

Account of 'Clann 'Ic Illemhicheil' [Carmichaels] 14 December 1864.

From the Field and transcription notebook of Alexander Carmichael, dated 1864-67. The Carmichael Watson Project / Pròiseact MhicGilleMhìcheil MhicBhatair, University of Edinburgh. Proofread, and corrected to Gnàthachas Litreachaidh na Gàidhlig 2009/Gaelic Orthographic Conventions 2009, translated into English, and annotated by Micheal Bauer, 7 July 2019.

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Clann 'Ic Illemhicheil Le Eoghan Mac Illemhicheil ann An Druim-na-moine 'san Apuinn [^][supralinear: Aois] 80 blianna. Dec[ember] 14, 1864 Tha cuntas agamsa gun robh Clann 'Ic 'Illemhicheil anns an Apuinn bho sia ciad blianna. Is iad tealach is sinne san aite. Tha an tate tìodhlacaidh aca ann am meadhon a chlàidh anns an Annaid. Bi an An[^][supralinear: n]aid a chiad aite san robh Clann 'Ic Ille [^][supralinear: anns an Apuinn] agus san uapsan a sgaoil na tealalchean eile – [deleted: tealach] Baran Ghlaic aonis ga agus Tìgh-Sgurrainn an Lìomor an Acha ghuarain agus Baran na h-Innseig. Be aon do thealach Barran Tìgh sgurrain a bha anns an Euspaig bhan a bha an Acha nan duine. Than nis an duil gur e an[deleted: n] t Euspaig ban a sgrìobh an leabhar a leugh Mac Lachlainn ann an

Clann 'Ic 'IlleMhìcheil le Eòghann Mac'illeMhìcheil ann an Druim na Mòine san Apainn [^][supralinear: Aois] 80 bliadhna. Dec[ember] 14, 1864 Tha cunntas agamsa gun robh Clann 'Ic'illeMhìcheil anns an Apainn bho sia ceud bliadhna. Is iad teaghlach as sine san àite. Tha an t- àite-tìodhlacaidh aca ann am meadhan a' chlàidh anns an Annaid. B' i an Annaid a' chiad àite san robh Clann 'Ic'Ille [^][supralinear: anns an Apainn] agus 's ann uapasan a sgaoil na teaghlaichean eile – Baran Glaic **Aoraisg** agus Taigh Sgurrain an Lìos Mòr an Ach a' Ghuarain agus Baran na h- Innseig. B' e aon do theaghlach Baran Taigh Sgurrain a bha anns an Easpaig Bhàn a bha an Acha nan Duine. Tha nis an dùil gur e an t- Easpaig Bàn a sgrìobh an leabhar a leugh Mac Lachlainn ann an

Clan Carmichael by Ewan Carmichael in Druim-na-Moina [NM950452] in Appin [^][supralinear: Age] 80 years. December 14, 1864. I have an account according to which Clan Carmichael has been in Appin for six hundred years. They are the oldest family in the area. Their burial place is in the middle of the cemetery in Annat [NN037222]. Annat was the first place where the Carmichaels were [^][supralinear: in Appin] and from them the other families spread – the Baron of Glacriska [NM922451] and Sguran House in Lismore in Ach a' Ghuarain [NM876442?] and the Baron of Innseig #. The Fair[-haired] Bishop [Easpaig Bàn] who was in Achinduin [NM813392] was a member of the Baron of Taigh Sgurrain's family. It is now thought that it was the Fair Bishop who wrote the book that MacLachlan read in

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an Abairathain. Bha fear Eoghan Mac Colla agus Eoghain mac Labhrain a sepaireadh Eoghain Liosmoire agus thainig Mr Stiù[bh]art la far an robh iad agus sid ghasd air. Thuirt na gillean ris "Tha uine mhor bho'n na thogadh an eaglais [^][supralinear in pencil: so] Tha sinn ann uine mhor bho'n na thogadh agus bha tea[gh]lach fiachail [^][supralinear: fiachail] anns an eilean

