

The cover features a central dark red field. On the left, a vertical strip of marbled paper runs from top to bottom. In the top-right and bottom-right corners, triangular sections of the same marbled paper are visible, meeting the red field at diagonal lines.

McGILVRAY

of

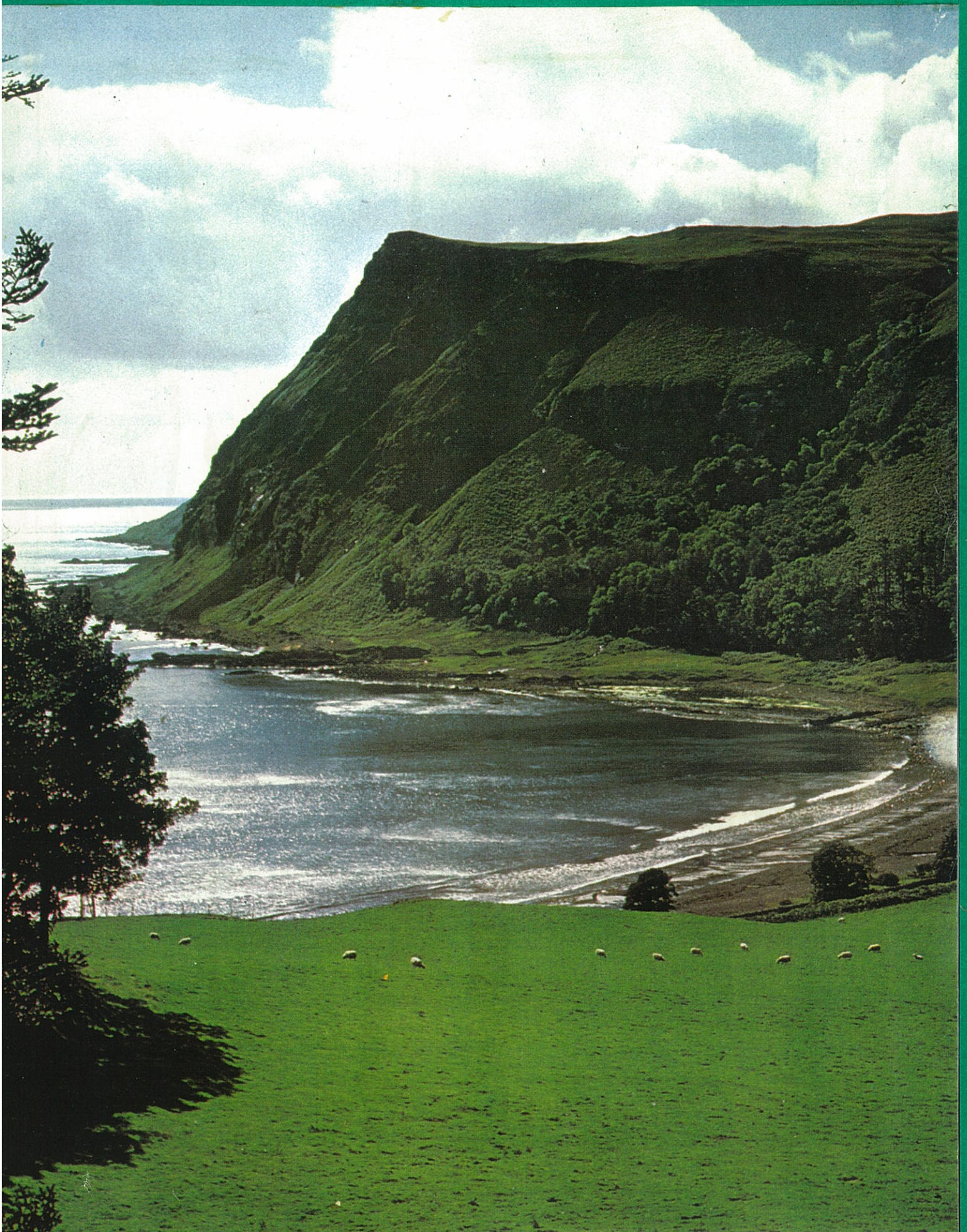
PENNYGHAEL

ROY McGILVRAY

1998

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It is best to view this introduction as facing pages.



