

## Gillimichaell M'Ewin M'Illemicbaell of Appin<sup>1</sup>.

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1. The colonial Scots justly decided to let us remain in ignorance about their names without some understanding of Highland history and language.

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As one person wrote on an online genealogical forum, "I am researching the name MacMichael/McMichael and have now discovered that the Carmichael's of Galloway often changed their name to MacMichael/McMichael. The Argyllshire MacMichael's often changed their name to Carmichael." There are several reasons that the original name out of the Scottish Highlands, that is of Gillimichaell M'Ewin M'Illemicbaell , and sometimes Mac Giolla Mhicheil, also Gaelic in shorter form. {If we knew Gaelic, I think we could see how both MacMichael and Carmichael and even Erwin and Mc Erwin came out of this long name! It is not so strange that they got McMichael or McMicheil out of that, but rather how they got Carmichael out of it! Of course it could be that "Gilli" easily translates into "Car".} One thing as they became somewhat integrated<sup>2</sup> into the society, language and culture of Great Britain, the options to anglicize into the language of the Brits were numerous, so also in the early days of Colonial history more options were available in order to converse with fellow colonists. Sometimes like a McMichael in Dublin Ireland told me, there was finagling with the name, like between MacMichael and

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2. To this day if you travel to Oban or Appin and take a taxi, the chances are that you will understand little of the drivers and the companions that came with them as they still have a language closer to the Gaelic than English. On one trip from Algeria where my students spoke Arabic and French, I found it easier to converse on the train in that country with their French in an Arabic accent, than the Scottish highlanders with English in a Gaelic accent.

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## ScotTidbits #4

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McMichael, etc, in order to "fake out the Brits". After all, it was their legitimate option in going from the Gaelic to the twin languages of Great Britain and America, and all of us are aware of similar changes made in family names of immigrants to America. But in their family trees of early Scotland, they had many choices from which to chose for family names, as shortly you will see about one family of Annat in Appin of Argyle.

Frank Adam and Sir Thomas Innes in the book "The Clans, Septs, and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands" present a paragraph on the clan Stewart of Appin septs as follows: (1) *Carmichael, MacMichael*.-The Carmichaels of Lismore and Appin are said to be descended from *MacMichaels*, followers of the Earls of *Galloway* (Stewarts), who left *Galloway* and became dependents of the Appin Stewarts, who were kinsmen of the Stewarts of *Galloway*. In the list of killed and wounded of the followers of the Stewarts of Appin at the Battle of Culloden<sup>1</sup> the Carmichaels rank third, the first two places being taken by the MacColls and the MacLarens respectively . As early as 1683 as the Brits and Catholics and Church of England sought to kill out the Presbyterian Covenanters<sup>2</sup>, one James Stewart of Galloway was ambushed and killed along with Robert Stewart, John Grier, and Robert Ferguson at the water of Dee in Galloway, December 1683. {This same James MacMichael of Galloway, called Black MacMichael in a classical book that will be discussed later, later became known as Long Rifle MacMichael when he saved some of the secret Presbyterian worshipers of Galloway at a camp meeting.} However what this little piece of recorded history does for us is to tie together Galloway, to the south of Appin, along the coast and a boggy country not in the Highlands

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1. There is a memorial wall at the old church of Annat of Appin that list among others, 6 Carmichaels killed and one wounded, and to this day at a little enclosed area between the old James Stewart house and Castle Stalker, a little cemetery of one grave, a Lieutenant Carmichael killed at Culloden in 1745.
  2. This must be explained in a later Scottish Tidbit, how so many of the wars with the Brits and sometimes locally in the Highlands had to do with religion and attacks on Presbyterian Covenanters. You do not understand either the presence of so many Scots or Ulster Scots in early colonial America unless you understand that after every war lost to the Brits, the prisoners not killed were banished to the colonies as indentured servants--not a bad program on the part of the Brits, it got rid of their dissenters, made money, and populated the early colonies with good frontiersmen. As early as the 1600s McMichaels were being banished from the Isle of Islay and Carmichaels from Argyle, by the thousands when you add all the clans on the losing side, to respectively the Bahamas and the American colonies. This is another reason for all the name switching, first of all the men in charge of the boat and the British judges that exiled them could not understand their Gaelic, and they could not write in English, and rather after some years in the colonies, especially among those who worked for the Iron works in Boston, later found their way south on the famous Wagon trail or by canoe up the Pee Dee and other rives, did not want to be forced to explain how they came over, although POWs, solders, and simply covenanters, with petty thieves and prostitutes.