Obar Dheathain. Bha fear Eòghann Mac Colla agus Eòghann Mac Labhrain a' capaireadh¹ Eòghann Lìos Mòir agus thàinig Mr Stiùbhart latha far an robh iad agus sid² ghasd' air. Thuirt na gillean ris "Tha ùine mhòr bhon a thogadh an eaglais [^][supralinear in pencil: seo]. Tha sinn ann ùine mhòr bhon a thogadh agus bha teaghlach fiachail anns an eilean anns an àm ged nach mòr

Aberdeen. One Ewan MacColl and Ewan MacLaren were capering(?) Ewan of Lismore and Mr Stewart to where they were one day and him it a good ?. The lads said to him "It has been a long time since a church was built [^][supralinear in pencil: here]. We have been there for a long time since it was build and there was a worthy family on the island at the time even though not

¹ This is a bit tentative. The word *sepaireadh* does not make much sense and the initial two letters could be *ca-* rather than *se-* which make marginally more sense.

² This word is unclear.

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anns an am ged nach mor aig am bheil cuimhne diugh orra ach mi fhein. Biad sin Clan[n] 'Ic Illemhichael – Baran Tigh Sgurraing agus tha cun[n]tas orra ann an [underlined: records] na h-eaglais Ach thainig mu dheireadh duine gorach [deleted: agus] an an slioc[hd] agus chreic e an oighreac[hd]. Bha aig a Bharan so Tigh Sgurraing an Liosmore gus Glaic Aoirisga

aig am bheil cuimhne an-diugh orra ach mi fhèin. B' iad sin Clann 'Ic'IlleMhicheil – Baran Taigh Sgurraing agus tha cunntas orra ann an [underlined: records] na h- eaglais. Ach thàinig mu dheireadh duine gòrach [deleted: agus] ann an sliochd agus chreic e an oighreachd. Bha aig a' Bharan seo Taigh Sgurraing an Lios Mòr agus Glaic **Aoraig**

many apart from myself remember them today. They were the Carmichaels – The Baron of Scuran House and there are records of them [underlined: records] in the church. But eventually a foolish man came [deleted: and] in the kindred and he sold the estate. This Baron had Scuran House in Lismore and Glacrisca

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[supralinear: san Apuinn] agus Blar chasgaig agus an Lead ghuann[supralinear: ach] Thainig duine gorach air an t-slioc[hd] agus chreic e an oighreac[hd] ri Sir Donull (Camibeul) Aird na murchan. Thug Sir Don[ull] leis Baran og faoin Tigh Sgurr[ain] do dh-Ionarara agus chuir e an daorach air ^[supralinear in blue ink: le fion na Fraing] agus cheannaich uaith gach clod fearraing bha aige. Thill a sin Barran Tigh S[gurraing] Dhachaidh do Thigh S[gurraing] an Lios[mor] Chionn se T[igh] S[gurraing] tigh bu phrion Sbailliche agus thilg e phoc ^[supralinear in blue ink: aid a] air ^[supralinear in blue ink: bhreacain?] beulaibh a mhathar agus thui[r]t e Sin agaibh a nis ^[supralinear in blue ink: a mhathair nach?] or [ag]us air giod ai[r]son ar [supralinear in blue ink: bhur] cuid fearraing cha bhith sine gar cluidh fhinn ri fear[r]an nas fhaid[deleted: h]e. [deleted: Dhos] Dh-f[h]osgail a mha[deleted: i]thair a sin am poca agus cha