Beautiful Carsaig Bay - our ancestral home.



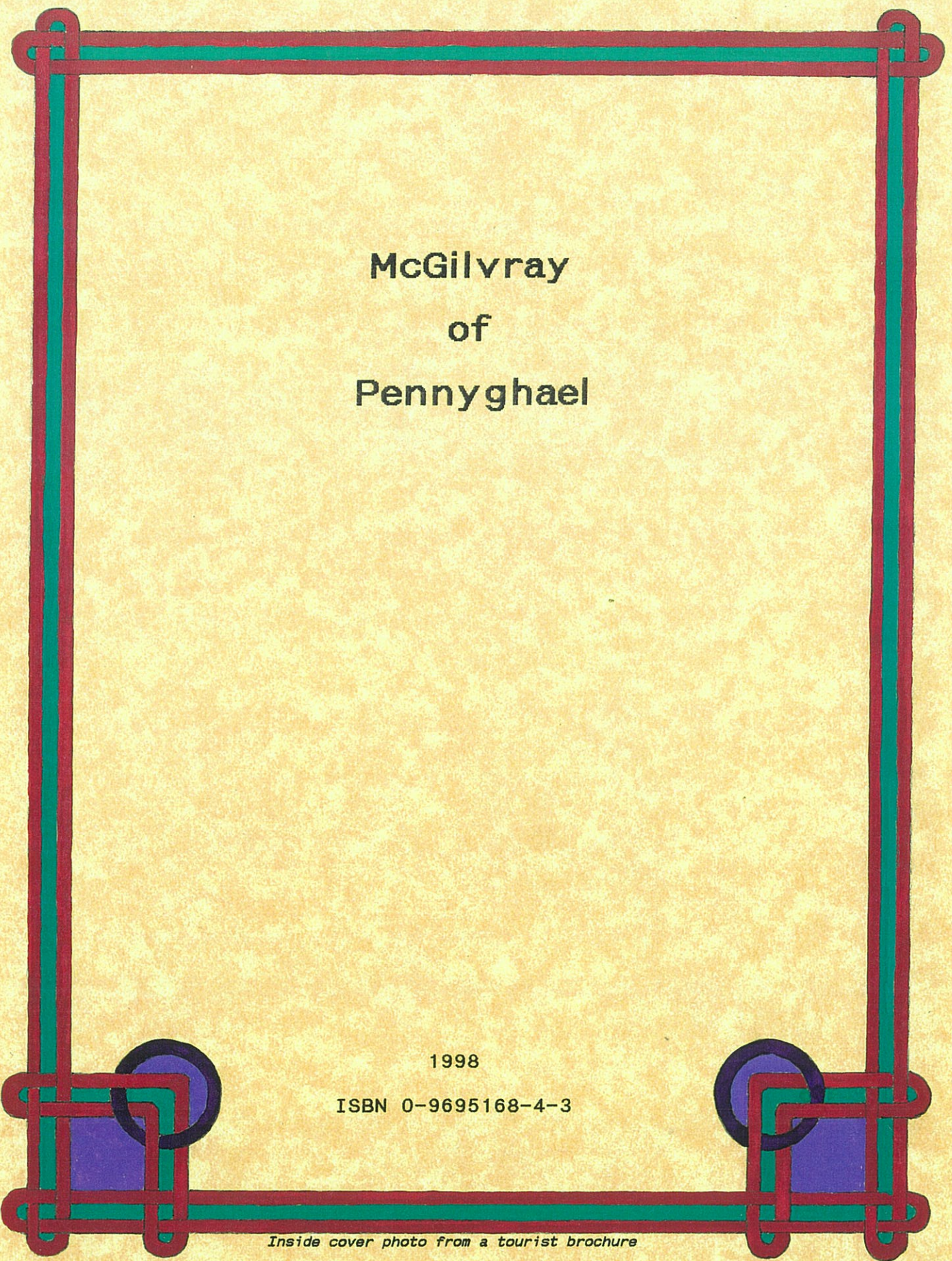
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Roy McGilvray



