

# CLAN EWEN SOCIETY



No. 35

*Bulletin*

APRIL, 1996

## **FAILTE**

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**A**S WE BEGIN to emerge from a long drawn-out and extremely cold winter in Scotland, temperatures down to -20 degrees C in the Glasgow area, and that is cold by our standards, we look forward to Spring, which is only slowly emerging, and our A.G.M. at Kilfinan Hotel in Otter.

We have been hoping to have a slight change of format this year, in that apart from the A.G.M. it is our intention to try to make the occasion more enjoyable by holding a ceilidh on the Saturday evening - 1st June. This will also give us all more opportunity to mix and chat.

This, of course, is dependent on obtaining live music locally, which is proving somewhat difficult I believe.

Ron Ewing, who is in charge of this aspect of the programme, assures me that "It will be alright on the night", but I have no definite details at this time of writing. I have no further news for you on the Clan Chief front. This could be a somewhat protracted procedure, the petition having to be presented at the Court of the Lord Lyon and then await his judgment.

At the end of March, I had an interesting chat with Major Edward Orr-Ewing, who is Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Wigtownshire and whom I met at a military function. This was particularly interesting for me as my forebears, back to the mid 1700s, were farming in and around Stoneykirk in Wigtownshire. He mentioned that, early in the 18th century, he thought, one of his Ewing ancestors had married an Orr and hence the hyphenated surname had evolved. "We might even be distantly related", he ventured.

This might be an interesting pursuit if I can trace back farther than 1765 which is as far back as I can at present.

Looking forward to greeting those of you who will be travelling to Otter in June. The Clan Society has been presented with a very fine Visitor's Book by Lt. Col. G. M. McEwan of Cornwall. This will be installed at Kilfinan Hotel by 1st June, 1996. I hope everyone will hansom it.

*Alan Ewing*

## **MINUTES FROM COMMITTEE MEETING**

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Held at 3 Havelock Park, East Kilbride on Saturday, 24th February, 1996.

*Present:*

Lt. Col. Alan Ewing	Mrs. McEwan Joyce
Mr. Charles Ewen	Mr. Ron Ewing
Mr. Murdo McEwan	Mr. Duncan McEwan
Miss Eleanor Williamson	

*Apologies from:* Colin Davies  
John McEwan

Chairman Alan Ewing welcomed members and went straight on with the Agenda. **The Pretender** - Alan reported on his correspondence with Sir John McEwan and read his letters; with Sir John's suggestion to consult Sir Crispin Agnew, member of the Lord Lyon Court, in regard to establishing his claim as Clan Chief. Also discussed costs, which would have to be estimated.

It was concluded that the Chairman would write to Sir John in regard to some idea of the expenses involved and that the Clan would agree in general to some financial assistance in the future according to our limited resources.

**Money Matters** - The treasurer gave an update on our financial position regarding income, expenditure, Clan items, etc. The cost of postage of Bulletins is very high and ways of reducing this were discussed. The Scot Magazine advert to be discontinued meantime, but with one special advert to be inserted in the May issue to draw attention to the Clan Gathering in June.

**Sales Report** - Ron Ewing in his report on Sales Drive gave details of sales, stock in hand, orders, etc. Sales are moving well and Kilfinan Hotel has proven to be a good source for the sale of Clan Merchandise.

**Arrangements for Kilfinan** - Establishment of a Clan Room with a Heritage Centre within Kilfinan Hotel, some donations of money coming from overseas but not many items so far. Argyll and Bute Enterprise Ltd. are willing to help with establishing a Heritage Centre and it was suggested that a quote should be obtained from a designer for re-furbishing the Clan Room. The programme for June 1st was discussed and a rough plan established - namely a committee meeting first, lunch followed by the A.G.M., a walk to the Cairn and in the evening a social gathering and ceilidh. However, a sub-committee of Chairman, Secretary and Sales Manager was elected to visit Kilfinan Hotel and arrange the finer details and catering, entertainment, etc.

**Information "Hand Out" for new members** - This item, in the event, was not discussed as the Membership Secretary had departed. It was agreed to hold over until next meeting.

