honour at the time.

A particularly powerful moment came later that day when we walked to the pier at Broadford. It is almost certain that Charles, Mary and the children would have used this pier to make their way to the paddle steamboat *Celt*; and then along the Sound of Sleat, past Isleornsay and Armadale where more clearance souls would have been collected. The *Celt* steamed to Campbeltown to disgorge its passengers on to HMS *Hercules*. The *Celt* had special permission to carry well over the legal limit of passengers. This was to re-

move as many as possible from the outer isles and Skye and deliver over 800 souls to the *Hercules* prior to its ill fated sailing to Australia.

This pier at Broadford is an emotional place. It could have been the last time the McGillivrays had their feet on Scottish land. What could they have been thinking? What would happen to them? How were they pressured to leave? What choice did they have? Immigration would be stressful enough, but this was forced. There was a push factor from Scotland and a pull factor from Australia due to the need for farm labour. Some have written about this as a subtle slave trade. Others present it as necessary for survival of the people. However the clearances were activated for the



Battle of the Braes Cairn. The inscription says: Near this cairn on the 19th of April 1882 ended the battle fought by the people of the Braes on behalf of the crofters of Gaeldom. The Napier Commission examination began in the church at Upper Ollach in Braes on 8 May 1883. In April 1884 they made their report, leading to the first laws to protect crofting tenants' rights under the Crofters Holdings Act 1886. Image: Euan McGillivray



Broadford pier, Isle of Skye, where emigrants from Skye and nearby islands boarded small boats that took them to larger sailing ships, and then away from their homes forever. Image: Euan McGillivray

survival of the landlords. They continued to live and prosper because they could rid themselves of a problem. In their minds that problem was too many people for the resources they were willing to commit. The crofters consumed the resources that needed to be directed at more efficient farming and grazing of sheep. Landlord Sir George Mackenzie of Coul advised 'highlanders to be happy as servants of servants.'

Alasdair Mclean said that 'truly one might almost say that if the Clearances had not taken place, it would have been necessary to institute them.' Some other historians have similar views. They call it pragmatic because of the extent of the population in direct proportion to the usable land at an affordable price. And that's just the issue. For many years the crofters continued to ask for more land, while in return they were granted less, in poorer locations at increased rents. On odd occasions landlords offered reduced rents, especially when crops failed. Some crofters argued they could make a go of it. These included some from The Braes . In part their actions led to the Napier Commission in 1887 where most of the testimonials expressed 'the principal thing we have to complain about is our poverty'. This, however was long after the McGillivrays were cleared in 1852.

### Isle of Skye, 17 April 2018

I brought with me a copy of Correspondence Relating to Her Majesty's Emigrant Ship 'Hercules'. Being on Skye gave me a new perspective on the letters from Sir John McNeil, the main supporter of the Highland and Island Emigration Society (HIES), Captain Baynton, Hercules ships captain and Mr Chant, HIES Migration Agent.

The Hercules voyage to Australia in 1852 was classified as 'an experiment' and before the tragedy of so many deaths on the sea and in Cork, was thought to be a success. This was even despite the ship almost foundering before it even left the islands. The ship's captain said 'if anything had given way we should never have been heard of again' He went on to say 'the cries of the women last night were truly distressing.'

This is just a sample of the correspondence in the document. It gives a sobering account of how the ship was loaded with Highlanders from Harris, Uist, other islands as well as Skye. Not enough people are aware of the way thousands of Highlanders were treated prior to being subjected to the HIES project. Nor afterwards when the ships were commissioned to make the often dangerous voyages to Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

The crofts that the McGillivrays occupied in Lower Breakish were not very productive. The land above the tidal strip is marshy and of a poor standard. While there is no record of the family gathering kelp, it seems highly likely that the job of wading chest deep in freezing water to drag the slimy plant back to shore, was the only income earning job for them. If they did have animals such as cattle, communal grazing was shared with neighbouring townships and often up to four miles away. Many young women, whose job it was to milk the cow, walked to the grazing land twice each day.

### Isle of Skye, 18 April 2018

The highlight of our visit to the MacDonald Centre in Armadale was seeing the original Rent Books where my family's names

were recorded. These are contemporary accounts of all the tenants of Lord MacDonald, where they lived, what rent they paid and how much in arrears they had become. In the case of my McGillivrays, by 1852 they were 7 pounds behind in the rent. These original ledgers, written in the hand of a clerk are very powerful. Page after page, village after village, hundreds of names paying thousands of pounds to the landlord. The sums were astronomical for the times and conditions. Also set out in the ledgers is the amounts paid by MacDonald and his factors to the police and sheriffs to issue warrants of arrears and prosecute tenants. It's all very sobering stuff. What types of lives were the tenant crofters living? Maybe it was so bad that the prospect of leaving all they knew and loved was a better option.

I often think about the choices Mary was confronted with. Destitute with 7 children was she part of the decision to emigrate? When Charles died in Ireland, was she asked if she wanted to continue the voyage or return home? Orphaned children on the Hercules were often sent home. What a fate. To have some semblance of hope snatched away. I would like to discover the story about a child and their life after being returned to Scotland following the death of their parents on that fateful ship, the Hercules.

I also wonder how much Mary might have encountered the scenes recorded by the emigration agent Mr Chant. He described emigrants leaving Uist saying 'the scene was the most painful I have ever witnessed. Sturdy Highlanders grasped each other by the hand, whilst the muscles of their faces and bodies quivered with emotion. Women hung on the necks of their friends. To say that they sobbed aloud, would faintly express their sorrow.'

## Isle of Skye, 20 April 2018

The main reason for staying at Lower Breakish on Skye was to discover where gg grandfather Charles and Mary and ggg grandfather Neil and Janet lived. The Rent Books at the MacDonald Centre gave descriptions of the lot numbers in Lower Breakish in mid 1839. Lot number 19 for Neil and lot 10 for Charles. The current numbers are close but not the same as the earlier sets. This is after all 170 years later. However by using the maps from 1876, we think we located number 19 and number 10 Lower Breakish. The ruins to what we believe to be number 10 match those of the 1876 map. However it is not the Seamstresses House as some have thought, which is currently number 10. It is the property next door where only ruins remain. We walked along the foreshore with the 1876 map on the iPad attempting to match 'old' stone buildings. This proved reasonably successful. The site where we think Neil and Janet lived now has a dilapidated caravan set down in the middle of the site.