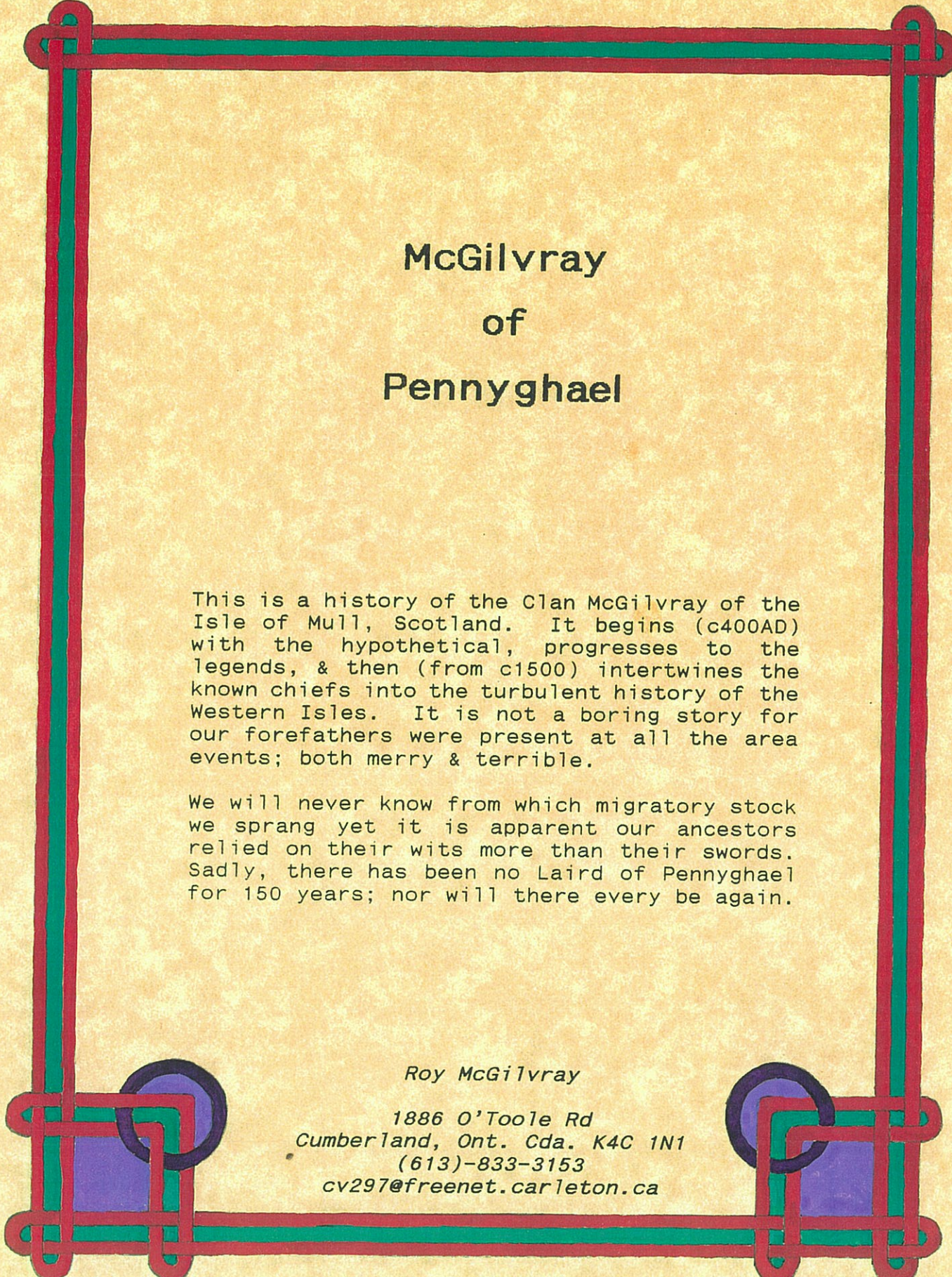


McGilvray
of
Pennyghael

1998

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Inside cover photo from a tourist brochure



McGilvray of Pennyghael

This is a history of the Clan McGilvray of the Isle of Mull, Scotland. It begins (c400AD) with the hypothetical, progresses to the legends, & then (from c1500) intertwines the known chiefs into the turbulent history of the Western Isles. It is not a boring story for our forefathers were present at all the area events; both merry & terrible.