**A.O.C.B.** - The Visitor's Book, presented by Lt. Col. McEwan was passed round and Secretary to write a letter of thanks and invitation to A.G.M. in June. Chairman has written letter of thanks to Lt. Col. McEwan.

## **The Annual General Meeting and Gathering of Clan Ewing Society**

will be held at 2.00 p.m.  
on Saturday, 1st June, 1996  
in the Kilfinan Hotel, Kilfinan, Argyll  
(Tel. 01700 821201)

*Members and Friends welcome*

## ***ROBERT S. T. MACEWEN REPORT***

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*Taken from the Celtic Monthly magazine edited by John MacKay, in April, 1901.*

**R**OBERT SUTHERLAND TAYLOR MACEWEN was born at Evelix, in the County of Sutherland, on 12th June, 1839. He was the eldest son of Dr. Alexander MacEwen, who had settled in Sutherland in 1830, and who enjoyed an extensive, and for many years the sole medical practice in the county. Dr. MacEwen was a grandson of Walter MacEwen of Luss, and thus belonged to the Dunbartonshire branch of the MacEwen clan. Robert MacEwen's mother came of a well known Sutherland family, being the daughter of William Taylor, Sheriff and Commissary Clerk of Sutherland. Mr. MacEwen received his early education at Tain Academy and he afterwards entered on the usual legal curriculum at Edinburgh University.

But in 1862 he was offered an appointment in the public service of India, which definitely determined the sphere of his life-work. His first post was that of magistrate and assistant commissioner in the Santhal territory, at that time just recovering from the effects of the Santhal Rebellion of 1855-56. His services were acknowledged in 1866 by his appointment to the difficult task of re-organising the work of the Presidency Small Cause Court, Calcutta. Grave abuses had been rife, and as a result of an enquiry the chief clerk and officers were dismissed. The Government recorded its sense of the "regularity, firmness, and tact" exercised by Mr. MacEwen in this office.

He became a Judge of the Court in 1868; in 1878 he was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn. Three years later he became Officiating Chief Judge of the Small Cause Court. In 1884 he became Additional Recorder of Rangoon, a post which he held for four years, during a time when dacoiting was rife. He served a second term as recorder in 1893 when again the work against criminal elements was exceptionally dangerous and eventually retired from India in 1894.

He was from then, able to devote himself to his love of Family and Clan histories. He soon collected valuable information in regard to his own and collateral families in Sutherland. He was the first to piece together and connect the historical fragments of Clan MacEwen and put them in an orderly state, for the Celtic Monthly magazine. He contributed several articles on the Clan Ewen land. These eventually were destined for a book. But by his untimely death in June, 1900, he had prepared a little book for publication on his Clan Ewen researches. It is to be published by the Celtic Monthly. He had written articles on the Clans, Past and Present, along with collected materials for a work on the Taylors of Sutherland, which would have been a fitting task for the descendant of the brilliant antiquarian, George Taylor. In his family researches he was always impressed with the obligations of kin-ship, and the value of their observance to it, as a clan. He loved to observe in scattered and remote descendants the strong characteristics of a common race.

Of himself, we will only say that he maintained through life the best traditions of his fathers. It is a tribute which would have pleased him best.

*As a follow-up from the Libraries Promotions: Archivist Robert Steward.*

## ***SIR ALEXANDER MACEWEN EXHIBITION***

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**T**HE HIGHLAND Regional Libraries are marking the deposit of a number of newspaper cuttings and photographs collected by Sir Alexander MacEwen, 1875-1941 an exhibition celebrating his life as Inverness Councilor and Provost. The albums have been kindly donated by his son, Robin MacEwen of Inverness. They provide a visual record of notable public events during Sir Alexander's Provostship. They illustrate visits by Edward, Prince of Wales in 1931, later to become Edward VIII. Also the then Duke and Duchess of York, later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Another album has three prominent men of MacDonald blood receiving the Clan MacDonald freedom ceremony, namely Prime Minister Ramsey MacDonald, ex Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin and Inverness M.P. Sir Murdoch MacDonald taken in 1930.