Sitting in the kitchen of our rental called Fossil Cottage, it is not difficult to im-



Frontispiece from Rent Books. Image: Courtesy of Museum of the Isles, Armadale Castle, Skye, Scotland



Rental of the Estates of Macdonald and Strath

Parish of Strath Cr.?	Possessions	Tenants Names	Endowment of Rent		Arrears at	
			Years from 30	30	31 August	
					1837	1838
4.	Breakish-Orable continued	Brought Forward			£ 6 13	£ 8 2
	Lot 4 <sup>th</sup>	John Maclean junr			12 2	2 17
	Lot 5.	John Macinnes			5 12	3 17
	Lot 6.	Neil Grant			15 6	3 17
	Lot 7.	Miles Macinnes			4 6 8	4
	Lot 8.	Donald Macpherson			3	11 4
	Lot 9.	Neil Macinnes Widow & son Donald			9 6	3 13
	Lot 10.	Charles McGillivray			6 8 4	4 8
	Lot 11.	Alexander Martin			2 11 7	3 15
	Lot 12.	Duncan Robertson			1 14 8	4 5
	Lot 13.	Murdo Macleods Widow			3 7 2	3 2
	Lot 14.	John Robertson			3 8 2	4
	Lot 15.	Lachlan MacInnion			2 6	3 5
	Lot 16.	Donald Nicolson			5 1 7	3 5
	Lot 17	William Fraser			5 8 9	3 5
	Lot 18.	Margaret Morrison			1 19 11	3
	Lot 19.	Neil McGillivray's Widow				3 5
	Lot 20.	John MacKenzie			2 14 2	3 5
	Lot 21.	Angus Matheson			2 3 1	3 2
	Lot 22.	William Munro			1 8	3 4
	Lot 23.	Paul Macphersons Widow			5 14 10	2 18
	Lot 24.	Archibald Fraser			2 8 9	2 15
	Lot 25.	Malcom Robertson			5 9 6	3 1
	Lot 26.	John Robertson junr			6 4 1	3 1
	Lot 27.	Dugald Matheson			1 11	3 2
	Lot 28.	John Macinnes			7 4 6	3 12
	Lot 29.	Donald Macleod			3 10 2	3 12
	Lot 30.	Archibald Macpherson			3 5 7	3 10
	Lot 31.	Lachlan Ross			5 7 8	3 2
	Lot 32.	Alexander Macleod			5 10 1	3 12
	Lot 33.	John MacInnion			3 4 3	3 16
	Lot 34	Angus Macinnes			4 5 11	3 4
		Carried Forward			£ 110 3 1	£ 114 12

Rent Book page showing obligations of Neil McGillivray's widow at number 19 and his son Charles, at 10 Lower Breakish. Image: Courtesy of Museum of the Isles, Armadale Castle, Skye, Scotland



Fossil Cottage, a great place to stay. The rhythm of tides can be seen from the living room window.  
Image: Euan McGillivray



Location of 10 Lower Breakish, home of Charles and Mary McGillivray before they were cleared to Australia in 1852. Image: Euan McGillivray

agine the comings and goings of of Lower Breakish. Simply looking at the view through the living room window over the Orb Breakish (stretch of water) across to the Ardish (stretch of land used for grazing) and realising that this view would not have changed much over the past 200 years. When the sun shines, as it is now, the Breakish folk would have rejoiced. The dead cold of winter was passing and while their financial situation probably didn't improve, the spirits would have been warmed.

I imagine children playing in a very different way during the warmer months. This is of course acknowledging that those children wouldn't have had much spare time for play. But then children everywhere find time somehow to enjoy a game or simply take a little longer than necessary to do a job because they are daydreaming a little. It's one thing for me to focus on the grim nature of life here in Lower Breakish, it is another to see how aspects of living a life might have been fulfilling. Another baby in the house probably brought joy - for a while at least.

The way Mary continued the journey to Australia following the death of her husband, tells me she had a spirit of determination and conviction. Maybe she and Charles discussed it before he died and they decided that the journey would be made no matter what happened. Then again, maybe she had no choice. The deal was for a family to be delivered to the Colony of Victoria. Mary had able bodied teenagers in tow. This was ample fodder for the farms and kitchens for wealthy folk already settled in Victoria. Their story played out just that way. Mary and the children went to work on rural properties. Sons and daughters, in time, married and had lots of children. Those children had more children and so on. And here I am.

## Inverness, 24 April 2018

After a full Scottish at the Redcliffe Hotel, we, or rather I waddled along the beautiful River Ness towards the Highland Archive Centre. The further up stream we went, the only sounds we could hear was the babble of river water rushing over stones. The sounds of the city were absorbed by the trees and foliage.

Inside the modern Archive, the staff delivered to our table some papers and church minute books that related to the time my family was in Skye, or specifically in the Strath district. The church records were not helpful at all. They documented only matters relating to the church. Even when the folks in the parish were starving and being shipped off by the hundred, no mention was made in the minutes. They were rich with information about who was to preach the next week in this or that church. Very disappointing. It got me thinking about the plotline in 'Consider the Lilies', by Iain Crichton Smith (1968) For such a pious woman, Mrs Scott was very critical of the church and minister. 'You can find God in those who are not his servants.'

One record the staff delivered was a copy of the record kept by the Royal Naval Surgeon on the HMS Hercules. His notes were about the conditions on board and his views on why so many had perished. His conclusion was that many were suffering before boarding the ship and that the journey only made matters worse. This was mainly because smallpox and typhus broke out. Well, that would induce sickness wouldn't it? In fact it made 59 passengers so sick, they died. This statistic was a shock to the organisers of the HIES. They thought that because the Hercules was previously a naval war-ship with a number of gun turrets, the healthy air flow





The Emigrants Statue was unveiled by the Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP, then First Minister of Scotland, on 23 July 2007. It is the work of sculptor Gerald Laing and was commissioned by Dennis MacLeod. It depicts four figures. The killed man is looking ahead into an unknown future, while beside him a boy is looking up to him for guidance or reassurance. The woman, wrapped in a shawl, is holding a baby and is looking back towards the home they have been forced to leave. Image: Ann Hurley

on board would be enough to prevent the spread of disease. When that didn't work and after the dead were unloaded at Cork in Ireland, the turrets were covered, much to the relief of the freezing emigrants. It was thought that it was better to be cold than contract typhus. That may have been a fair assumption but some passengers were freezing to death.

