

*McMichaels in the
Highlands.*

The early McMichaels in colonial history were very clannish and when they had a chance for peace and security like in Butts GA for approximately one hundred years, or in Bucks County PA for a lesser period of time they would organize either a McMichael city or a McMichael cemetery. A healthy sort with a perchance for survival very seldom did they leave dead behind them as they moved westward all the way into Cass County Texas, even in the cemeteries of fellow clan members of other names.

22-1: So in order to truly located McMichaels under any of the numerous variations of names of which there are many, it need to find land evidence as in village names, creeks, rivers, plantations, or cemeteries. Sometimes in census and muster rolls of numerous battles. Of course, there are always the legal documents and even ship passenger list. The problem with this is that after Culloden in 1745, many of them went undercover with disguised names.

From a Scotland discussion forum on the McMichael clan we find the following from Ruadh MacAlba :

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"Check out the island of Lismore and the Appin area, including the Benderloch, Argyll. There are McMichaels, MacMichaels and the politically correct version - "Carmichaels" living in that part of the homeland. (The highland/island Carmichaels are NOT related to the border family of the same name!)"

1. Island of Lismore.

"The island of Lismore lies in Loch Linnhe, east of Mull, in Argyll and Bute Council Area. Composed almost entirely of Dalradian limestone, it has fertile soil and an abundance of trees and shrubs. The island is linked to the mainland by two ferries, a vehicle ferry making the crossing to Oban and a foot ferry making a shorter crossing from the northern tip of the island to Port Appin. Lismore Lighthouse, built by Robert Stevenson, lies on the small island of Eilean Musdile to the south west with Lady's Rock a kilometer further away in the same direction."



a. Lismore Parrish Church.

"Saint Moluag (Old Irish Mo-Luóc) (d. 592) founded a monastery on Lismore. The island was a major centre of Celtic Christianity, and the seat of the later medieval Bishopric of Argyll or the Isles. To modern eyes it seems an isolated location for such a centre, but in an era when the fastest and most reliable transport was by water, Lismore was ideally situated. Of the cathedral only the choir survives, in greatly altered form, the nave and western tower having been reduced to their foundations. Since the Reformation the choir has been used as the Parish Church of Lismore."

b. A view of the island from Port Appin, shown to the right. Lismore Island and the



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hills of Kingairloch beyond. The ferry runs from Port Appin on the extreme right of the picture.

22-2: Clans of the Jacobite Rebellion.

1. Appin Regiment.

They also fought at the Battle of Culloden in the Appin regiment under Lord George Murray. After the battle Captain Donald Maclaren of Invernenty remained a fugitive until the amnesty of 1757.

2. Immigration to America after the battle loss of 1745.

a. General. "From around 1725, clansmen had been emigrating to America, with gentry looking to re-establish their lifestyle, or as victims of raids on the Hebrides, looking for cheap labour. Increasing demand in Britain for cattle and sheep led to higher rents with surplus clan population leaving in the mass migration later known as the Highland Clearances. Thus the traditional clan system was finally undermined.

b. Highland Clearances. "The Highland Clearances started after 1689 when Highland landowners saw that there was more profit in livestock than in farming rents. The men were first replaced by cattle, then by sheep and eventually, in Victorian times, by game. The large landowners as Sutherland or Glengarry endeavoured to have the tenants stay in coastal villages to work on the profitable farming land that was available, in the highly profitable kelping industry and in fishing. Scottish emigrants as a rule emigrated through choice, mainly to Canada and Australia. The "Clearances" were not carried out only in the Highlands and were not a direct result of the '45' rebellion. They started in Scotland in the early 1600's, shortly after James VIth of Scotland succeeded to the throne of England and were devised to get rid of troublesome elements, on the Border between Highlands and Lowlands (the MacGreggors, who were proscribed and banished), and on the Anglo-Scottish Borders (the Grahams were transported to Ireland or sent to fight in Holland. Some found their way back: hence the Scottish surname of Maharg, which is Graham spelt backwards). The policy proved to work and these Border areas started to prosper for the first time in history. The major factor in this prosperity: (the great white) sheep.