[supralinear: san Apainn] agus Blàr Chasgaig agus an Leathad **Ghrian**[supralinear: ach]. Thàinig duine gòrach air an t- sliochd agus chreic e an oighreachd ri Sir Dòmhnall (Caimbeul) Àird nam Murchan. Thug Sir Dòmhnall leis baran òg faoin Taigh Sgurraing do dh'Inbhir Aora³ agus chuir e an daorach air ^[supralinear in blue ink: le fion na Frainge] agus cheannaich uaithe gach clod fearaing bha aige. Thill an- sin Baran Taigh Sgurraing dhachaidh do Thaigh Sgurraing an Lios Mòr chionn 's e Taigh Sgurraing taigh bu phrionnsabhalaiche agus thilg e phoc ^[supralinear in blue ink: aid] air air ^[supralinear in blue ink: bhreacain?] beulaibh a mhàthar agus thuir e: “Sin agaibh a- nis ^[supralinear in blue ink: a mhàthair nach?] òr agus airgead airson ar [supralinear in blue ink: bhur] cuid fearaing. Cha bhi sinne gar claidh fhinn ri fearaing nas fhaide. Dh'fhosgail a mhàthair an- sin am poca agus cha robh nì sa phoca ach

[supralinear: in Appin] and Blarchasgaig [NM937458] and the Ledgrianach] [NM927439]. A foolish man came to lead the kindred and he sold the estate to Sir Donald (Campbell) of Ardnamurchan. Sire Donald took with him the young foolish baron of Scuran House to Inverary and made him drunk ^[supralinear in blue ink: with French wine] and bought off him every sod of land he had. The Baron of Scuran House then returned home to Scuran House on Lismore because Scuran House was the main [house] and pock ^[supralinear in blue ink: et] on him on ^[supralinear in blue ink: his kilt?] in front of his mother and he said: “There you are nis ^[supralinear in blue ink: mother isn't it?] gold and silver for our [supralinear in blue ink: your] land. We won't weary ourselves with farming any longer. His more opened the sack and there was nothing in the sack but pennies and placks⁴ instead of gold and

³ probably *Inbhir Aora* (Inverary) but conceivably some other place called **Inbhir Ara*.

⁴ <https://dsl.ac.uk/entry/snd/plack>

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robh ni sa phoca ach paighinn [ag]us plangannan peighinn agus plangannan an àit òir agus
an ait or [ag]us

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airgid. San[n] mar sin a chaill na Barain 'Ic Illemhicheil na h-oighreac[hd]an aca agus a fhuair Sir Donull Caimbeul Aird na muracha aid – agus an diugh cha n eil clod aig a shlioc[hd] fhein. Bha Sir Donull fìor laghail agus cha do stad e riamh gus an d- f[h]uair e Clan[n] 'Ic 'Ille mhicheil [underlined: outlaw-adh] as [deleted: an] a Cheathra-[deleted: fhea ra] fhearna. Thog an fheadhain ann dheanadh dhiu agus chaidh iad a null a dh'Acha nan duine (far an robh an t-Easbuig Ban A[lexander] C[armichael]) Bhitheadh a so a cheathra so dhiu a dol a thogail [deleted: ch] creich air Mac Ill leathain Dhubhairt. Nuair a thogadh iad a mach leis an t-siarach (Siarach) bata mor sia diag no seac[hd] diag a throidhean) cha bhiodh ann[deleted: s] ach "bhios trom leat i cum bh- uait i."

airgid. 'S ann mar sin a chaill na Barain 'Ic'IlleMhìcheil na h- oighreachdan aca agus a fhuair Sir Dòmhnall Caimbeul Àird nam Murchan iad – agus an- diugh chan eil **clod** aig a shliochd fhèin. Bha Sir Dòmhnall fìor laghail agus cha do stad e riamh gus an d'fhuair e Clann 'Ic'IlleMhìcheil [underlined: outlaw-adh] às [deleted: an] a' Cheathramh Fheàrna. Thog an fheadhainn ann *dheanadh dhiu*⁵ agus chaidh iad a- null a dh'Acha nan Duine (far an robh an t- Easpag Bàn A[lexander] C[armichael]). Bhitheadh an- seo a' cheathramh seo dhiubh a' dol a thogail creich air Mac'IlleEathain Dhubhairt. Nuair a thogadh iad a- mach leis an t-siarach (Siarach: bàta mòr sia deug no seachd deug a throighean), cha bhiodh ann ach "bhios trom leat i, cùm bhuait i."

