Gunn Newsletter

Issue 4 Jul 2006

A Great Re-Union

There is a Gaelic proverb "*Cuimhnichibh aír na daoine bho'n d'thainig sibh*" (remember the people whom you come from) and that is one purpose of a clan gathering. The other is to fraternise with the current generations.

The Gunns descended from Donald Gunn (1853-1918) of Auckingill and Helen Baikie (1858-1944) of West Mey gathered together again on the **weekend of 29-30 April 2006**.

The venue this time was Port Adelaide and surroundings where Donald spent most of his working life on the Port River, first as a lighterman and later as ship's pilot and a maritime cartographer. We were extremely fortunate to be able to hire **the Port Adelaide Caledonian Society** for the weekend at a very reasonable price. In true Scots' style the members of the PACS made all those attending very welcome and gave a great deal of assistance which made the occasion even more enjoyable.

While the numbers were not quite as great as the previous gathering at Monteith in 2002 there were still people who travelled thousands of kilometres to attend this gathering as well. **Family representatives came from all states apart from the Northern Territory and Tasmania**.

We began the formalities early on Saturday morning with a gathering at the hall under the **highly competent leadership of Peter Hil**l, a grandchild of Donald. He introduced **Trevor Powell, the current Chief of the PACS** who gave the gathering a very warm welcome. Following that Malcolm, our "*chief*" and historian, gave an update on the family and showed people the family Bible which had been thought lost and was finally found in a shed at the home of Peter's brother, Murray. This was followed by Murray talking about his most recent trip to Scotland. The group was then given some local history by **Port Adelaide historian Errol Chinner** as a background to a planned walk in the afternoon.

A raffle to help cover expenses was also held at this point and several fortunate persons were able to have a lasting momento of the weekend.
A light lunch, provided by the PACS, followed and then people were able to go on the walk with Errol Chinner and visit some of the many small museums in the Port Adelaide area as well as view such places of interest as the building which housed Ben Gunn's tailoring shop and the site of the Presbyterian church which so many members of the family attended.

As the afternoon drew to a close people returned to the hall where we prepared to join the PACS for **a dinner and ceilidh**. A **haggis was piped in and the ode was recited by Trevor Powell** before the "wee beastie" was stabbed and served with a flourish.

It was followed by an excellent meal of roast beef, vegetables and dessert interspersed with entertainment. Trevor Powell reminded the gathered clan about their past with a display of some fearsome looking weapons before, the meal having settled a little, people were entertained by some young award winning dancers. **Scottish country dancing** soon had some people on their feet and, when they needed "a breather" the **Caledonian choir** filled in.

Later in the evening a presentation in the form of a photograph album (with a timber and tartan cover) to be filled when the pictures became available was made to Malcolm in recognition of his leadership of the event. His wife was also presented with a barbecue tray in acknowledgment of all her assistance.
The gathered clan also made a small presentation to the PACS in recognition of their assistance.

The evening ended in the traditional way, with even some of the youngest children joining in '*Auld Lang Syne*' but the event was not over. There was Sunday to come.

On **Sunday** most of those present the previous day were also able to gather again for a **barbecue**. The original intention of holding it in a park proved unwise because of concerns about the weather so the PACS made the hall available again. The barbecue was cooked amidst much laughter and discussion among some of the men while others put out salads and cake. Several members of PACS also came to assist. All the while people were talking and catching up on news of events since the last reunion.
By mid-afternoon it was all over but many photographs were taken. A **great deal of film of Saturday's proceedings was also taken and this has now been turned into a DVD** so that there is a permanent record of the proceedings.

A great deal of time and effort went into the preparation of this gathering. While Malcolm had the backing of a committee, he had overall responsibility, and it required a great deal of his time and energy. The work that went into it was rewarded by the enthusiasm with which the event was embraced by some younger members of the clan. Malcolm's original commitment to recording our branch of the clan history has also given rise to a renewed sense of kinship which, it is hoped, will be continued through a web-site for the Gunns of Auckingill and perhaps another gathering in the future.
(Kathryn Gunn)

- **Your Committee**…
  - ⇒ Jim Gunn.
  - ⇒ Kathryn Gunn.
  - ⇒ Keith & Faye Gunn.
  - ⇒ Malcolm & Jan Gunn.
  - ⇒ Bob & Coralie Gunn.
  - ⇒ Robyn Ward.
  - ⇒ Bob & Carol Schofield.
  - ⇒ Di Schafranek.