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22-3: Locations and variations of McMichael names.

1. From *BLACKS BOOK of Scottish surnames*, there are more McMichaels and MacMichaels than just about any other name.

a. The Name.

"The name "McMichael/MacMichael" is in *Blacks book: The Surnames of Scotland* on pages 542-543. There is a good bit listed on this name, more than most other names. Below I will list some of the variant spellings: MacMicheil, Mac Gille Micheil, Mac Gill Michell, McKilmichel, McMolmicheyl, McOlmichaell, ... there are many more. {In the variations a common word appears to be "Michell" which no doubt is an Anglicized form of the Gaelic.

b. Locations, districts, cities and isles.

Argyll, Apin, Lennox, Kintyre, Ardnamurchane, Inverness, Bute, Atholl; and Argyll is mentioned most.

c. Some clan affiliations.

Clan Gregor - John McGillemitchell 1613
Christie - MacGillmicheil 1480 tenant
Carmichael - Lowland variation Kermichel 1180

2. In the UK census listings, most for Scotland although some for England and Wales there are 3,477 MacMichael listings. Most from Argyle, Perthshire, Lanarkshire, and Sutherland.

22-4: Early Carmichaels in Marion County SC.

" According to Roderick Carmichael, this Dougald was born about 1768, Lismore, Appin, Argyllshire, Scotland, and came to America about 1793-4; and that his father, Archibald, had arrived in North Carolina in 1774, on the *Jupiter of Larne*. Archibald, wife, Mary, and daughter, Kathereine, are on the passenger list of the *Jupiter of Larne*. Maj.-Gen. Carmichael contended that Dougald had stayed behind in Scotland, where he apprenticed and worked as a shipscraftsman before coming to America. Roderick Carmichael found evi-

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dence to indicate that Archibald was married twice and that Dougald and his sister, Katherine, were children of his first wife. Dougald was the first to settle in Marion County, South Carolina, probably because he sought land on a stream, where he could build and operate boats. There he built flat-boats and other river craft and managed his farm, not far from his sister, Katherine, and brothers, Neil and Duncan. He married Mary (Polly) Carmichael in about 1802. He died about 1830."

Carmichaels were even more common in the province of Argyle, with speculation probably mainly for the author Alexander Carmichael that the Carmichaels preceded the very Stewarts of Appin there, and being of American nature where "all men are created equal" it is a little insulting to read the Muster roll at the battle of Culloden, the 300 men furnished to the Jacobite rebellion of 1745 by the Stewart of Appin clan, and find leading the list of "commoners" in their words, the Carmichaels.

"When Alexander Carmichael {perhaps it is the later fame of this author which has lead some to say that today the more politically correct form of McMichael and MacMichael is Carmichael} visited his native island of Lismore he would take the opportunity to write down snippets of information about historical traditions which had a bearing upon this part of Argyllshire. Being a Carmichael himself, he probably relished the thought of *his clan name being the oldest in Lismore*, the ones who could best claim seniority. But there may well be some historical veracity to this claim. Aside from being standard-bearers to the Stewarts of Appin, it is interesting to note the rôle carried out by the Carmichaels on the burial of a chief of the Stewarts of Appin. Carrying the coffin three times sun-wise around the cemetery was a well-known phenomenon and, it seems, a very robust one: this presumably ancient burial custom was still being carried out within living memory.

Carmichael is said to be the oldest name in Lismore and the oldest in Appin and to have been in Appin before the advent of the Stewarts. [...] Besides being standard bearers to the chiefs of Appin the Carmichaels were at the death of a chief (probably) to remove the body from the house to the [...] upon lacking the place of burial the Carmichaels resumed possession of the body and carrying it three times sun-wise round the burying place laid it in the grave Then in conveying their heads and bowing reverently low towards the dead they all said together -

'Slan le fear mo ghraidh Go m' failtich mise rithist thu
Fare thee well man of my love Till I hail thee again.