silver. That is how the Carmichael Barons lost their estates and how Sir Donald Campbell of Ardnamurchan got them – and today there's not a clod belongig to his own kindred. Sir Donald was very litigious and didn't stop until he got the Carmichaels [underlined: outlaw-ed] from [deleted: the] Ceathreamh Feàrna. The ones ? ? and they went over to Achinduin (there A[lexander] C[armichael] the Fair Bishop was. From here this quarter of them would go to raid MacLean of Duart. When they set out with the siarach⁶ (Siarach: a big boat of sixteen or seventeen feet), it would only be "she is not responding well, push her off the wind⁷."

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⁵ This is unclear.

⁶ This could be *sia-ràmhach*, a six-oared vessel but the spelling is unclear and it could mean other things.

⁷ It's possible this is an idiom referring to ease or difficulty of sailing but if so, me and my informants are not familiar with it as an idiom but literally that's what it means

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Chaidh a sin fear dhiu a stigh do chaisteal Dhubh airt agus a measg an da ghille dhubh dhiag aig a bha cestire Mhic Illeleathain thug e [deleted: leis] mach leis a phoit bha air an teinne. Bha tamailt gun chiall air Mac 'Ille[leathain] agus chuir e fios air faothaid a mach air toir Chlann 'Ic Ille[mhicheil?]. Bha 'n oi[dh]ch[e] ann agus bha na ceithir brathair a chlan[n] Ille[mhicheil] a mach agus chuir iad solus ann an Caibeal cladh Peighinn a ghobhan. Chaidh Du'll og a suas agus co aig a bha an solus ach aig da chailleach dhull agus bodach dubh – tri buidsichean agus corp aca agus iad a cuir as do mhac Ille leathain. Thill Dull og a nuas agus dh-innis e gu de chum e. Carson nach tug an tri leat a nuas arsa Gilleuspaig dall

fol. 7r

a bhrathair chionn san a cuir as do Mhac Ille leathain a tha iad agus bhiodh so na mhiann si Mhic 'Ille [mhicheil?] fhaotainn dhuinn chionn san a marbhadh Mac Ille [leathain] a tha iad. Bha an corp lan phrinneachan agus cha robh ach aon prinne mor eile r idol ann mullach a chinn agus bhiodh a sin am bas aig M[ac] Ille [leathain]. Chaidh a sin na triuir bhrathrean a suas thun a chaibeil agus dh-f[h]an Gilleuspaig s an Shiarach. Thug iad a nuas na triuir bhuidsich-

Chaidh an- sin fear dhiubh a- staigh do Chaisteal Dhubhaird agus am measg an dà ghille dhubh dheug aig a bha ceisteire Mhic'IlleEathain, thug e [deleted: leis] a- mach leis a' phoit a bha air an teinne. Bha tàmailt gun chiall air Mac'IlleEathain agus chuir e fios air faghaid a- mach air tòir Chlann 'Ic'Ille[Mhìcheil?]. Bha an oidhche ann agus bha na ceithir bràthair a Chlann 'Ille[Mhìcheil] a- mach agus chuir iad solas ann an Caibeal Cladh Peighinn a' Ghobhainn. Chaidh Dùghall Òg a- suas agus cò aig a bha an solas ach aig dà chailleach dhall agus bodach dubh – trì buidsichean agus corp aca agus iad a' cur às do Mhac'IlleEathain. Thill Dùghall Òg a- nuas agus dh'innis e gu dè chunn' e. "Carson nach tug an trì leat a- nuas" arsa GilleEaspaig Dall

a bhràthair, "chionn 's ann a' cur às do Mhac'IlleEathain a tha iad agus bhiodh seo na mhiann si"¹⁰ Mhic'Ille[Mhìcheil?] fhaotainn dhuinn chionn 's ann a' marbhadh Mac'Ille[Eathain] a tha iad." Bha an corp làn phrìneachan agus cha robh ach aon phrìne mòr eile ri dol ann mullach a chinn agus bhiodh e an- sin am bàs aig Mac'IlleEathain. Chaidh an- sin na triuir bhràithrean a- suas thun a' chaibeil agus dh'fhan GilleEaspaig san shiarach.