This will be your last issue of the Newsletter if you have not paid the $21.00 (made payable to R.A. Gunn, P.O. Box 217 Clarendon, 5157) **for the next 3 years.**

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Reminders

- **Can you let Malcolm know of any updates, changes of address, phone numbers**.
  3 Geary Place,
  Athelstone, SA 5076
  08 8365 2767
  mjgunn@box.net.au
- We encourage you to continue write to / email / visit your cousins.
- **Can you please supply us with your email if you have one.**

Murray & Barbara Hills' Trip to the UK…(18/06/05-27/08/05)

Murray & Barbara caught up with...Moira & Bernard Thompson and went with them on a day trip to Paris.

Bernard, Moira, Barbara & Murray outside their home, Mersham

After Barbara returned to Australia, Murray, travelling initially in his son's, Tom, van, and then a second trip by train (London-Edinburgh-Inverness-Thurso...a 13 hour trip with 85 stops!) visited, and was looked after "*royally*", with much reminiscing…

- **Catherine** (Granddaughter of Jemima Gunn, nee Baikie, Helen's younger sister) **and Grant King** at Wetherby, Yorkshire...he had not seen her since she was 6 years old - she is now a grandmother.
- **George** (Grandson of Jemima Gunn, nee Baikie, Helen's younger sister) **and Margaret Dunnet**...George drove Murray around places of interest in and around Glasgow, including his parent's, Kitty and Willie Dunnet, home where he had stayed a number of times from 1942 to 1952 at 37 Kingsknowe Drive Rutherglen.
- George, Murray and **Jack Gunn** (Grandson of Jemima Gunn, nee Baikie, Helen's younger sister) also went to Dalmuir, where Murray had joined the Lodge under the auspices of Harry Gunn junior, Jack's father, in 1952.
- **James** (grand-son of Magnus & Jean Baikie-Helen's younger brother), **Grace and Ann Waters** at Dalry, Glasgow...he had not met James before, but had visited his mother, Bella, twice in Thurso, 53 years ago.
- **Jean Davies** (grand-daughter of Magnus & Jean Baikie-Helen's younger brother) at Banchory, near Inverness.
- **Francis Gunn** (See previous newsletter) met Murray at the train station at Thurso…Francis took Murray home to Bridge Street, Halkirk and a "*wee dram*"...he was most interested in his Australian cousins. While there Murray he also contacted by phone, Maureen Miller in Wick, and Kathleen Culloch in Castletown.

Catherine and Grant King outside their home, Wetherby

Murray and Jean Davies

Jack Gunn, George Dunnet, Murray

Francis and Murray visited…

⇒ **Auckingill**, Donald's birthplace (where he also met the remarkable **Mrs Katherine Matheson** at the Post Office, and she gave Murray some more Gunn material fro Malcolm to go through). Here he met the current owner of the land who had aimlessly destroyed the original croft.

⇒ **Latheron** and the **Clan Gunn Centre**.

⇒ Francis' friend, **Willie Harms**, who lived in a refurbished cottage just at the back of Pearl Cottage, which Murray visited 53 years ago. Willie had lived in the area for a long time and related much of the history of the area.

⇒ **Margaret Shearer**, whom Malcolm & Jan stayed with when they were in Canisbay.

