

**The following is an extract from the book 'Clan Macmillan and their Septs'
by Somerled Macmillan**

CHAPTER Viii.

THE MACMILLANS IN GALLOWAY AND AYRSHIRE.

The Galloway and Ayrshire MacMillans have long been established in these parts and rank among our oldest families there. It is the belief of some that a number of the older inhabitants were placed there by Malcolm IV in 1160, when he removed the principal families of Moray in order to prevent further risings.

The Kennedys are probably of Moray stock originally for mention is made in the Book of Deer of Cormac mac Cennedg (modern Gaelic is Ceann-eitigh and means 'ugly head') who gave a portion of land to the Church, extending to the 'Shielin of the Thieves,' in 1150.

Certain writers are of the opinion that the progenitor of the Galloway MacMillans came directly from Moray in 1160, while others contend that the first of the name came from Lawers sometime before the clan was forcibly removed to Knapdale in Argyllshire.

The writer is of the opinion that Gilbert was progenitor of the Galloway branch and the occasion of his coming south arose when he and some of his clansmen acted as an escort to Bruce in 1306, after he had been defeated by the MacDougalls at Tyndrum.

Three years later he is styled as the Baron of Ken and mention is made in the Great Privy Seal of a land transaction which took place between him and a certain Robert Boyd who desired a charter from the king similar to the one which MacMillan possessed. Further mention is made of Gilbert in 1329, but no mention is made of his direct descendants until well into the

fifteenth century.

The MacMillans were at one time loyal retainers of the Douglasses, and tradition has it that the clan was out in support of James, Earl of Douglas, when he rose in rebellion against King James II in 1455. The Douglas rising was crushed and those who had taken part in it lost some of their lands. In this way the MacMillans lost most of theirs.

About 1486, John Makmulane in Glenken tried to deforce the Chamberlain of Galloway from "collecting fermes of Castlemaddy," and by 1488 he had failed to pay his dues to the Exchequer. In 1490, the moat at Eristoun was assessed to him for a nominal sum.

Two MacMillans, possibly brothers of the chief, are mentioned in a precept of remission, dated 19th October 1488, which reads as follows :- "A precept of Remissioun to Huchoun Wallace of Smithstoun for arte and parte of the rife of certain gudis out of the barony of Erlstoun upoun Walter Makmyllane and Mychel McMyllane and for al uther actionis committit and done be the said Huchoun unto the daye of our soverane lordis proclamation maid at Lanark that is to say the 28th day of August precedand the date thereof."

At an early date, several MacMillans found their way into Ayrshire where a number obtained positions of responsibility and power.*

Mention is made of Gilbert McMulane who held a tenement belonging to the Friars Preachers of Ayr, in 1505.

In 1555, Robert Makmyllen is referred to as one of the magistrates of Ayr and in 1559 he was responsible for rendering the accounts of the burgh to the Exchequer. The returns are

given as follows :—" Aire (Ayr) Computuom ballivorum burgh
de Aire, redditum per Robertum Makmyllane, unum eorundem
(Edinburgh 25 August 1559, from August 1558.

Charge. £20, burgh fermes by feu-charter.

Discharge. To Friars Preachers of Ayr, £20)." "

About the year 1507, John Gordon of Lochinvar, probably
the real hero of Sir Walter Scott's well-known poem, "Young
Lochinvar," was given a precept of remission for stealing a horse
belonging to Johanne Makmulane of Arindavacht.

In 1526, Cuthbert and Johne McMillane and other followers
of Gilbert, Earl of Cassilis, were given respite for the slaughter
of Cornelius de Machtime, Dutchman, and umquhile Martin
Kennedy and Gilbert McIlwraith.

THE HOUSE OF BROCKLOCH.

The Brockloch family is first alluded to in 1584, when
reference is made to the testamentary effects of Geillis Grierson, a
sometime spouse to Johne McMillane in Brockloch, wherein she
willed her personal property to her brothers.

By 1587 Jolme McMillane had remarried, for Margaret
Glenoyning is mentioned as being his wife at that time.

Ten years later he and his son, possibly in the pay of the
Douglas family, were heavily fined for assaulting a man of rank.
The incident is briefly given as follows :—"Sir James Douglas
of Drumlangrig for Johnne McMillane in Brockloch, and Donald
McMillane, his son, 500 merks each, not to harm Andro, Lord
Stewart."