Lairdship and Its Owners". What is obvious in most of these names is the angel Michael, from which the names for MacMichael, especially in the original and expanded versions, is translated as "servant of the angel Michael." Here is how this tidbit of history goes: "In 1595 Duncan Stewart of Appin granted in heritage to Gillimichaell M'Ewin V'Illemichaell in Annat the *domus* bruerii {you recognize this as a domain of a brewery<sup>1</sup>} of Annat<sup>2</sup> in Appin in the lordship of Lome, with the croft annexed to it, with pasture for six great cows and their followers, three cows of one year and of two years and one horse and one mare for the labours of the said croft and the necessity (*necessane*) of the said house, and with all their privileges, commodities, and pertinents, as Gillimichaell and his predecessors *bruerii diae domus* possessed them in times past-the house and croft being bounded by "the rivulet of Annat on the west, the pule called the Lyn Rweagh on the south, the rivulet of Achnagon on the east, and the ridge (*/ze edge munlis*) between the rivulets of Achnagon and Annat on the north."

For nearly 200 hundred years the descendants of the above Gillimichaell M'Ewin M'Illemicbaell owned this small estate, and for some reason took up from this Gaelic name salad blow the name Carmichael for short. Here we must briefly acknowledge some of the benefits of oral history on the genealogical online forums: (1) one contributor related that the Carmichaels of Galloway were in the habit of taking up the name of McMichael or MacMichael, like the aforementioned Long Rifle James MacMichael, and that the McMichaels of Appin had the habit of taking up the name of Carmichael; and (2) another contributor stated that right now it is more politically correct to be called a Carmichael than a McMichael, which really indicates that from the original name either are feasible.

In later Scottish Tidbits many things remain yet to be explained: the Presbyterian Covenanters and history along with some of wars and atrocities in

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1. Origines Parochiales Scotiae: The Antiquities Ecclesiastical And Territorial Of The Parishes Of Scotland, Volume 2, Issue 1; Origines Parochiales Scotiae: The Antiquities Ecclesiastical And Territorial Of The Parishes Of Scotland Lizars, 1854 History.
  2. Surely if the objective had been to spin a good Scottish tale, the land would not have been called "Petty" but large!
  1. John McMichael of colonial Meckleburg on legal deeds is called a distiller. Of course it is well known about their relatives across the bay on the Isle of Islay and the heritage of the Scottish malt and whiskey.
  2. Annat is still there today and the old church and you will find in the photos of Scottish Titbits, some of Annat.

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the Highlands, McMichaels, MacMichaels and Carmichaels on marriage and birth legal documents of record in Argyle, both in the 1600's and 1700' and some today, some history of the thousands of Highlanders and Covenanters banished to the colonies to work on plantations, and so on and on. {By the way, you will find a link on this the main web page of the Scottish Corner, [www.biblecombibleman.com/ScottishCorner.html](http://www.biblecombibleman.com/ScottishCorner.html) that will take you to a listing of much of the historical research, free and available to you primarily in PDF. Also by the way, any time you wish to dialog on these subjects or ask questions, you have 3 options: (1) you can comment on google plus, (2) you can email to [sungrist@gmail.com](mailto:sungrist@gmail.com), or (3) you can use the contact form for web users on many of the pages of [www.biblecombibleman.com](http://www.biblecombibleman.com) . Happy and fruitful research!}