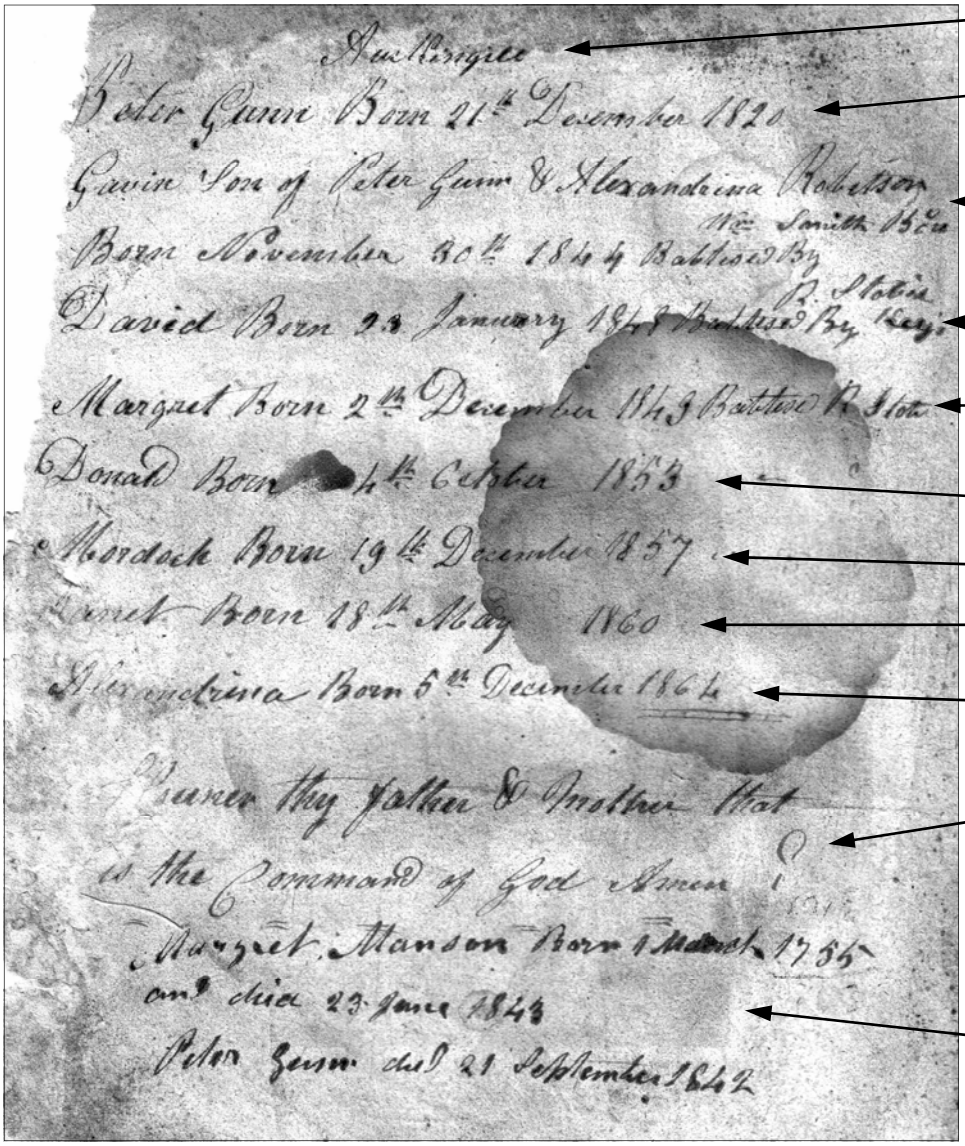
Francis Gunn outside his home, Halkirk

Margaret & George Dunnet, James Waters, Murray, Grace Waters

Some "*titbits*"

From Peter Gunn's (Donald's Father) **Bible (it is not his father's, Gavin, as he died in 1828)**

Murray Hill in May 2005, found a very old bible in his shed. It is "*well worn*" and begins with the book of Jeremiah (earlier books destroyed or lost). Inside are the following entries...



Auckingill

Peter Gunn (G-1) *Born 21st December 1820*

Gavin (G-1.1) *Son of Peter Gunn & Alexandrina Robertson. Born November 30th 1844. Baptised By Wm Smith..??*