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22-5: Carmichaels are purported today to be more lowlanders in



origin than Highlanders {always apply a Scottish grain of salt to the boast of the Scots for telling tales}.

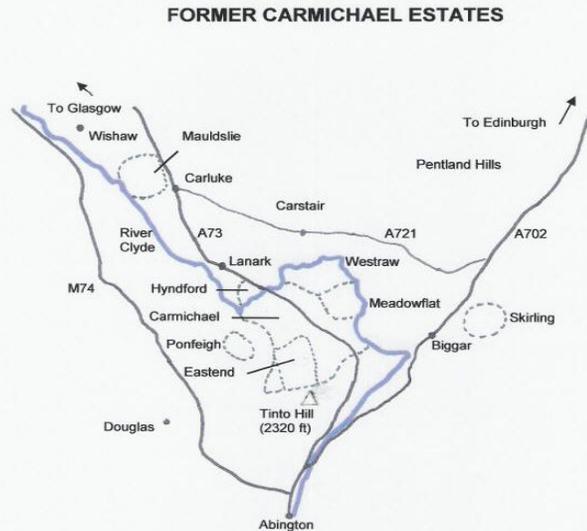
"The Carmichael lands are located in the Lowlands of Scotland, in the Clyde Valley of Lanarkshire, midway between Glasgow and Edinburgh and about 30 miles south (as shown above). The lordship of Carmichael was originally part of the vast Douglasdale lands granted to Sir James Douglas in 1321 by King Robert de Bruce. His nephew William, Earl of Douglas and Mar, inherited the lands and gave charters for portions of his holdings to his loyal allies and tenants the Carmichaels, first to William de Carmychel of Ponfeigh about 1350, then to his son Sir John de Carmychel of Carmichael about 1374, thereby making Sir John the first Baron of Carmichael Estate. The Charter was confirmed in 1414 by Archibald, Earl of Douglas, to Sir John's brother (or son) and successor William who built a fortified castle at the site of the present Carmichael House ruins. Through later royal charters and acquisitions the clan holdings grew to over fourteen thousand acres at their peak." {For more on this subject see the Clan Carmichael web site, http://www.carmichael.org/carmichael/?page_id=40 .}

1. Assuming the highland Carmichaels are quite different from the lowland Carmichaels, and tracing the genealogy of one Duncan Carmichael to Halifax VA affords a most viable clue as to how John McMichele of Meckleburg got to SC, having already noted that John went back over to Halifax to bury his father William and sell some land.

"Some on-line reports claim that Duncan and his family were from the island of Lismore, Argyll, Scotland, and that his parents were John Carmichael (b ca 1712) and Elizabeth Rodgers. This seems quite unlikely, however, as John

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reportedly was born, married, and died in Lanarkshire, not Lismore or Argyll. Furthermore, Scottish Parish marriage records indicate that John and Elizabeth were married in Lanarkshire on 24 Oct, 1742, some 12 years after Duncan's estimated birth. It is more likely that Duncan's family was from Northern Ireland. A clue may be found in the tax roll for Halifax Co. VA for 1782. In addition to listing Duncan's son Archibald (Duncan and his wife Sarah were probably living in his household) and his brother



John, it also lists a Cornelius Carmichael, probably an uncle. This may well have been the same Cornelius Carmichael (#2702) who had previously lived in Mifflin Co. PA, a predominantly Scots-Irish area. If he was indeed related to Duncan, this would suggest that Duncan had probably also moved to Halifax Co. from PA."

2. Migration of Carmichaels and other clans.

NOTE: This listing of Carmichaels is so helpful since I saw for myself in Appin just on shore from Stalkers Castle of the Stewart of Appin Clan, an in front of an old James Stewart homestead the tombstone of a one tombstone cemetery with the name of Lt. Carmichael killed in the battle of Culloden in 1745.

a. Long before and for many reasons, of settlements in America, in fact in 1485, Lanarkshire Carmichaels and their clan relatives of Douglas went to Gallogway and Appin, some settling on the Island of Lismore where some of them still live presently although the population except for tourist sometimes has decreased.