One of them then entered Castle Duat and amongst the dozen drovers⁸ was the catechist MacLean, he took [deleted: with him] out with him the pot that was on the fire. MacLean was utterly disgraced and he raised a hunting party to pursue the [Carmichaels?]. It was night and the four [Carmichael] brothers were out and they put a light in the chapel of the Pennygown Cemetary [NM602433?]. Young Dougal went up and who had the light but two blind old women and a black⁹ old man – three witches with a dead body and they killed MacLean. Young Dougal came back down and told what he had seen. "Why didn't you take the three down with you" said Blind Archibald

his brother. "for they have killed MacLean and this would be [Carmichael's?] desire to get from us because they are killing Mac[Lean]." The body was full of pins and there was only one big pin missing which was to go through his head and MacLean would have been dead. The three brothers then went up to the chapel and Archibald stayed in the siarach. They brought down the three witches and the clay body¹¹ full of pins and they took them with them in the boat

⁸ Tricky one, literally a "black lad" which can be a drover or a stone holder for a taper but context isn't much help here.

⁹ Most likely not in the sense of African-heritage person.

¹⁰ This word is unclear.

¹¹ Basically a voodoo doll

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ean agus an corp crea[dh] agus e lan
phrinnichean agus thug iad leo[tha] sa [deleted:
'n] bhata iad a thun beulaibh Mhic Ille [leathain].
Chuireadh an corp crea[dh] an lar ri taobh
leab[aidh] Mhic an leathain agus gach prine
thigeadh as dh-f[h]agadh prian Mac Illeleathain
gus an tugadh gach

Thug iad a- nuas na trìuir bhuidsichean agus an
corp-crèadh agus e làn phrìneachan agus thug iad
leotha sa [deleted: n] bhàta iad a thun beulaibh
Mhic'III[Eathain]. Chuireadh an corp-crèadh an
làr ri taobh leabaidh Mhic an Leathain agus gach
prine thigeadh as, dh'fhàgadh pian
Mac'IIIEathain gus an tugadh gach

and brought them in front of MacLean. The clay
body was put on the floor beside MacLean's bed
and with every pin that was taken from it, pain
left MacLean until every

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prine bha ann as agus bha Mac Ille [leathain]
slàn. Thug a sin Mac Ille [leathain] cead do
Chlann 'Ic Ille [mhicheil] sia luc an sa bhlianna a
thoirt leo[tha] fad sa bha coir aigesan agus nach
robh duine beo aig an robh a chridhe smid a
ghradh sin. Phos nighean Tighearna na h Apunn
[deleted: Sir] Tighearna lochnan eala agus bha
iad a chomhuidh san am ann Caisteal Mhing
arraidh ann an Àird-na-murachadh. Thug nighean
Tighearna na h Apunn lei[the] da theaghlach
chomhaltan – teaghlach do Chlann an t-Solomh
agus teaghlach eile Chlann 'Ic Ille mhichel a bha
nan dlu[th] [deleted: ch] chairdean agus
^[supralinear in blue ink: nan dlu[th] dhaimhich
agus] nan leinean cneis Chaid[h] iad so do dh'
Ardnam[murchan] agus as a sin chaidh do
Mhuile