One other fascinating document was a letter sent by a Scot working on a farm owned by Captain Hepburn in Smeatonhill, Victoria. He wrote back to Robert Michael, his brother, in 1853. The letter is very interesting for a number of reasons. One is how he describes his voyage to Australia and second, he, in some detail, describes the conditions in Australia where he works as a shepherd. He mentions his wages compared to those of oth-

er local workers such as miners. He also writes vividly about the quality of the local landscape. Most telling of all he mentions that 40 children died on his voyage.



## THE ANGRY CAT THAT GUARDED OUR DOOR

Matthew MacGillivray

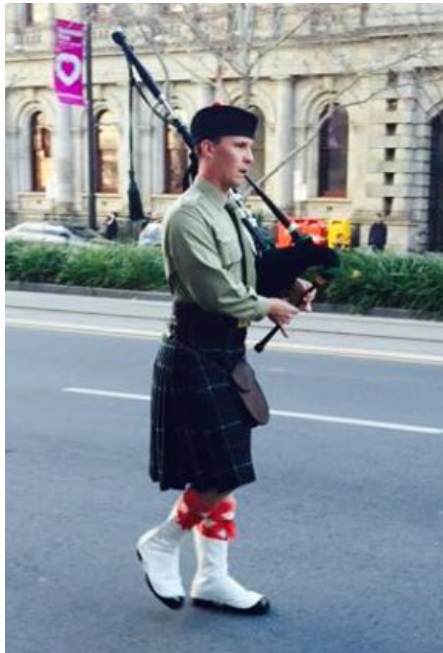
My particular MacGillivray history can be traced back to Scotland in the late 1800's. My great, great grandfather, Thomas MacGillivray left Dunfirmline for Australia in 1909. He moved to Woodville Park in Adelaide with young family that included by great grandfather Robert MacGillivray.



My grandfather Peter MacGillivray married my grandmother, Mabel, and they had 4 children including my father Bruce, who would marry my mother, Rose-Marie, and they would have me and my brother, Jamie.

I was interested in our Scottish heritage from a young age, enjoying the sound of bagpipes, and taking a large amount of interest and pride in the angry cat that guarded our front door, surrounded by a leather strap on a bed of red, green and blue tartan on a wooden shield.

A chance encounter when I was 16 actually led to me learning to play the bagpipes with 413 Pipes & Drums, Army Cadet Unit in South Australia. Through the unit I was able to learn a bit more of a history of Scotland, the importance of the



Matthew piping with the 10/27 Royal South Australian Regiment. Image supplied

bagpipes in Scottish culture, and the reason bagpipes are classified as a weapon in military circles.

My interest in the incredibly harrowing battle of Culloden led to my discovery of the tragic part that Clan MacGillivray played in it, culminating with our Chief falling at the Well of the Dead. Such was the effect of the poignancy of our Clan's story that I vowed to visit the battlefield, and as a young 18 year old I spent over a month and a half travelling in Scotland and the UK, with 2 weeks in Inverness and a couple of visits to Culloden and plenty of long walks around the city and surrounding areas getting in touch with the highland area close to our spiritual home of Dunmaglass. It also included trips to Edinburgh, Stirling, and Glasgow to enjoy the incredible Scottish history and culture.

My next trip to Scotland came after travelling to Belgium in 2013 to meet my future wife's family. During this trip my now wife, Lieve, took me on a tour of some First World War battlefields, which included visiting Tyne Cot Cemetery, where the names of 2 MacGillivrays are etched onto a wall erected to remember those soldiers who fell who have no known resting place.

My travels took me back to Glasgow (after swinging by Wembley Stadium in London to see the first England vs Scotland football match in 14 years), and although it wasn't planned, the allure of the highlands proved too strong and I ended up back in Inverness, and another pilgrimage to Culloden to think on our Clan's exploits in the incredible ambience of the battlefield.

After not having picked up a set of pipes for 7 odd years the skill was once more called upon to play in the 10/27 Royal South Australian Regiment band, of which I was serving as a Rifleman in the Austral-

ian Army Reserves. This would include a Freedom of Entry parade for the City of Adelaide, the Christmas Pageant, and one of the highlights of my defence career, playing pipes during the Anzac Day march.

In 2017 I married my best friend in Belgium, in a ceremony that largely recognised my Scottish background, her Belgian background, and the joining of our cultures and families. I would proudly don my MacGillivray tartan kilt, complete with the family heirloom of Thomas MacGillivray's pocket watch, complete with his name engraved on the back.

During the ceremony we had our hands tied with the MacGillivray tartan while we exchanged our vows, and after we were proclaimed husband and wife I pinned a MacGillivray tartan sash on Lieve using a pin of our family crest. We honeymooned in Scotland, spending a wonderful 3 days in Inverness and another 2 sight seeing in Edinburgh, where Lieve learned plenty about her new adopted culture.

As for me personally, I work as a career fire fighter with the Country Fire Authority, currently stationed at Ballarat City

Fire Brigade. I've been working in the fire service for various agencies for the past 8 years between Victoria and South Australia, and am very happy in my current roll with the CFA. I've been a member of the Australian Army Reserves for approximately 8 years, serving as a Rifleman with both 10/27 RSAR and 8/7 RVR.

In my spare time I play rugby union, currently for the Ballarat Rugby Club, and am an avid fan of the Port Adelaide Football club. My love of sports has enabled me to see a couple of incredible Scotland Rugby matches at Murrayfield against Wales and Italy respectively, and the heart-breaking 3-2 loss to England at Wembley in the soccer.

Having lived in South Australia until early 2016 I'm really enjoying the move to Victoria, and the opportunities it has presented with the various Scottish festivals that are held in regional Victoria and Melbourne (any excuse to see a Pipe & Drum band). I've thoroughly enjoyed joining the Clan MacGillivray Association, hearing what fellow Clansmen and women are up to and looking forward to any opportunities for a get together and hear others' stories and histories!