David (G-1.2) *Born 23 January 1848. Baptised By R. Stobie (?)*

Margaret (G.-1.3) *Born 2nd December 1849. Baptised R. Stobie (?)*

Donald (G.-1.4. / G.0.0) *Born 4th October 1853*

Murdoch (G.-1.5) *Born 19th December 1857*

Janet (G.-1.6) *Born 18th May 1860*

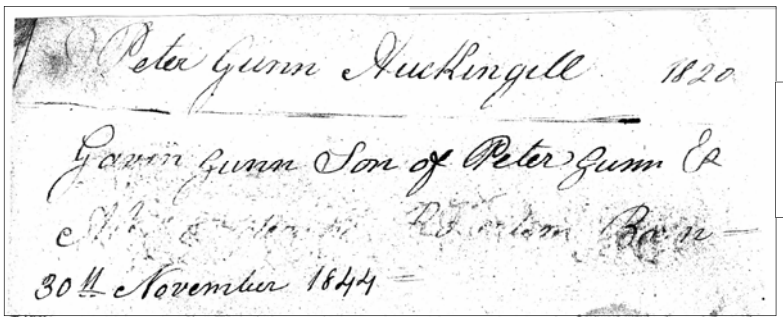
Alexandrina (G.-1.7) *Born 5th December 1864*

(??) Thy father & Mother that is the command of the God Amen

Margaret Manson (G.-3) *Born 1 March 1755 and died 23 June 1843*

Peter's grandparents

Peter Gunn (G.-3) *Died 21 September 1842*

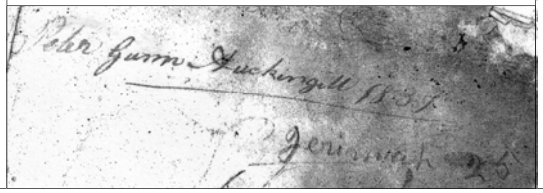


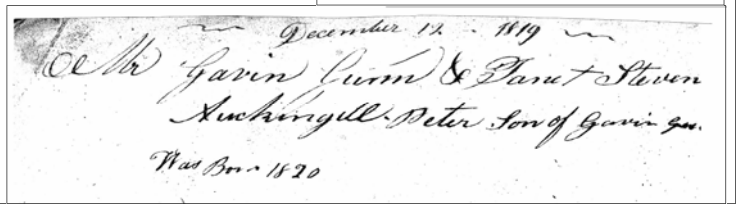
Peter Gunn (G.-1) *1820*

Gavin Gunn (G-1.1) *Son of Peter Gunn & Alexandrina Robertson Born 30th November 1844*

December 12 1819
Mr Gavin Gunn (G-1.1) *& Janet Steven*
Auckingill
Peter Son of Gavin Gunn
Was Born 1820

Peter Gunn (G.-1) *Auckingill 1837*
Jeremiah 25





Gunn family members now have a new way to keep in touch with each other

The new "*Gunn Family of Auckingill*" website.

The current address for the website is *http://www.andrew-g.com/gunnsite/index1.html*

- **The website, created by Andrew Gunn** (Jim Gunn's son), is in a developmental stage and **is in great need of contributions from any members of the Gunn family who have ideas for content that may be of interest to family and friends**. **All Gunn family members are therefore welcome to contribute photos, articles, comments or anything they may consider to be of interest**, simply by emailing the content to Andrew who will ensure it is published for all to see.
- If you **visit the website** you will see that there is great potential for this to become a focal point for communication between family members.
- **Included are**…
  - ⇒ Coming events, articles of interest and links to other websites.
  - ⇒ There are photos from the April 2006 family reunion held in Port Adelaide.
  - ⇒ As indicated, the website is in a state of evolution and will continue to grow, provided that contributions for content flow in.
- **Future plans exist for**…
  - ⇒ Providing online access to the Gunn family history book "*From Caithness to Monteith*" edited by Malcolm Gunn.
  - ⇒ The Gunn family newsletter will also go online.
  - ⇒ Another great idea will be to provide contact information for family members who are planning a holiday interstate or overseas and would like to know how to get in touch with other family members in other states or countries. You can search the website for information specific to your interests.
  - ⇒ There is also a bulletin board (click on the "*Discuss*" button at the bottom of the home page) where you can post comments or start a discussion about anything related to Gunn family matters.
- **All Gunn family members are invited to visit the website** and if they wish, to forward information to be posted on the website to Andrew Gunn. His email address is...*andrewg@andrew-g.com*

Donald, Helen & Family at Birkenhead, 1897

Ben Helen Murdoch Donald Gard
Nell Rhoda Jess Ron Jean