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b. One Duncomb or Duncan {never forget the difference in the Gaelic language, and the different ways it was heard by those striving to make a record} Carmichael bought 370 acres in Amelia CO VA in 1754 and sold it in 1755.

c. Ship records like for so many other Scot Irish, Highlanders, and Scots as well as many others {the traffic between Scotland and America was prolific with many ship masters and owners running ads throughout Scotland announcing the time of departure and the dock, then depending on the demand would sail up the coast like to Lismore, etc to pick up booked passengers} listed Carmichaels from Lismore to Wilmington NC, who then moved up the Cape Fear River {sometimes called Cape Fare or Fair} where there was already a well-known Highland settlement with fort, the location being called Cross Creek.

d. Major General Roderich Carmichael in a 1935 book about the Carmichael family history states that Duncan's family according to tradition came from Ulster. And we have seen this the same with John McMickle of Bucks CO PA and his brother Charles the Indian Trader as with John McMichale, the distiller, of Mickleburg NC. Also the speculation about the father of John and Charles of PA, and likewise of John of Mickleburg and his father William who was deceased before the REVwar in Halifax VA.

NOTE: Since General Carmichael tell of how two sons of this early settler Duncan Carmichael fought in the Continental Army, causing one person to further state that in general the Ulster Scots fought on that side, while the Western Highlanders either fought on the loyalists side or remained neutral. However this could be somewhat of a simplification as John McMichale was paid for service in the Colonial Militia, and his brother George was a Loyalist. And in all fairness to George and others, many were in the local militia of the government before 1776 and in order to protect the colonists from Indian attacks.

e. *"The first historical reference to the Carmichaels is in Lanarkshire, Scotland, in a charter of Dryburgh Abbey in 1226, and this area has always been the primary residence of the senior line of the Clan Chiefs. They became close allies of their neighbors and landlords, the powerful Douglas clan who granted them the Carmichael lands in Douglasdale about 1370 following their mutual support of Robert de Bruce in his quest to gain Scottish independence from England."*

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f. Numerous Carmichael families moved to Northern Ireland during the Ulster Plantation period from 1650 to 1750. Many of these transplanted Carmichaels, together with their ancestral kinsmen from Lanarkshire, immigrated to America starting in the 17th century.

g. From 1773 - 1797 Carmichael families emigrated from Lismore and Appin to Highland settlements around Fayetteville NC, to with the know Highland settlements there this would mean it was a movement of clans and clan sephs and a larger movement of Scot-Irish.

h. The free practice of Presbyterians was one motivation for settlement in the new world, and sometimes whole congregations like that of Rev. William Martin led in 1772 467 families to South Carolina.

i. Carmichaels and other Scot Irish {they most generally moved in groups} settle like Duncan earlier on the Dan River. Remember that river travel was not only sometimes necessary but much easier than the Wagon Trails and Indian Trails: (1) A Norfolk Co. VA Order Book for 1760 mentions a "Robert Carmichael & Co., merchants of Glasgow, late of VA"; (2) Robert later is mentioned in Halifax Co. NC deed records from 1761 to 1772 at Fishing Creek where he and his partners had a trading business; (3) Other Carmichaels from PA settled along the Dan River in 1750 in Rowan Co. NC, about 70 miles west of Halifax Co. VA. They settled west of Danbury in present day Stokes Co. {These clans and sephs was part of the great Ulster Scot migration from PA to western VA and NC that occurred around 1750 on the Great Wagon Train from PA to VA and NC and later extended to GA}; (4) When Augusta Co. VA was created in 1745, and adjoining Rowan Co. NC in 1753, one John Carmichael is listed in the record of early settlers, John dying in Rowan CO in 1759 {how similar this supposed immigration record is of John McMichele of Meckleburg who went back to Halifax CO VA to bury his father William and deal with the estate there}; and (5) this same John Carmichael with Thomas and William settled on the NC side of the Dan River in 1750, and this would be almost exactly where John McMichele had his large plantation that according to early SC records took 47 slaves to work {the Carolians were notorious for switching state boundaries and CO boundaries};.