Left: Matthew and Lieve on their wedding day in Belgium, 2017. Image supplied  
Right: Matthew (left) in fire fighting gear. Image supplied



## STONES AND STORIES

### Raghnaid Sandilands

'One of the most starkly dramatic of all the clearance sites' in Scotland lies in Strathnairn.'

Recently I chanced upon these words in Rob Gibson's 'Highland Clearance Trails'; a guide to clearance sites in Argyll, Perthshire, Skye and Raasay, the Outer Hebrides, the Northern Highlands and the Great Glen and Strathspey. It's a compelling read that details the fraught history of the Highlands. I was struck to think that on our doorstep was a dramatic, tangible and unchanged memorial to the social past of the Highlands in the form of a cairn, over 9 metres in diameter and 1.8 metres high and yet, I had heard nothing about it.

I decided to dedicate this article to finding out what I could about this site and what happened to the people of that township at the turn of the century. I've



Satellite map of Dunmaglass cairn site. Image supplied.

spoken to people and looked at maps, censuses, photos, newspaper accounts, place-name books and history books in an effort to gain an impression of the people and the forces at play and how such history could be almost forgotten and barely recorded.

The information gathered locally by Gibson was in relation to this significant cairn on the Dunmaglass estate; 'The last MacGillivray chief, John William XIII, at the age of 26 sold Dunmaglass to a London stockbroker, William Sopper, in 1890. Some years later Sopper had an altercation with a tenant whom he regarded as having been impudent. The tenant was given notice to quit, but other MacGillivray tenants objected so all were evicted. Their homes were demolished and the house stones piled high in one great heap, presumably so that the tenants could not return.'

Rob Gibson was told this by Bob Mulholland, Farr who most probably had heard it from Andy Cumming, Croft Croy. I made some phone calls and spoke to another local who recalls hearing accounts of this in his youth from older members



Dunmaglass Cairn and outlines. Image: Neil Shaw Photography.

of the community. Those accounts would conceivably have been from living memory. One additional detail that he told me was that the estate workers who were made to raise the houses and clear the stones, burnt their fingers from the heat still in them.

I went then to the satellite images of Dunmaglass estate. Silently winging down from space, with the help of Google earth, it was startling to see the large cairn of stones and all of the base stones of the township clearly visible. It's a very instant sort of archeology and a view that illustrates clearly the scale of the settlement.

At a busy meeting of South Loch Ness Heritage Society, at Gorthleck Hall, on a snowy afternoon, and standing under a brass plaque in memory of Colonel Frank W. Sopper, Sopper's son, I learnt a few other things; that there were in fact 3 cairns, that Sopper styled himself 'Lord Strathnairn' and that he had also owned Easter Aberchalder at one time. I asked one of the local historians how such an event as the clearance of people could be almost forgotten - he suggested that people would have kept quiet 'about such matters' and there would have been, he thought, an element of shame about it as tenants beholden to and employees in the pay of the landlord would have been hard placed to take in expelled relatives or clansmen.

I went then to the National Map Library website to access the old OS maps. The cairn is about 365 metres on the right of the road up to Dunmaglass lodge and visible from the B851. The settlement had a name; Crochy (not Croachy). The map website has a facility that allows you to marry the satellite image to the old OS maps - and the three cairns, of which Crochy is by far the biggest, correspond

exactly to the three settlements of Crochy, Milton & Clovendale. It's perhaps best to describe the evidence from this and other on-line sources in terms of a timeline.

**1871 6-inch OS map:** - The area was surveyed for the first edition OS map. There are 7 settlements on the estate - Crochy, Milton, Clovendell (Anglicized from Dail Sgaoilte), Lagg, Drumnacloich, Achnaloddan and Balnagaig.

**1876-8:** - The settlements are described in the OS place name books e.g. Crochy - crofters houses and offices and other dwelling houses. 1 storey high, thatched. Achnaloddan - applies to 2 small farm houses with their offices together with a collection of dwelling houses. Fair condition etc.

**1878 1-inch OS map:** - all 7 settlements are visible.

**1890** - John William MacGillivray, 13th Chief of MacGillivray sells to William Sopper, a stockbroker from London, ending 400 years of Clan MacGillivray's connection to the land.

**1891:** - the census documents people living in these settlements - I have yet to gather the figures and calculate the rate of change in population about this period.

**1894 6-inch map revisions:** - Outlines only remain of the settlements - apart from 3 roofed properties at Clovendell.

**1899 revisions:** - I spoke to a map expert at the Map Library in Edinburgh who explained that the outlines of the stones on the ground would have also been mapped. This is what is shown in the 1899 OS map, as there are no shaded buildings (shaded buildings indicating roofed properties).



Dunmaglass Estate and surrounding district, 1894. Image: OS Maps, National Map Library, Scotland.

**1901:** - interestingly at this census, all original place-names have been erased and descriptions are given only for properties on the estate e.g Dunmaglass Ploughman's House, Dunmaglass Game-keeper's House, Dunmaglass Shepherd's House etc.

It was a time of upheaval and rapid change all over the Highlands. Alan Lawson in 'A Country called Stratherrick' tells us that 'the last MacGillivray laird of Dunmaglass could maintain with indignation to the Crofting Commission in the 1880s that no tenants had been turned off the estate. At the beginning of the century there were 7 townships or holdings on Dunmaglass, all tenanted by MacGillivrays, in groups or singly, while at the close of the century no croft or small holding remained and the estate itself was in the hands of strangers.' As Lawson has it 'It was the end of an old song'. Lawson describes the changes that came to the Straths of South Loch Ness: 'Local estates were now valued as mainly sporting prop-

erties. The wild North was a sportsman's paradise waiting to be exploited... the 'gentry' and wealthy industrialists from the South flocked to the Highlands, to the hill estates they bought or rented. Shooting lodges of impressive size were built in remote glens and in the late summer were briefly graced by stylish ladies and tweedy gentlemen breathing blood and gunpowder with their retinue of personal servants. Local men found employment as keepers, stalkers, water-bailiffs, stablemen etc. but others, not employees, were unwelcome. When Foyers estate came up for sale in 1895 the prospectus made the point that there were no crofters or cottars on the Wester Aberchalder and Garrogie portions, similarly Farraline estate.'