We will never know from which migratory stock we sprang yet it is apparent our ancestors relied on their wits more than their swords. Sadly, there has been no Laird of Pennyghael for 150 years; nor will there every be again.

Roy McGilvray

1886 O'Toole Rd
Cumberland, Ont. Cda. K4C 1N1
(613)-833-3153
cv297@freenet.carleton.ca



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Mull & Scotland <1500

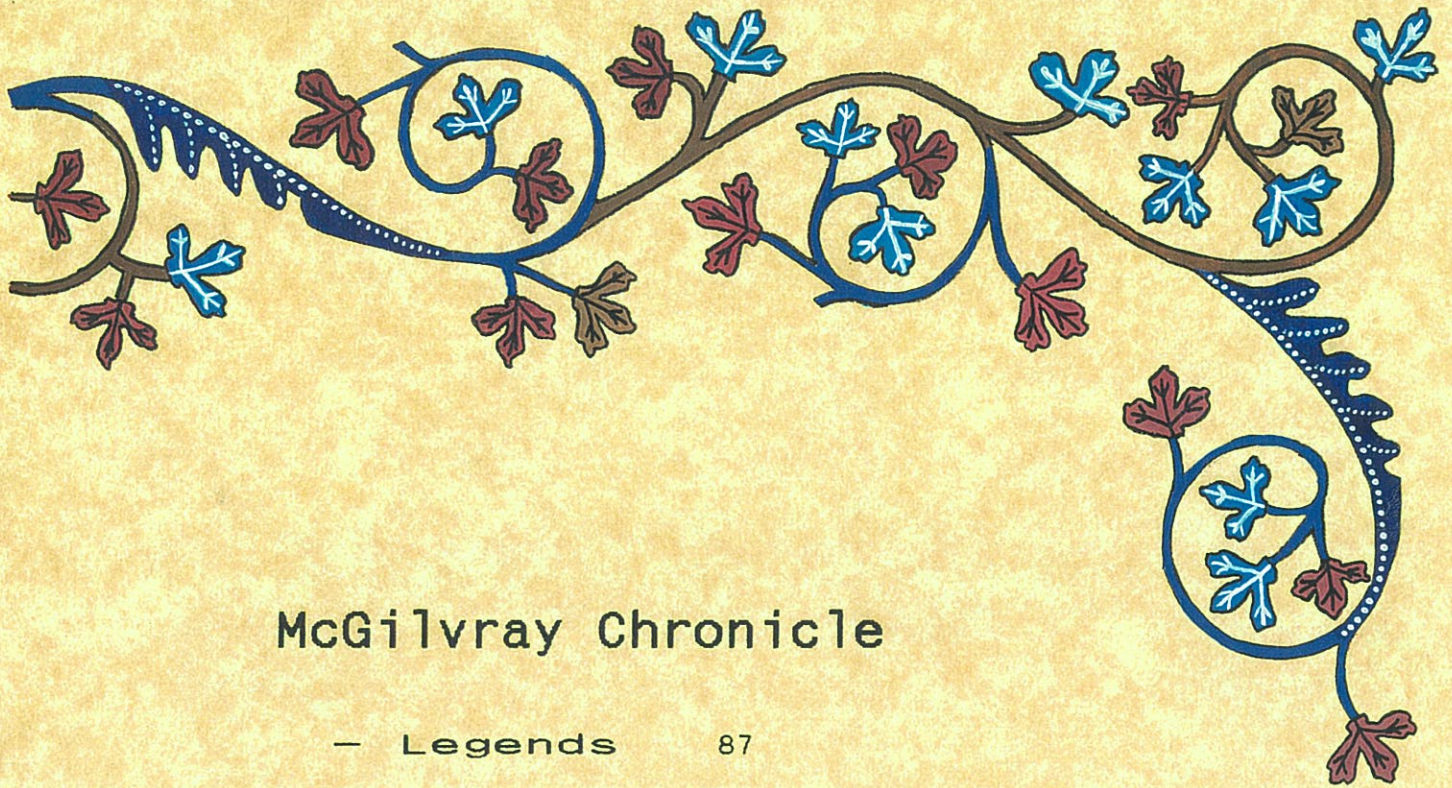
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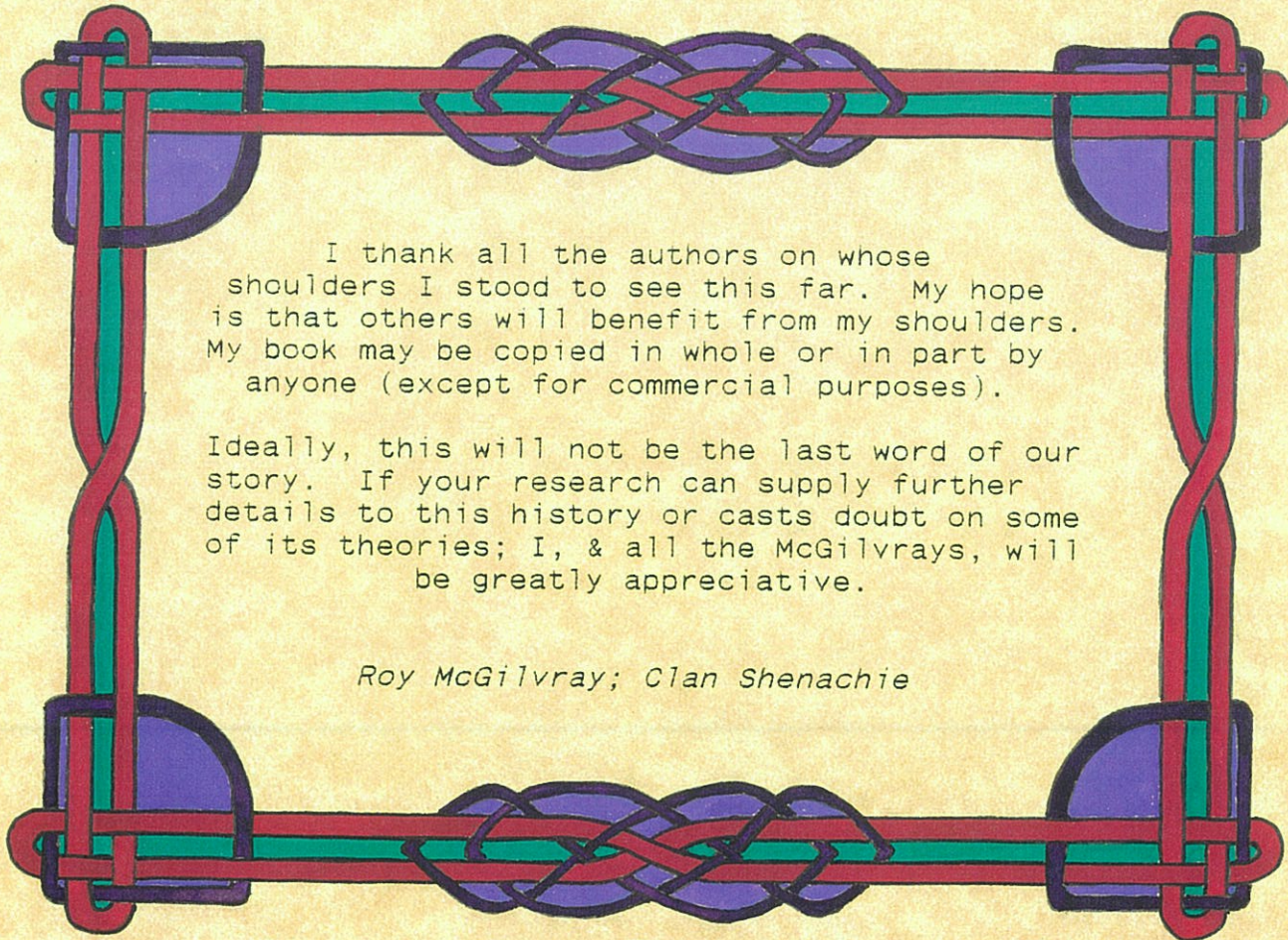
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I thank all the authors on whose shoulders I stood to see this far. My hope is that others will benefit from my shoulders. My book may be copied in whole or in part by anyone (except for commercial purposes).