The exhibition shows Sir Alexander's career in local government in the Highlands, as Secretary of Highland Reconstruction Association, and Convener on Education for 11 years. In his political career he was a founding member of the Scottish Party, along with the Duke of Montrose, took a leading role in formation of Scottish National Party in 1934, becoming its Chairman and later, President. Incidentally, Sir Alexander is the son of Robert Sutherland Taylor MacEwen. Robin MacEwen is a Clan Society member and the grandson of Robert. I think R. S. T. MacEwen would be proud to know that the very things he enjoyed observing, obligations of kin-ship and valuing the characteristics of a clan, maintaining the best traditions of his fathers are showing up as strong characteristics, so very close to home.

With acknowledgment to Robin MacEwen for the articles.

## ***INVERNESS HISTORY PASSES TO THE PUBLIC***

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**A** UNIQUE collection of papers and photographs offering a revealing glimpse of Inverness in times gone by passed into public hands this week.

The documents belonged to the late Provost of Inverness Burgh, Sir Alexander MacEwen, whose son, Robin, this week deposited them in Highland Regional Council's archives.

From 1908 to 1941 Sir Alexander MacEwen served first as burgh and later



*Pictured above Robert Steward receiving the MacEwen papers from Robin MacEwen (right).*

Inverness-shire County Councilor and was Provost of Inverness Burgh between the years 1925-31.

The archive - which will be open to scrutiny by members of the public - includes a collection of four albums containing striking photographs, newspaper cuttings, correspondence and official programmes.

Two of the albums record royal visits to Inverness by the Duke and Duchess of York in 1929 marking the opening of the new Northern Infirmary buildings. A visit by the then Prince of Wales in 1931 is also included.

A third album marks the presentation of the Freedom of the Burgh of Inverness to three distinguished politicians of the day.

The fourth records a visit to France in 1930 to a town called Hulluch which was destroyed in World War 1 and which Inverness Burgh helped to re-build with assistance and gifts.

However, the MacEwen Archive does more than commemorate official local government ceremonies and events. It stands in its own right as a socio-economic record of the early 1900s in Inverness.

Highland Regional Council paid tribute to Mr. MacEwen for depositing the papers in the regional archive and thereby granting access to the public.

Mr. MacEwen said: "For many years I have been conscious of possessing these important records marking my father's time in local government and now they can be properly stored and looked after."

To mark the addition of the collection to the archive, an exhibition celebrating the public service life of Sir Alexander went on public display at Inverness Library in Farraline Park. After that, the MacEwen papers will be placed in the safe hands of the regional council archivist, Robert Steward.

Anyone interested in consulting the archive should contact Mr. Steward at Inverness Library to make an appointment.

*Inverness Courier - March 22nd, 1996*

## ***MATERIAL OBSESSION***

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**Battle Over Patents Pits Two Oil Concerns Against One Scientist — John Ewen's molecules are the key to future of plastics; Exxon and Fina want In**

*"Size of the Prize is Large "*

**H**OUSTON - The two executives from the rival oil companies met at the elegant Inn on the Park Hotel here. Over breakfast, the man from Exxon Corp., who had requested the meeting, handed a document to the man from Fina Inc. The papers were marked "Confidential Report".

The secret document detailed an explosive claim by Exxon: At least three of Fina's recent, ground-breaking patented inventions - potentially worth billions of dollars - belonged to Exxon. They had been "conceived" at Exxon, the papers said, by a scientist who had then gone to work for Fina and "unlawfully disclosed" them.

Thus began in 1989 a long-running battle of suits and countersuits between the oil giants, costing tens of millions of dollars and in the end badly damaging the reputation of a brilliant scientist and pioneering researcher.

"They took away my good name," says the 50-year-old scientist, John A. Ewen. "The five most productive years of my life, up in smoke."

Patent battles are often heated affairs, for at stake is something at the core of the mythology, and sometimes the reality, of American capitalism: a good idea. Although Exxon declines to comment on any aspect of the case, documents filed in state court in Harris County, Texas, and interviews with other participants in the case provide a rare blow-by-blow account of the fight over metallocene plastics.

Plastics generate annual revenue in the hundreds of billions of dollars worldwide, but the current material is manufactured based on decades-old technology. The emerging technology for plastics is being fashioned with new agents known as metallocene catalysts. The process allows makers to engineer molecules - and create plastics with the properties they need.