Another phone call and a visit, this time to Willie Forbes, Farr, who told me about a Sopper family photo album. It had been sourced by Hilda Hesling who had been instrumental in setting up the Strathnairn Heritage Association with him. She di-



Buildings at Crochy. Image supplied.

rected me to the album from which she had 20 photos of interest copied. The Highland archive told me that the album has since been taken back by the Sopper family.

On closer study of one picture and using the OS map and the angles of the ditch, wall, building and sky-line as bearings, I'm almost certain that this photo shows buildings at Crochy (see image above).

There is also a photo of the young MacGillivray, John William the 13th chief, who sold up at 26, presumably to cover debts and fund his life elsewhere. One wonders if he felt uneasy here, a curio on display. He himself was deceased in London at 50, with no heir.

I cycled up the drive of Dunmaglass estate to look at the cairn. One could almost assume it was a large field clearance cairn, commonly of Bronze Age origins, created when fields were cleared of stones; indeed one local I spoke to be-



John William MacGillivray, 13th Chief. Image supplied.





Dunmaglass Cairn. Image: Neil Shaw Photography.

lieved it to be such and had never queried its existence. Another thought it to be a cairn in memory of the Clan MacGillivray. Seemingly on the estate itself it is referred to as 'The MacGillivray cairn', assumed to be a memorial to the Clan.

The new searchable newspaper archives are revealing new sources. I came across an account of Sopper's welcome party given by the tenants of the estate on 20th December 1889.

The Inverness Courier describes the day, as one given as a general holiday and on the occasion of his welcome, flags and

banners containing words of welcome were erected on points running up the road. A procession headed by a piper marched to the lodge to 'welcome their new landlord with ringing cheers'.

The tenants' address is most deferential and carefully worded. '...it is not out place here, we think, to allude to the fact that for a series of years past agriculturalists of all classes have been passing through a very severe and trying ordeal but we believe that better days are at hand and we have every reason to anticipate much prosperity and contentment under your regime as our landlord'.

They finish by asking that the 'Giver of all Good may abundantly bless you and your household, this is the earnest prayer and fervent wish of all your people'. How swiftly these hopes of a happy regime would have to be checked. All evidence seems to suggest that within 4 or 5 years many of their townships would be demolished and settled communities of people disbanded.

The article concludes 'The night being dark, the colossal bonfire was visible at a distance of many miles. The company danced merrily around the fire to the music of the bagpipe, played ably by Mr. MacTavish'.

The newspaper archive also revealed a new source for the history of the Straths; The Deer Commission gathered evidence in Strathnairn, Strathdearn and Stratherrick in 1894. Gladstone's ministry had heard the anguished cries of the crofting population. The widespread land raiding of 1891 in the Isles had failed to bring about any significant change towards a fairer distribution of the available land resources and a Royal Commission of Inquiry was tasked at looking at the unchecked expansion of sporting deer parks in the Highlands and Islands, and earmarking land which might be suitable for small-holdings.

William MacGillivray, Balnabeeran farm, aged 32, gave evidence that tenants were cleared by Sopper the previous year 'under circumstances of severity'. The Sheriff court in Inverness was packed. The notable attendants were listed; sheriffs, M.P.s, church representatives and many factors and also famous agitators for land reform and crofters' rights. It must have been an intimidating arena. His hope was to help improve the lot of the local crofters and to perhaps help reclaim for farming, land

previously given over to sheep in the first round of clearances and for sporting pursuits in his own time.

He brought with him a letter signed by 50 'crofters, cotters, farm-servants and others'. Their petition states that 'certain lands in the district are at present being cleared of people, apparently for the purpose of being formed into a deer forest' and 'that large tracts of the best land in the district 'are already under deer and sheep.'

MacGillivray in his evidence says of the farm at Dunmaglass it is 'evidently the intention to allow it to run out under sheep.' Asked how much of the land is at present under rotation he says he cannot answer as 'it was only last year that Mr. Sopper of Dunmaglass took it into his own hand.' The general impression in the district is that 'he is to convert the hill ground into a deer forest.'

In reference to tenants cleared from the settlement of Achnaloddan on Dunmaglass the year previous MacGillivray recounts that they each had '6 or 7 cows, a pair of horses and 200-300 sheep'. He also tells that 'at one time the farm was occupied by 20 small farmers and crofters. It was now solely in the hands of the proprietor. The tenants who were removed had not fallen behind in their rents.'

Another man, James MacDonald, born on the neighbouring estate of Abrader, at Duhallow, describes how there were only half a dozen farms on the estate when there used to be 'a great deal more' and when asked how the farms had fallen out of cultivation he replied 'the people could not afford the increased rents and had to leave'.

He is asked 'How did these (farms) fall



out of cultivation? What is the reason of their being uncultivated? do you know? - Because he (E. C. Sutherland, the proprietor) would not let people have the land. He would not let them have the land because they could not pay the rent he wanted for it. He wanted double the rents it carried previous to 1880 and, I suppose, the people really could not afford to give that, and they were obliged to leave.' The newspapers surmise evidence from other parts of the Highlands - places infamous for the severity and brutality of their clearance and the enforcers; Glen Calvie, Sutherland, Rasaay, the names of Rainey and Sellar are mentioned. It was arresting to see mention of Dunmaglass.

I have been helped by Lynn Shaw Reid, a descendent of some of the MacGillivrays from Dunmaglass whose labour of love has been to trace back her family connections and gather together a sizeable online forum from the diaspora (The Hills and the Heather Facebook group). She was able to tell me the 2 farming brothers cleared from Achnaloddan in 1892/3 were living on Aberarder in 1901 and had died from pneumonia in 1903 aged 55 and 68. Their 'depleting sale' was held in May of 1893 - they sold the mechanics of their working lives, their horses, ploughs, ladders, turnip drills etc. There was another 'depleting sale' the same month; a Mr Robertson of Dunmaglass auctioned 10 horses and 30 cows.