Ideally, this will not be the last word of our story. If your research can supply further details to this history or casts doubt on some of its theories; I, & all the McGilvrays, will be greatly appreciative.

Roy McGilvray; Clan Shenachie

Borders from "*159 Celtic Designs*", by Amy Lusebrink

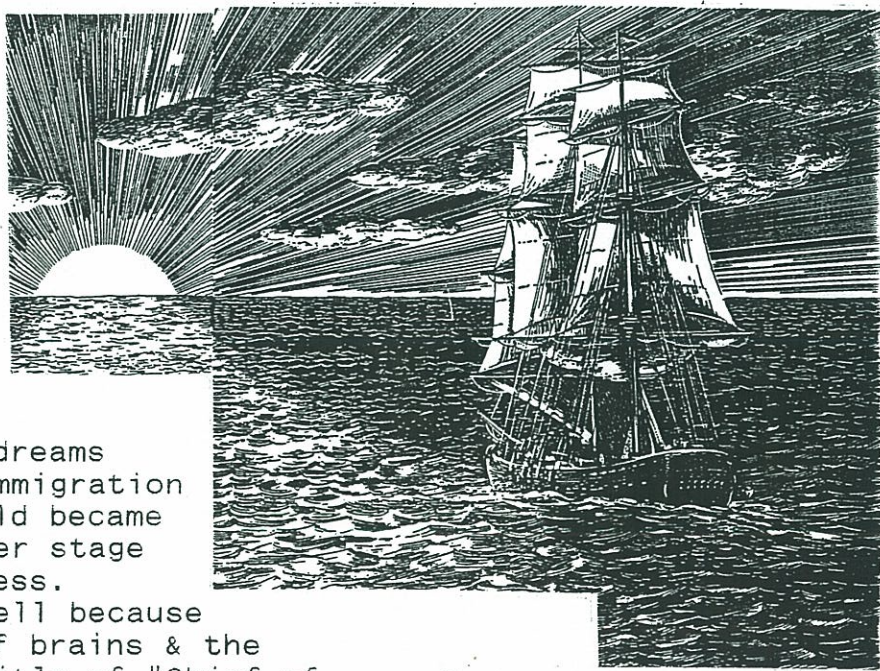
Index design from National Geographic's "*Age of Chivalry*". pp.10/11



INTRODUCTION

In order to survive through the centuries a numerically small clan, such as the McGilvrays, must have been both smart & lucky. Just as they adapted to, yet remained autonomous from, the encroachment of the much larger clans of McDonalds, McLeans & Campbells, so too is it likely they adapted earlier to the Viking onslaught. This same adaptability would have helped them adjust to the upheavals of new religions, to the Highland power struggles, & to the Industrial Revolution. And, finally, it helped many family members face the unknowns of emigration. The McGilvrays of Pennyghael appear to have placed brains before brawn for more than 1000 years.

The stability & growth of a clan founded on intelligence would depend on its retaining the smarter members at home. But, the unprecedented social & economic changes, which began in the late 1600's & accelerated during the next century, highlighted the homeland's deficiencies. The attractions offered by foreign fields would be most appealing to, & less frightening for, the smarter, more adventurous & confident clansmen. Naturally, the homeland suffered. Not only did the chief lose his lands but many other McGilvrays chose, or were forced, to begin a new life in the crowded, industrial city of Glasgow.



The hopes & dreams offered by immigration to a new world became merely another stage in this process. Pennyghael fell because it ran out of brains & the once proud title of "Chief of the McGilvrays" is now dormant.

The Book of Knowledge Encyclopedia.