The commercial payoff is many years away, but those who stake out the research and patents in metallocenes today will likely be big winners in the future. Exxon was well aware of this. Court documents in the case quote an Exxon licensing executive as saying in a 1990 speech about metallocenes: "The size of the prize is large."

### **Eye for Molecules**

The size of the prize was minuscule in 1980, when Dr. Ewen went to work for



*John A. Ewen*

Exxon Chemical at its Baytown, Texas, facility. With a brand new doctorate in chemistry from Tulane University and a few years' experience with chemicals companies, he was hired into a small, long-range polymer research group. His chosen speciality: metallocenes.

Born and raised in Jamaica, Dr. Ewen is brilliant in an absent-minded sort of way, a man who has dozens of patents listed on his resume but apologises when putting a caller on hold, lest he hang up inadvertently. He is entranced by the elegant symmetry of the molecules he has mapped, and sees beauty where others see merely chemical structure. He compliments a visitor's necklace, saying the links "look a lot like isotactic polypropylene."

Even his supporters acknowledge Dr. Ewen is a difficult man to work with, as unyielding as some of the superhard plastics he discovered. Nor is he modest about his accomplishments. He and his assistants created the entire metallocene field, he says: "Everyone else is 'me, too'." He adds, "You can say I'm an ego-tist, but I don't care."

Dr. Ewen's pioneering work and dedication made for good science at Exxon. The company soon had four patented discoveries mapping out this new terrain. Dr. Ewen's bosses considered him to be a gifted, creative scientist. He got several pay raises, and was promoted to staff chemist.

## **Bad Chemistry**

But success in the lab didn't translate into good chemistry with colleagues and subordinates. Dr. Ewen believed one scientist was stealing from the lab. He argued with secretaries. He wasn't a team player his boss complained. Dr. Ewen viewed his boss as deceitful and unfair.

By late 1983, the clashes were interfering so badly with work that Dr. Ewen requested a transfer within Exxon. Unable to find a suitable job, he left the company. He had signed a nondisclosure agreement that obligated him to turn over to Exxon any inventions he came up with in the next six months.

Dr. Ewen also got permission to write about some of his research in the Journal of the American Chemical Society, the premier scientific publication in his field. The 1984 article was the scientific equivalent of a scoop, proving metallocenes had real-world applications, putting them well beyond academic curiosities.

By the time the article came out, Dr. Ewen had found his next job. It was hardly a step up for a world-class scientist. Dallas-based Fina had just bought a 30-year-old plastics plant in La Porte, Texas, that sorely needed modernising. Dr. Ewen was to update the plant and trouble-shoot production lines.

There was no lab and no research staff, but Fina built one and Dr. Ewen was named manager of research. Given his interest and where the industry was headed, the lab focused on metallocenes. Suddenly, the discoveries were pouring in. By 1989, Dr. Ewen's name was attached to 30 pending patents for Fina.

His speeches and articles drew world-wide attention. Fina, previously a second-tier player, got joint-venture offers from huge international firms.

One of the most significant patents was for making a new substance called syndiotactic polypropylene or SPP, a super-hard impact-resistant clear plastic. Its properties make it a good candidate for medical and engineering uses. Fina filed the patent application for it in July 1988, and shortly afterward Dr. Ewen gave a speech about it at a symposium organised by Exxon scientists in Corpus Christi, Texas.

### **Lab Search**

It isn't clear just when Dr. Ewen's work for Fina came to Exxon's attention. His lawyers believe that its interest was piqued in the spring of 1989, when Dr. Ewen called the company looking for a pilot plant for an SPP test run. That July, Exxon hired two New York intellectual-property lawyers to scour Dr. Ewen's old lab notebooks and interview his co-workers to determine whether he had breached his secrecy agreement. Concluding that he had, the lawyers prepared a confidential report - and a lawsuit.