What recourse would the people have had? The Napier Commission had reported, the Deer Commission had heard their story but, in reality, what could the people have done? I asked this question of Rob Gibson, a long time land-rights activist and historian of clearance. He said, in reality, very little. It has been suggested that crofters failed to appreciate that the remit of the Commission only asked

them to schedule, or identify, the available land. They were not asked to create new landholdings.

It would seem many MacGillivrays left the Strath for New Zealand about this time. A published work on family trees from Dunmaglass 'The Hills and the Heather', written in New Zealand, makes only passing reference to the 'clearance cairns'. It was the end point of the MacGillivray connection to the place and one wonders if to have investigated it further might have tarnished the romantic idea of home and clan.

One reason I was gripped by this story is that it illustrates how our own history can be almost completely forgotten and raises many questions about how people can become so disassociated from the history of their own place.

Dr. Mairi MacFadyen, has written a great essay about how we see our landscapes <https://www.fearann.land/blog/2018/6/20/how-we-see-our-landscapes> and asks if this cairn, like other ruins in the Highlands '... embed dominant cultural narratives of defeat and exile in the Scottish landscape - associated with loss, with pain, social fracture, displacement and a sense of belonging lost.' This should be the case here but, locally, people barely know anything of this cairn. When I was researching this people were always surprised to be asked, some remember hearing stories of Sopper senior, some expressed anger at the lack of any teaching of Scottish / local history in schools in their youth. There is a faint memory of possibly settlements, now rubble, and one source, that, even though a hundred years and more has passed, didn't want to be named. Perhaps this essay can prompt some to consider these missing narratives and question the processes at play.



Making stooks at Dunmaglass. Image supplied.

I chanced upon this quote by a French psychiatrist and philosopher on a radio programme - 'after a while the coloniser doesn't have to be in the room, since all the work of destroying the reflection in the mirror has been done.' It's as if the mirror here has no reflection.

Another reason I found this research so interesting is that the huge cairn and neatly levelled stone footprints are unlike other remnants of settlements that we are so used to seeing in the Highlands. It could be seen as a statement of sorts. It's still there, strangely, the stone has not been repurposed and it is easily mistaken for a prehistoric feature; it's as if Sopper was saying; I have erased you into pre-history, your connection to this place and community are of no importance now.

In weeks where a lead item in one na-

tional newspaper reports on the 'Scottish estate owners' fear at reversing Highland Clearances' and there are moves to have cleared land mapped, it would seem this is a live issue, in some sections of Scotland at least. One wonders if the efforts being made, and hope invested, will resolve themselves differently than they did in William MacGillivray, Balnabeeran's day.

I'd be glad to hear any other information or thoughts people might have.

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Some additional notes - Andy Cumming's unpublished list 'Place names of Strath Nairn' includes an entry on a cairn at Dunmaglass. It reads as follows;

Carn nan Diolalibhean - Cairn of the bastards (at Dunmaglas). After the Calvin-

ising of the Reformed Church reached the North bastardy was persecuted with astonishing severity. The church forced women having bastards to publicly put a stone on the cairn presumably to deter promiscuity.

Willie Forbes who recorded this information is unsure what site it refers to. It may be another interpretation or story attached to the same cairns. More research is required.

I had an interesting conversation with Maggie Mulholland - she told me that Andy Cumming's granny as a girl could remember seeing smoke coming from the houses opposite and to the right of their home at Croft Croy - on the old OS maps there are four buildings shown at 'Craggan'.

.....

References; Alan Lawson 'A Country called Stratherrick', Mary Miller Neé MacGillivray 'From the Hills and the Heather of Scotland', Edward Meldrum, 'From Nairn to Loch Ness', Inverness Courier 1894, Angus Macleod archive. Andy Cumming's unpublished notes, from field work done by Willie Forbes, Proceedings of parliamentary commission - Royal Commission Highlands and Islands 1892.

Thanks to; Lynn Shaw Reid, Alistair Chisolm, Willie Forbes, Hilda Hesling, Rob Gibson, Gwen Bowie, Maggie Mulholland, Leigh Barrett, Neil Shaw photography & other local sources.

*Raghnaid Sandilands is a writer, translator, cartographer, publisher and quiet radical based in Strarhnairn on the south side of Loch Ness. The Clan MacGillivray Society Australia thanks Raghnaid for her kind cooperation in updating her story*

*and allowing us to publish it. Hopefully some of us can meet her in 2020 at our Clan gathering in Inverness.*

*Her website is:  
<https://www.raghnaidSandilands.scot>*



## **RINGWOOD HIGHLAND GAMES**

**Ann Brown**

Without a doubt, the 2018 Ringwood Highland Games and Celtic Festival on Sunday March 25 at the East Ringwood Reserve was a day of enthusiastic and exuberant celebration and connection, marking the 52nd Highland Games in Ringwood and this year the inclusion of a wider range of traditional Celtic traditions and instruments enriched and strengthened the unity and diversity of this event. Historically, Scots belong to a broad Celtic heritage originating in central Europe around 1200 BCE. As a collection of tribes that spoke similar languages and held comparable religious beliefs traditions and culture, these people spread via migration to Britain, Ireland and Spain. Celtic culture has survived longer in Ireland, Wales and Scotland than in Continental Europe. 'Celt'/'Kelt' comes from a Greek word 'Keltoi' meaning 'barbarian.' It is correctly pronounced with a hard c or k.

Visitors on Sunday had an extraordinary opportunity to participate in Celtic healing workshops involving an ancient Celtic healing ceremony using sound. Bonnie, a Celtic healing practitioner played the dordiseal, an ancient large bass bronze horn around 2,800 years old, from southwest Ireland, an instrument for specific use in this method of healing.

The formal ceremony of the Opening the Games had particular significance this year because the President of the Ringwood Games Inc., Sue MacLeod, introduced The Right Honorable Simon Abney-Hastings 15th Earl of Loudoun, Clan Chief of the Loudon Campbells, to the Gathering of the clans. He is now a permanent patron of the Games and in this role, he officially announced the Opening of the Games which was subsequently followed by a display of Scottish Country Dancing near the podium as the clans paraded off the field.