** Newyn (Niven?) McMullane was a member of the Guild of Ayr c.1431.*

In retour, dated 1615, James is given as the son of Donald

McMillane of Brockloch : and in October 1625, James McMillane had also sasine of two parts of the lands of Knockingirroch. Soon after this the Griersons obtained possession or hold over the land by wadset, as on 21st April 1629, Robert, son of William Grierson of Lag had retour of Brockloch, Woodhead, Drumjoan (Drumjohn) and Longfurd.

Then, on 2nd February 1630, John, son of Robert Gordon of Lochinvar, had retour of Brockloch and on 17th March 1635, he was followed by John, Viscount Kenmure, son of the above.

In 1645, Johne McMillane of Brockloch is named among those who petitioned for the erection of a place of worship at Carsefearne (Carsphairn) and the following is an extract of the act passed in the Scottish Parliament :- "Anent supplications Givine in to the estates of Parliament Quhairof the tennor followes UNTO your Lords the honorable estates of Parliament Humbly means and shows I your servitor Alexander Gordon of Knockegray for my self and as commissioner and in name of the remaining heritors of the lands underwritten that where we be heritors' tennants of be fourscore merk land following-viz. The merk land of Bank. Tua merk half merk land of Marke broke. The merkland of fermenstoun. The merke land of Merke broke etc. The forty shilling land of Brokeloch perteaneing to Johne McMillane of Brokeloch. The twenty shilling land of Drumness and Craiglingell perteaneing to Cuthbert McMillane heritor thereof. The halfe merkland of Knockingirrot perteaneing to Johne McMillane of Knockingirrot."

On 11th February 1659, Robert, son of Sir John Grierson of Lag had retour of Brockloch, Longfurd, etc. and again, on 29th April 1669, Robert, son of Sir Robert Grierson, had retour of the above, with Drumjoan (Drumjohn).

During those "killing times" many Covenanters suffered for their faith, including a number of MacMillans. Two of them, Alexander* and James, were taken after the skirmish at Pentland in 1666 and are among the martyrs belonging to Ayr. Four years earlier, Johne McMillane of Brockloch was fined £360 for non-conformity to Prelacy.

This accounts for the appearance of the Griersons and their temporary possession of his land.

On 7th November 1663, 'Bessie (Betrag), dochter to William Aird' and wife of Johne McMillane of Brockloch) had sasine as portioner of half of her husband's land.

On 1st May 1664, Johne infant son of Johne McMillane, had sasine of Brockloch and four years later a proclamation was made for his arrest because he and eight of his fellow clansmen

** Alexander MacMillan of Muirdrocket in Carsphairn (Wodrow).*

101

had not accepted the king's indemnity. His mother died in 1666 and his father finished his earthly race eight years later, after a life of hardship and persecution on account of his faithfulness to Christ and his Covenant. His sister Rosina, who married Rodger Gordon in Holm, Carsphairn, had sasine of Knockingirrot in November 1670. Nothing further is mentioned of him until 10th October 1684 when he was forced to sign the test. It is given as follows :- "John McMillan of Brokloch, sworn that he shall not harbour and resett rebels or fugitives, procures severall testificats frae his minister and ane act of Privie Council in favour of--, craves the benefeit of the Test, which the Lords allowed him (Tested). (Signed) Johne McMillane."

We next learn that Johne McMillane of Brockloch married

Katherine Logan, and both had sasine on 14th March and 21st September 1704, along with William, their eldest son. Katherine died shortly afterwards. Her husband survived her twenty-one years and a quaint tombstone marks the spot where their remains were interred. it is inscribed thus :-

I.M. : K.L.

BROKLOCH . MCMILLAN . WHO . DID . DIE
UNDER . THIS . STONE . HIS . BODY . DOTH . LY
HIS . SOUL . AT . HEAV'NLY . WORK . ABOVE
WITH . THEM . WHOSE . FAITH . HERE . WROUGHT . BY . LOVE
MOST . USEFUL . WAS . IN 'S . DAY . AND . STATION
IN . DEFENCE . OF . OUR . REFORMATION
GREAT . PROOFE . HE . GAVE . AT . ALL . FIT . TIMES
FOR . THEM . THINGS . ONCE . CALL'D . HIGHEST . CRIMES
NOU . HE'S . GONE . UP . ON . JACOB'S . LAD'R
TO . PRAISE . KING . CHRIST . THE . MEDIATOR
CLOTH'D . IS . HE . NOU . IN . A . WHITE . ROBE
WITH . THEM . THAT . STILL . SING . PRAISE . TO . GOD
VIRTUS . EIUS . POST . FUNERA . VIVAT
OBIT . 28 FEB : 1725 . ANNO . EIUS
AETATIS . 61.