There are conflicting versions of when Fina first heard about problems with Exxon. But Dr. Ewen's fortunes at Fina clearly changed for the worse in the fall of 1989. As at Exxon, he had become embroiled in disputes with colleagues. At about that time, Fina lawyers began scrutinising Dr. Ewen's requests to give speeches and write articles; items he thought were public knowledge were now off-limits. Clearly, his career was in trouble by November 1st, 1989, when his boss, Michel Daumerie, wrote a memo to a senior Fina executive listing a dozen of Dr. Ewen's infractions. They ranged from breaking into a fellow scientist's desk, to disclosing confidential information, to parking on the grass. "In view of the recent development with Exxon," Mr. Daumerie wrote, Fina could fire Dr. Ewen, or merely demote him "if we really need to be fair to him." It is unclear what the "recent development with Exxon" was. The breakfast between the Fina and Exxon executives, where Exxon produced its confidential report, did not occur until November 15th. Nevertheless, Dr. Ewen was demoted to senior research fellow and put in charge of a four-man team instead of the 25-member department. But even though the research department's budget was cut, Fina approved a \$7,400 bonus for Dr. Ewen, on top of his \$70,000 salary.

After Fina was officially apprised of Exxon's claims the company took rapid steps to investigate them. Officials of PetroFina SA in Belgium, Fina's majority shareholder, were informed, as were executives at a Japanese firm working on a Fina joint venture. Fina and Exxon officials met at least three times to discuss a legal settlement.

But no one breathed a word about the report to Dr. Ewen. Fina officials say they thought he was too emotional to handle the charges contained in the report.

## Clearing the Field

Meanwhile, at Exxon, officials began efforts to figure out what to do about Dr. Ewen's research at Fina. At an Exxon Chemical meeting in November, 1989, to discuss the next year's aims for metallocene, one of the highlighted goals was to "Get John Ewen out of the field," according to an Exxon flip chart that became evidence in the trial. During settlement talks the following January, Exxon proposed that, as a settlement condition, Fina bar Dr. Ewen from doing any metallocene research. Fina refused. Settlement talks continued. Fina, a fraction of the size of Exxon, didn't want to engage in a protracted lawsuit with its rival.

On February 20th, 1990, with settlement talks beginning to bog down, Dr. Ewen was summoned to Fina's gold-coloured glass headquarters in Dallas. For the first time, he saw the report and was asked for his response.

He was furious and flabbergasted. He called Exxon executive Arthur K. Barton to register his indignation, then fired off a letter to him. Mr. Barton's reply, according to his deposition in the case: "I told him that I had nothing personal against him, and that we weren't interested in ruining his reputation. We were simply trying to protect our rights." Dr. Ewen's strongly worded letter to Exxon called the report "false and libelous."

Settlement talks between Exxon and Fina broke off that fall, and Exxon filed suit in Harris County on October 30th, 1990. Named as defendants were Fina, for using Exxon's confidential information, and Dr. Ewen personally, for breaching his non-disclosure contract.

It is here that Dr. Ewen's saga takes a turn, because the scientist had an edge over most defendants. His wife, Pamela B. Ewen, is a partner at the prestigious Houston law firm of Baker & Botts. (Coincidentally, the firm is Exxon's main law firm, but it wasn't involved in this case.) "I'd thought for a while what they were doing was libelous," she says. "When they sued, that was my first thought." She pushed her husband's lawyers, who were with another firm, to draft a counterclaim for defamation. "I'd have been roadkill otherwise," Dr. Ewen says.

With the Exxon suit pending, Fina became leery of letting Dr. Ewen make any public statements. Dr. Ewen also clashed with a new boss, and in early 1991 he took a leave of absence. After a lunch to discuss the matter with several Fina executives erupted in a shouting match, Dr. Ewen stopped by the office to pick up some material for his lawsuit, only to discover the locks had been changed, as had the password to his computer. He felt betrayed and hurt, he said, and he had his wife fax a resignation letter on his behalf to Fina.

The Exxon suit ground on. Fina, in the meantime, had written to the U.S. Patent Office in 1991, asking to put another scientist's name ahead of Dr. Ewen's on the ground-breaking SPP patent application. Fina says the scientist had raised valid questions about who had done work on the SPP patent. But the letter to

the patent office requests the change because of a typographical error on the application, and patent lawyers say such a switch is uncommon.