Although Scottish Country Dancing and Highland Dancing both have a Gaelic heritage, they are significantly different; Highland Dancing is a competitive sport whereas Scottish Country Dancing is purely social involving men and women dancing progressive patterns in groups. The location of the Scottish Country Dancing exhibition on the oval, behind the podium, was advantageous

to clan members marching off the oval because it enabled us to witness close-up, the slight tapping of toes, the clatter and scuffle of heels and the squashing sound when dancers pressed their soft, pliable calf leather-soled shoes against the sturdy chartreuse-green grass underfoot. I suspect that the dancers may have been feeling the tickle of tartan brushing against their skin as they moved with straight backs and smiling faces in varying formations, seamlessly weaving and interweaving, like a pattern disassembling and reassembling. They executed their steps with notable co-ordination, agility and litheness. The synchronicity between movement and sound was pleasing and calming to watch. A hefty breeze with an astringent aromatic fragrance emanating from surrounding eucalypts infiltrated and cleansed the air and aroused a tangy taste in the pallet. During the parade I was impressed to note that Mary MacGillivray, our clan Media Manager, was astutely at the ready with camera in hand, swiftly and sharply



Billabong Band, Ringwood Highland Games, 2018. Image: Ann Brown

documenting the action around her. Highland dancing was another prominent delight. With pleated dance kilts flapping and deftly pointed toes, keen competitors moved lambently between and over crossed swords with arms raised and looks of intense concentration, mastering balance and rhythm to the accompaniment of the repetitive beat in rhythmic Scottish melodies. Thorough attention to detail in their personal presentation was evident and these competitors seemed so competent and confident the judges would have had an unenviable task before them.

Some distance away, in a large tent, on a flat but elevated area at the far end of the oval, 'The Billabong Band', a string group of 10 members from the Victorian Folk Music Club, was singing and playing traditional Celtic melodies. The number of performers and the instruments varied between songs. Their instruments included a harp, a double base, ukulele, banjo and guitar and for some tunes, a piano accordion. For me, their powerful and potent Gaelic rendition of a song sung in to the tune I recognized as 'The last Rose of

Summer' was so heart-wrenching, that I dared not even breathe for fear of not hearing all the notes even at the risk of becoming lightheaded. It was a good thing that I was sitting down! However, I made a speedy recovery when the next song was a robust rendition of 'Donald Where's your Trousers?' including, all the verses! As I listened I was aware that the highland pipes and drums on the oval were background sound to the Celtic string band and to my surprise, there was not a discordance between the pipes and the string band when playing simultaneously. It was a novel listening experience.

The Scottish Martial, Arts Glenlochlan College of Arms had a distinctive Celtic presence of a different dimension as they were aptly demonstrating the cut and thrust of sword-fighting manoeuvres but this year one of the 'heavy' games caught my eye. In the thick of the blustery wind, I was curious to see how the weight-throw competitors with strength and determination managed, to toss the heavy metal ball and direct the momentum of its weight, to land the furthest distance from the line. It was a physically and mentally



Left: Clan MacGillivray Society tent at the Ringwood Highland Games, 2018. Right: Pete Ormiston and David McGillivray. Image: Mary Hurley McGillivray



demanding challenge requiring balance, timing and skill. According to research, in early times, feats such as the weight - throw were used to select the fittest and strongest men for the chief's fighters and body guards.

The capricious wind was powerful enough to collapse at least one tent, so with respect to the weather it seemed sensible that some Scottish terriers, were dressed in jackets, yet, the well-groomed collie dogs without jackets but with gorgeous, gleaming eyes also had their own appeal. I visited the clan MacGillivray tent, at a time when the forceful wind was practically blowing down the frames of adjacent clan tents and people from these tents came running frantically into the clan MacGillivray tent with urgent pleas for assistance to help prevent their tent poles from dislodging! I noticed that help from the MacGillivray tent in terms of muscular strength, was immediately and readily given. This was impromptu fellowship between clans in action.

David and Heather were warmly welcom-

ing visitors to the clan MacGillivray tent. I was introduced to Abbey, Heather's two-year old granddaughter and this reminded me of how much the Ringwood Highland Games and Celtic Festival is a family day. Even though the serene autumnal sun, a radiant star, was enveloping all in a veil of warmth and overlooking us in a seemingly quiet stillness, I could not help feeling that the shy but engaging smile I received from Abbey, outshone everything else. Abbey was wearing a mini-kilt made in the Clan MacGillivray tartan by Heather and the precision of the razor-edge pleats was testament to Heather's accomplishment of the traditional Scottish craft of kilt making.

Participants and visitors to the Games and Festival were immersed in a kaleidoscope of cultural activities but at the core of this occasion was a deep sense of gratitude to Scottish and Celtic descendants who had emigrated to Australia, for their courage, and allegiance to their origins. Fortunately, the weather was fine despite the wind. The azure blue sky, scant cloud and generous sunshine helped to make it a great day out for Scots and Celts.



Dancers at the Ringwood Highland Games, 2018. Image: Mary Hurley McGillivray



## LETHBRIDGE MCGILLIVRAY REUNION

Robert Scott

Descendants of a McGillivray family from the Isle of Skye, Scotland who settled in the Lethbridge, Victoria area have been meeting up regularly for the past few years to share a barbecue and catch up. The most recent get together was at the Maude Recreation Reserve, Steigletz Road on Sunday 8 April 2018. We had a good attendance although a couple of 'regulars' were unable to attend.

In 1853 Charles McGillivray and his wife Mary (nee Matheson) left the Isle of Skye

to migrate to Australia on the ship SS Australia sailing from Liverpool.

Unfortunately, Charles died either just before sailing or on the voyage. Mary, aged 46 at the time, continued on to Australia with her six children arriving in Australia on 20 September 1853. Their grandson Neil McGillivray who worked as a quarryman/farmer in the Lethbridge area married Matilda Sanders (Tilly). They had eight children and many of those attending last Sunday are direct descendants or have ties to this line of the McGillivrays.

There will be another reunion in 2019 and if you are interested to know more please email

*robert\_scott20@hotmail.com*



Group of McGillivrays at the 2018 family reunion, Bannockburn. Image supplied



## **DAVIOT AND DUNLICHITY CHURCH: 400 YEARS OF UNION**

This year saw the 400th anniversary of the two churches. This is the oldest union in the church of Scotland. However under a new Presbytery Plan, the Dunlichity church will be closed in early 2019.