William died before 1720 and John, his younger brother succeeded to Brockloch after his father's decease. On 15th June 1733, he had sasine for the thirty shilling land of Brockloch. He married Helen Craufurd and had issue: John, their only son, died in infancy; their three daughters, co-heiresses, were named Marion, Jane and Margaret.

Marion married David MacMillan of Holm, so uniting the two principal MacMillan families in Galloway.

In 1790, John McIlwraith was in possession of two-thirds of Brockloch, and John MacMillan of Holm one-third. In 1819, the land was still owned in the same way.

John, second surviving son of John MacMillan of Holm etc., who died in 1852, succeeded to, and was later styled of, Brockloch. Whether he owned all or only one-third cannot be determined now, but most likely it was the latter.

The whole farm now forms a part of Craigengillan estate, having been sold by John MacMillan to Col. the Hon. Augustus Murray Cathcart in 1831. And so Brockloch became the property of others after being the chief seat of the Galloway MacMillans for centuries.

THE HOUSE OF HOLM.

The progenitor of the House of Holm was David MacMillan, one of the nine sons belonging to William MacMillan who was a resident of Marbrack in 1712, but had removed to Braidenoch by the year 1715.

David was living in Braidenoch when he took a lease of Furmiston and Marbrack. Shortly after 1719, he was in a position to purchase Nether Holm of Dalquhairn. In 1734 he purchased Auchenshinnoch and on the Auchenshinnoch Slab Cross is engraved the following :- "DAVID MCMILLAN AND FLORANC HOUATSON BOUGHT AND PAYED THIS GROUN THE YEAR 1734."*

He married Florence Howatson and had issue : Robert, who succeeded to Holm, and David, to Auchenshinnoch. The father died at Marbrack.

Robert MacMillan was the owner of Nether Holm on 6th February 1734, and on that date he also had sasine for the

twenty-shilling land of Barlae and Netherwood, etc. Again, on 29th May 1741, he had sasine for the 2 merk land of Nether Holm of Dalquhairn. He married Janet Mitchellson, one of the four heiresses who were portioners of the adjoining property of Moorbrock, through whom the land of Clennoch was acquired, it being a fourth Part of Moorbrock. He also purchased Barlae and Dalshangan. He died in 1770 and left issue :-
David, who succeeded to Holm.
James, who succeeded to Barlae and Dalshangan.
Thomas, who was tenant in Auchrae.
Janet, who married John McClamroch of Stranfasket, Parish of Kells.

**See Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Vol. XLVI.*

103

On 28th May 1744, David had sasine, followed on 1st July 1747 by his father Robert, who had sasine again for the twenty Shilling land of Holm of Dalquhairn. David married his kins-Woman, Marion MacMillan of Brockloch in 1741, so uniting the Principal MacMillan families in Galloway. The date of his death Is uncertain, but he left issue :-
John succeeded to Holm and Brockloch.
William was a solicitor in Newton-Stewart
Thomas of Lamloch.
James died at Lamloch in 1821.
Robert died at Palgowan in 1841.
Janet married a Mr. Jackson in Waterhead
Elizabeth married J. Alexander of Mackelstane, Parish of Dalry.
Marion married a Mr. McAdam in Dunaskin.

His son John, succeeded to Holm and Brockloch. On 8th November 1781 he married Margaret Kerr and had issue :-
David died young.
Anthony died young.
John died young.
Robert succeeded to Holm.
John succeeded to Brockloch.
William died young.
Jean married her kinsman, David McMillan of Dalshangan.
Marion married William Barber.
Margaret married Thomas Hastings from Huddersfield.
Elizabeth married Alexander Kennedy in Garneyburn, Ayrshire.
Janet married a Mr. R. Dunlop.