Dr. Ewen says Fina was trying to distance him from his invention as a way to blunt Exxon's claims. Fina responds that it was trying to split the difference on inventorship by putting one scientist's name first on some patents and his colleague's first on others. Fina sued Dr. Ewen in federal court in 1993 in an attempt to sort out the claims. Last year, a federal judge ruled against Dr. Ewen. The case recently settled, and Dr. Ewen is appealing the judge's finding.

Even after Exxon began litigation, Dr. Ewen continued to accept invitations to write and speak in his field, but Fina pressured him to withdraw from talks scheduled in Atlanta and Pennsylvania. After Dr. Ewen's departure, Fina filed suit in Harris County in November, 1991, seeking to bar Dr. Ewen from writing an article and speaking at a scientific symposium to be held the following spring in Lyon, France. He would only divulge more company secrets, they claimed, filing a list of alleged disclosures that stretched back three years. Fina lost, and Dr. Ewen was able to attend the Lyon meeting. But as word spread in the scientific community about the lawsuit and the allegations that he had disclosed Exxon secrets, his speaking invitations dried up.

So did his job prospects. Headhunters told him he was unemployable while the litigation dragged on. And drag on it did. Exxon, defending against the claim that it had ruined Dr. Ewen's career, even subpoenaed his personnel records from his first two jobs, planning to use negative reviews to show that his unemployability had nothing to do with Exxon's patent claims. At least one firm that interviewed Dr. Ewen for a new job was itself subpoenaed, and asked whether he discussed any trade secrets during his visit there.

In May, 1993, Exxon and Fina settled their lawsuit. The huge settlement document calls for both firms to dismiss claims against each other, and grant options to various plastic products. Fina also agreed to allow Exxon to make, use or sell SPP when it is ready for commercialisation. Both sides also agreed to seek a settlement of the Exxon suit against Dr. Ewen. But Dr. Ewen wanted his day in court.

He got it in March, 1995. After a six-week trial filled with complex scientific jargon and conflicting claims, the jury found that Exxon had indeed defamed Dr. Ewen, and awarded him \$5.2 million in actual damages. Included in that was \$550,000 against Fina, which was found liable for defaming Dr. Ewen by switching his name on a patent. Juries in Harris County are known for making big punitive damage awards, and when the jury retired to deliberate on whether to award Dr. Ewen punitive damages, Exxon settled for an amount that wasn't disclosed.

Dr. Ewen now works for a European chemicals company out of an office in his new 5000 square foot home, abutting the Bay Oaks Country Club in Clear Lake, outside Houston. His two dogs play in the backyard overlooking the 14th hole.

In his garage is a new Ford Bronco, containing a reminder of besting Exxon: a stuffed tiger hangs by its tail from the rear-view mirror.

*Report on Dr. John A. Ewen, taken from the "Wall Street Journal" - January 3rd, 1996 with full acknowledgment to reporter Bridget O'Brian and a thank you to Gordon Ewen, who sent in the article. Gordon has contributed a number of articles over the years. So we would just like to say it is very much appreciated by us all.*

*Incidentally, the article Gordon contributed is a battle of major corporate companies over a top scientist's research. One of the antagonists may well be better known as Esso, not the foreign corporate name of Exxon.*

*Editor.*

## ***NEW ENGLAND HOME - AN INTRODUCTION***

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**T**HE OLD race of McEwan's were known for their Celtic bards. To remember the history of their Chiefs and Clan origins by music and poetical works, often in great descriptive detail and lyrical beauty.

We celebrate an anniversary of one of Scotland's greatest bards this year. But the poem that follows is not written by Burns. Though he would very likely praise its content.

It is written by Paul McEwan, our American correspondent, describing the country around New England. Showing the lyrical ability of the McEwans, is a trait which continues to run deep, even today.