1947 v10p.3737

At best our story can be seen as if watching a drama by moonlight. But, it is more often viewed merely through the occasional flash of lightning. The scenic background would include rude homes, rustic cattle & the passing generations. Only the hills & the sea would be unchanging as unknown Celts, Irish pirates, Vikings, crofters & chieftains made their entrances & exits. The pleasant, natural beauty of our valley would bear witness to the repetitive cycle of laughter & tears; harvest & hunger; birth & burial. But, all too frequently, the light would reveal the seemingly unending & meaningless violence which is man's recorded history.

Sea fights & land fights; plundering & burning; revenge & rebellion: such are the events as the frustratingly unknown actors move in & out of the scene, like shadows in a show, as we attempt to determine why, or whence or whither. Change the terms to Africa or Iroquois &, to us, the same events no longer create much interest. Change our perspective, as we mature or obtain more facts, & the story also changes. But, these are our ancestors & this is our history as we know it today.

Genealogy is the personification of history. Thus, it is important that the truth be precisely sought & revealed in order to make our story something more than mere myth or fanciful fairy tale.

Quimhnich air na daoine bho n d'thainig thu.
"Remember those you come from." (Gaelic saying)

This history of the Clan McGilvray was designed primarily for the use of family historians & as such it was intended less to promulgate an historical fact than to demonstrate 'it might have thus happened'. It supplements the Mull chapter in the "*History of the Clan MacGillivray*" done by Robert & George McGillivray in 1973. Over the last decade, every known likely source has been gleaned for any mention of a clansman. And, every pertinent historical happening has been included to provide a background which would assist readers in appreciating the conditions that our ancestors lived through.

A thing always seems easy enough until one starts to do it.



For at least 500, & likely 1300, years our ancestors were land-owning chieftains on the Isle of Mull, in the Inner Hebrides, off the west coast of Scotland. A brief historical outline of Mull will furnish a base for locating & following our clan's probable path & fortunes. Who exactly the members were in the early years is unknown but how they lived may be inferred from the events of the day. The history of this area certainly affected their lives & our past.

Our chronology is divided roughly by the year 1500 for it is only after this time that individual McGilvray clansmen are recorded by name in the official records. This, then, allows for the area's history to be told in relation to the life of each Laird of Pennyghael. Because of their remoteness in time these early generations are the most difficult to document, but they are also the most interesting to discover. And, surprisingly, a few clansmen are very well documented.

Prior to 1500 there are a number of McGilvray legends which are retold here in relation to the historical events of the time. Each successive wave of tribal migration is discussed in order to speculate on the possible racial origin of the clan. The various possible meanings of the name McGilvray are also mentioned as are its many changes in spelling. In order to appreciate further the life of our ancestors the clan system is outlined & the commonplace modes of living are depicted. A number of superstitions & vignettes are included to show the lighter side of their lives.

Although the story of the McGilvrays of Pennyghael ends on a sad note it is hoped that the long history of their strength will inspire others to dig even deeper & to answer some of the many questions that remain.

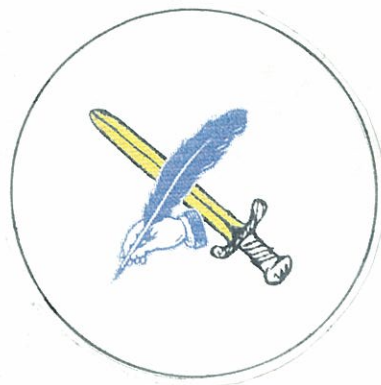
Countless generations of McGilvray men & women are at rest in this small corner of the world. To them, in their day of strength, their bays & valleys were as beautiful as they are now, & what they strove to achieve was as meaningful as anything today, while their affection for their families flowed as deep & as tender as any modern love. Some things never, & should never, change; no matter when or where the families live.

*The McGilvrays of Pennyghael are no more;
the men have all died & the land is long sold.
Yet, their legacy remains in history & lore;
of great deeds & noble thoughts, strong & bold.*

Roy McGilvray

Clan Shenachie

This would have been,
& remains,



an appropriate emblem
for our family.

Peace hath her victories, no less renowned than war.
(Milton to Cromwell, 1652)