The Strathnairn community are looking for ways to retain the church and recognise its association to the Clan MacGillivray with all those historical connections, including the burial ground. The church site dates to the days of St Finnan in 575 AD.

We will keep Australian members as up to date as possible regarding the future of these two churches. Information from Strathnairn News Vol 97.



Dunlichity Church, Chief's burial enclosure. Image: Euan McGillivray



Dunlichity Church, 2017. Image: Euan McGillivray



Daviot Church. Image: Creative Commons





## **NOVICE PIPER AWARD 2018**

### **Awarded to Ebony Ciccocioppo**

Since 2007 our Clan has made an award for the best Novice Piper in the Victorian Piping Championship.

Winning Novice Piper of the year was an early birthday present for Ebony Ciccocioppo, who turned 12 the day after her win. Ebony started learning the chanter when she was in grade 2 and got her pipes about 18 months after that, just before her birthday three years ago.

She is a student at King's College in Warrnambool where she is tutored by Donald Blair. Donald has tutored a number of the winners of best novice piper. Ebony plays in the school band as well as the Warrnambool and District Pipes and Drums band. She joined the Warrnambool band when it went to Palmerston in New Zealand in December last year to compete.

Ebony plays not just at solos, but with the band at Anzac Day marches, festivals and concerts. Two of her younger brothers are also in the pipe bands as snare drummers.

All our clan members send congratulations to Ebony and wish her continued success with her piping and studies.



Left: Ebony playing in New Zealand.  
Right: Ebony's first set of pipes. Images: Katrina Lovell



Iain MacGillivray, our Clan Commander, in documentary shown on BBC Alba in April 2018. Image: BBC Alba.



## **BBC ALBA DOCUMENTARY**

This year, BBC Alba, the UK's Scottish Gaelic language television channel screened a documentary on our Clan Commander Iain MacGillivray.

BBC Alba described the program as: 'A landmark documentary highlighting a year in the life of the young clan commander Iain MacGillivray from Tain, in the north of Scotland, as he travels throughout the world galvanising the global Clan MacGillivray and carrying out his duties in his first year as clan commander.'

BBC products are not available for viewing in Australia. However we have access to this film and can email members a copy. Please get in touch if you would like us to send you a digital version.





## SORAI DH

Scottish Gaelic for “farewell” or “blessing”.

### **Margaret Elsie Wilson (nee McGillivray)**

**Born 2.4.1923 - Died 7.10.2017**

By Ray Wilson

Mum died on 7 October 2017 at Abbey Gardens aged home, warm, safe and peacefully.

That was the end of a 94 year journey that started at Charlton on the edge of the Victorian Mallee. She was no stranger to hard work. From a very young age mum learnt to cook which became her job and along with her mother Elsie catered for shearing gangs and her father Donald at morning and afternoon teas down in the paddock.

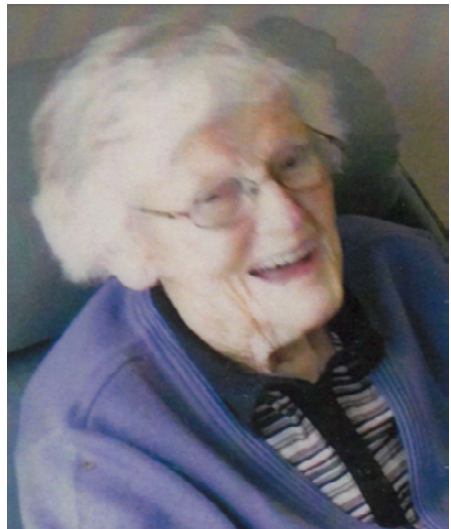
It was a happy childhood which gave her a smile and optimism, resourcefulness and energy she was to carry the rest of her days - 'pull up your socks and get on with it' was her personal view on how to live your life.

Mum was an early member of the Clan MacGillivray Society. She was descended from the McGillivrays of the Isle of Skye (croft 7, Aird, Parish of Sleat,) who left the Sleat Peninsula in 1852 to join the ship 'Hercules' at Campbeltown for the voyage to Australia. Disease broke out within days of departure and started to claim more and more victims forcing the ship into quarantine at Cork, Ireland. The ship finally left for Australia in April 1853 leaving behind many of the ill in-

cluding mum's forbears; Donald and his wife Christina (nee McDonald) and their children: Anne, Donald, Neil, Farquhar, Charles and Rachel. The family later left Southampton in September 1853 reaching Australia on the 'Poictiers' on 6 January 1854.

In 1856 the family moved to the Branxholme area in the Western district of Victoria near Hamilton. In the early 1870s the family moved to Yeungroon near Charlton where mum was born much later.

Mum never smoked or drank alcohol and gave her children a physically healthy beginning and her grandchildren a great role model. She never told a lie; nor did she indulge in exaggeration or hyperbole - she gave nothing but her honest opinion and the wisest of advice even if not taken at times - 'the teacher appears when the student is ready.' If there was a matter she did not want to talk about she would say 'I would have to tell a lie if I told you that story' - with a cheeky smile on her face.



**Phyllis Evans (Nee Skurrie)**  
**Born 2.8.1932 - Died 28.8.2018**

Phyllis joined the clan society in 1983. She married Graeme Willey and they had one son, Robert. She had four grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. After divorcing, Phyllis married Thomas Evans in 1986. Her parents were Robert and Alena Skurrie and her great, great grandparents were John and Sarah McGillivray who arrived in Australia in 1848.



**Heather Iles**  
**Born 28.8.1956 - Died 20.6.2018**  
By Ashley Iles

Mum lost her three year battle with ovarian cancer and fought the monster until the end. In those years she got to see the birth of my two children and experience being a grandmother.

When things got dark at times, she was determined to remain positive. Through her passing a huge hole has been left; but strength in family is what she instilled in us and together anything is possible, even when you have cancer.

Dearly loved wife of George, loving mother of Ashley, Alissa and mother-in-law of Kristin & Matthew, grandmother of Heidi & Joslyn. Forever in our hearts and remembered always.



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