John died on 1st December 1830. In 1799, when he was in Possession, the lands were Nether Holm of Dalquhairn, one-Fourth Moorbrock, and a third of Brockloch.

Robert of Holm married Mary, daughter of James Goldie Of Stonehouse and Morbrack, on 27th September 1825. She was A great-great-grand-daughter of Bonnie Annie Laurie. He died in 1858 and left issue:-
John who succeeded to Holm.
James died unmarried.
Anne married a Mr. J. Barber of Tererran.

Mary married her cousin, John McMillan of Barlae and Dalshangan.
Margaret married a Captain Donnan.

Jane married Robert Hamilton, F.R.C.S. of Magher-bury, Portrush.

John MacMillan, younger, of Holm married Margaret Thompson, eldest daughter of Thomas Moffat, Esq., J.P., of Ardnacloich, County of Dumfries, and had issue :-

Robert of Holm.

Thomas Moffat.

John James.

Margaret Robina.

Mary Goldie.

Robert of Holm married a Miss A. J. Reid and had issue:-

John Goldie married Rachel Vere Middleton in 1937

Elizabeth White Thomas married Robert K. Dalziel

Margaret Moffat Goldie married a Mr. J. Fox.

Alice Mary Goldie married a Mr. W. R. Hall.

Betrag Isobel Goldie married a Mr. R. A. Wallace.

THE HOUSE OF LAMLOCH AND CHANGUE.

Those two families are cadets of the House of Holm. Thomas of Lamloch was the third surviving son of David MacMillan of Holm who married Marion MacMillan of Brockloch. He married Jean Boyle and had a son and heir, James MacMillan of Lamloch and Changue. Changue estate was purchased in 1821 along with Cairn and Drummurichie. Little is known of James of Changue except that he married Katherine McCall and had issue :-

Thomas.

William McCall.

Samuel McCall.

Catherine Broom.

James.

The present owner of Lamloch is Thomas MacMillan whose son and heir is John.

105

THE HOUSE OF DALSHANGAN

The progenitor of this family was James MacMillan, a younger brother of David McMillan of Holm who married the heiress of Brocklock. He married Elizabeth McHarg and had issue:-

Anthony, W.S., Edinburgh, who was the author of a System of Conveyancing and other works. He was also surveyor of Taxes for Wigtonshire. He died in 1817, aged 58 years.

David succeeded to Dalshangan, also to the position as Surveyor of Taxes. He married Jean McMillan of Holm and had issue :-James, John, David. Robert, Margaret, Elizabeth, Jean, Mary, Marion, Jessie.

Margaret (David's sister) married a Mr. Kennedy of Knocknalling Parish of Kells. Janet and Elizabeth were unmarried. David's second son John married his cousin, Mary of Holm.

About 1827, James sold Dalshangan to Thomas Balfour in Murdrochwood.

THE HOUSE OF ARNDARROCH.*

This ancient family was a branch of the MacMillans of Brockloch. Earliest mention is made of this house when William McMillane, a natural son of Andrew McMillane in Arndarroch, Was legitimized by Royal Charter at Holvrood House on 18th December 1582.

On 21st August 1592 Andrew and James McMillane witnessed

two charters at Castle Maddie. By 12th December 1592, the following were granted Royal Charters at Holyrood; Johne McMillane in Arndarroch with three merks of Arndarochet and one merk of Craignaine; Donald McMillane in Lytil Kirkland with ½ merk of Auchengarroch; Andrew McMillane in Lytil Kirkland with a portion of ecclesiastical land belonging to St. John's Church, Dalry.

John MacMillan of Balmaghie, the celebrated Scottish divine And "Cameronian Apostle," is said to have been connected with this house. He was born at Barn Canchlour, Minnigaff, in 1670, And later went to Edinburgh University to study for the ministry. On 18th September 1701 he was ordained and was admitted as Minister of Balmaghie Parish Church. The scroll minutes of the Session in his own easily-read handwriting, from the date of his ordination until 27th December 1702, are still in existence. The first entry is a specimen of the faithfulness to duty that characterised him during his long ministry.

** Nesbit of Heraldry fame saw the Baron of Ken's charter in the hands
Of Andre MacMillan of Arndarroch in 1729.*

The above extract from the book 'Clan Macmillan and their Septs' by Somerled Macmillan was digitised by William Bridge, August 2016
williambridge@stanwardine.com