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22-6: *McMichaels and Carmichaels of the Island of Ishmore in Argyle.*

According to Tabbatha McMichael of Atlanta GA, "My great, great grandfather was from your island (John Carmichael). He left with his parents, as a young child in the 1870's, as they relocated to Belfast. Soon after the move they changed their surname to McMichael. (I have no idea as to why.)

NOTE: What would we do without oral history and where would we be in understanding of history? Did you know that Oral History is a graduate study course at Baylor in the History Department?

1. Another blog from a Lismore Island guest states the following of a Carmichael name change to Michael. {It is by Lt Col Stephen A. Michael (USAF, Ret.) (Appinhighlander@hotmail.com who in 2005 was located at Chievres, Belgium)}

"My wife and I hope to visit Lismore in the fall and to learn more (if possible) about my ancestor from Lismore, Appin. Daniel Carmichael (1736-1822) was born in Appin (Lismore) and married Margaret Munro (c. 1771), and following her death (c. 1772) married Sarah (Sallie) McColl. Daniel's firstborn with Margaret Munro was also named Daniel (c. 1772-1830). Daniel (Sr.), Sallie and Daniel (Ygr.) sailed from Port Appin to Wilmington (Cape Fear), North Carolina c. 1773. Circa 1794-1797, Daniel (Ygr.) took a Cherokee wife and was disowned by his father, and adopted the surname "Michael"---our current family name. I prefer to think of our line as "Mhicheil na h'Appunn". On this choice of family name, Colonel Michael states on his website, "In Gaelic, the family would be referred to as Mhicheil na h'Appunn . . . Michael from Appin, and that is how they prefer to think of their lineage---hence the Latin motto, "GENUS EST GLORIA" or "My Heritage is My Pride". {<http://www.armorial-register.com/arms-sco/michael-sa-arms.html> }

NOTE: Personally having visited Appin, I think those who left have more to be proud of than those who stayed; and the good Colonel has more reason to be proud of his Cherokee heritage than of Appin. Well, at least they make a good combination, and his ancestors like our own McMichaels had the courage to make the trip to America and the fortitude to settle the land.

2. Dr Suzzane Cameron in speaking on ""Why We Came — Emigration from Appin, Scotland, to the Borders of the North and South Carolina Midlands in

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the late Eighteenth Century." with her focus on, as she continues, ""Why We Came — Emigration from Appin, Scotland, to the Borders of the North and



South Carolina Midlands in the late Eighteenth Century."

22-6: The Old and the New, the Isle of Bara and Vatersay, typical of the Isles of the Outer Hebrides.

The island is only 8 miles long and 4 miles wide, has beautiful white sand beaches and seven lochs which provide great fishing for brown and sea trout. The population is approximately 1300, many still speak the Gaelic. Reminds me of a trip to Oban and Appin where the language of the cab drivers, supposedly English, was harder to understand than the Algerians speaking French. One on a short tour around the area of Port Appin strained to pick out one of three words being spoken, except at the Hotel in Oban where the proprietor made it clear, no doubt also in the warring nature of Scots, that I did not know the difference between bacon and ham.

You can see the similarity with the Port of Appin in the background and the village of Appin in the foreground. The village structures are not unlike the older buildings one encounters in Alborg Denmark and down on the coast at Blockhus, a favorite European beach resort. {I did not see any castles, only hard beds as a

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characteristic "Viking custom" as the Danes I worked with on the F-16 at Alborg told me.) Of course Denmark does not have the hills or mountains like Scotland. The highest point in Denmark is 600 feet, and when TV shows you all those snow covered mountains it is a misconception.