prine a bha ann às agus bha Mac'III[Eathain]
slàn. Thug an- sin Mac'III[Eathain] cead do
Chlann 'Ic'III[Mhìcheil] sia luchdan sa bhliadhna
a thoirt leotha fad 's a bha còir aigesan agus nach
robh duine beò aig an robh a chridhe smid a
ghràdh sin. Phòs nighean Tighearna na h-Apann
[deleted: Sir] Tighearna Loch nan Eala agus bha
iad a chòmhnaidh san àm an Caisteal
Mhingearaidh ann an Àird nam Murchan. Thug
nighean Tighearna na h- Apann leatha dà
theaghlach chomhaltan – teaghlach do Chlann an
t-Solaimh agus teaghlach eile Chlann
'Ic'IIIEmhìcheil a bha nan dlùth-chàirdean agus
^[supralinear in blue ink: nan dlùth-dhaimhich
agus] nan lèinean-cris. Chaidh iad seo do dh'Àird
nam Murchan agus às a sin chaidh do Mhuile

pin had been taken out and Mac[Lean] was well.
The Mac[Lean] gave permission to the
[Carmichael's] to take six loads with them as
long as we was in power and there was not
anyone alove who dared speak against this. The
daughter of the Lord of Appin [deleted: Sir]
married the Lord of Loch nan Eala [NM667859]
and lived at that time in Mingary Castle
[NM505631] in Ardnamurchan. The daughter of
the Lord of Appin took with her two families of
foster siblings – a family of MacSolomon's and
one family of Carmichaels who were close
friends and ^[supralinear in blue ink: close
relatives] as attendants¹². They went to
Ardnamurchan and from there to Mull

fol. 8r

do 'Ille agus iomadh aite eile. Phos te eile do
nigheanna Tighearna na h-Apann oighre Ghlinne
Faochan agus thug i lea teach- lach a chlan[n]

do dh'Ìle agus iomadh àite eile. Phòs tè eile do
nigheanna Tighearna na h- Apann oighre
Ghlinne Faochain agus thug i leatha teaghlach a

and to Islay and then many other places. Another
daughter of the Lord of Appin married the heir of
Glen Feochan [NM895245] and she took with her

¹² It could also mean body guards but since he refers to the whole family, I suspect attendants.

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'Illemhicheil a bha nan comh dhaltan agus nan leinnean-cneis aice fhein agus do f[h]uirich? an teaghlach sin riamh an Lathairne agus bha cairdeas agus daimh eadar na teaghlaichean sin riamh tuille ga ghleigheadh ra cheile. Se Baran na h-Innsaig fear a b-oig do na barain. Cha n eil ach mo [deleted: thri] choig fichead blianna bho na chreic Baran na h-Annaid an Annaid. Tha teaghlach anns an Sclait fhathast air ann. An choir an Annaid tighearna mar bhith gun do chreic Iain ruadh le sloitireac[hd] an Anaid.

Chlann 'IlleMhìcheil a bha nan comhalta agus nan lèinean-cris aice fhèin agus do f[h]uirich¹³ an teaghlach sin riamh an Lathairne agus bha càirdeas agus dàimh eadar na teaghlaichean sin riamh tuille ga ghlèidheadh ra chèile. 'S e Baran na h- Innsaig fear a b' òige do na barain. Chan eil ach mu [deleted: thri] chòig fichead bliadhna bhon a chreic Baran na h- Annaid an Annaid. Tha teaghlach anns an Sclait fhathast air ann. An chòir an Annaid tighearna mar bhith gun do chreic Iain Ruadh le slaightearachd an Annaid.

a family of Carmichaels who were foster siblings and as attendants for herself and that family stayed in Lorn ever since and there was friendship and blood ties between those families which was maintained. The Baron of Innseag was the youngest of the barons. It has only been [deleted: three] about 100 years since the Baron of Annat sold the Annat. There is a family of his (?) in Sclait still. Their right to be lords of Annat if it hadn't been that Red Iain had sold the Annat through treachery.¹⁴

¹³ This word is unclear though a reading of *d'fhuirich* would make sense.

¹⁴ The grammar in this last sentence is all over the shop but it broadly means that they would be the lords of Annat, hadn't it been sold.