*Editor.*

### **NEW ENGLAND HOME**

Berkshire Mountains, in Western Mass;  
Make-up the hill sides.  
New Englanders, such as myself,  
Enjoy, a country ride.  
Some farmers nearby, mill their maize  
Using the Water Wheel.  
The golden kernals are ground to a pulp.  
For some cornmeal  
The Valleys are grooved, by nature's hand  
Through' the mountain chain.  
The rivers are fed, as well as the streams  
With the falling rain.  
Matted with leaves, choked with Alders.  
Is an old, logging road.  
The nearby fields, reach full bloom  
With yellow marigolds.  
I follow a trail, through the woods,  
Over the crest of a hill.  
Cross the timbers, of a footbridge,  
By a Water Mill.

A spillway of a beaver's dam,  
Makes a shallow flood.  
Dear nature's ways and living creatures  
Are all, in my blood.  
Some Mohawk Indians, held their hunts,  
Along clay river beds.  
Once, while crossing, such a place,  
I found an arrow head.  
I make my way, but cautiously,  
Through a meadow of grass.  
Grouse are flushed, in a flutter of feathers,  
Skyward, as I pass.  
I pause in the shade of a wood bridge.  
Over a gulch run dry.  
I hear a cat bird, chasing a crow,  
Across the sunny sky.  
In abandoned orchards and pasture lands  
Now, grown to pine.  
Grape clusters droop, in wild abundance  
From, clinging vines.

A wind-chime sound, of the dog tag tinkles  
As he trots along.  
In a ravine, a winding stream  
Sings a rippling song.  
Sleek speckled trout, feed on some bugs,  
In this friendly burn.  
While on its banks, wild violets grow,  
And, fiddle head, ferns.  
Scented honeysuckle and morning glories,  
Adorn the wooded hill.  
As a humming bird probes their cups,  
With its slender bill.  
The trail mounts steep, through mountain laurel  
Amidst, a dense wood.  
A stone foundation, shows me where  
A farmhouse once stood.  
While I look at the chimney stack ruin  
Standing all alone.

It makes me wonder, what it was like  
When it was called, home!  
The sill of a barn, was Hand hewed,  
Out of a granite block.  
The barn once held, in its stalls,  
Steaming cattle stock.  
A maple tree trunk, roughly barked,  
Crowds, a boulder wall.  
Here, "Indian Summer", turns the leaves.  
With the frost of fall.  
Blown down shelters, help make life  
For the hatching thrush.  
Seeds take root, new trees grow.  
From the under-bush.  
Berkshire Mountains in Western Mass.,  
Make up the hill sides.  
New Englanders, such as myself  
Enjoy a country ride.

*Paul McEwan*

## ***THE ANNIVERSARY -***

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### ***An unusual link between the two "Culloden and Burns"***

**T**WO HUNDRED AND FIFTY years now rest, between the last attempt to restore the Stuarts back on the throne, with the help of their loyal clans.

All manner of interpretations have been forthcoming as to why the Campaign was lost. I will not dwell on the military aspects or the individual personalities involved, as much better qualified men than me have delved deep into the reasoning and consequences.

What follows is a tribute to the heroism, self-sacrifice and pure belief that their cause was just and right. A belief probably held by both sides on that cold, wet and mist covered moor on the morning of 16th April, 1746. But the emotions and the heart, lie with the desperate suffering and hardship endured by the Clans and their Chiefs during the engagement and the aftermath of defeat and withdrawal.

This is a passage taken from the book "The Wonder of all the Gay World" by James Barke.

As seen through the eyes of a poet the feelings of the "Bard" Robert Burns are revealed as he stands in tribute surveying the graves of the fallen Clansmen.

By the time they reached Culloden the sun had absorbed the last wreath of mist. He walked bare-headed about the long mounds of graves where the Clansmen had fallen. How often had he raged and mourned, fretted and fulminated about the defeat of Scotland on Drummassie Moor? But a different pain came to him as he stood on the ground which, less than 50 years ago and but a dozen-odd years before he was born, had been soaked in the blood of Scotland's finest sons - the bravest of the brave.

Here on this sad lonely moorland Scotland's independence had bled to death. Even Nicol was affected by the scene and by the Bard's mood. There were times when Nicol knew how to be silent - and to feel humble in his silence. When the bard was in this mood; when all unconsciously the emanations of his feelings overran his physical boundaries, then Willie Nicol knew to withdraw in himself and preserve a discreet and reverend silence.

Nicol wandered about the site of the battlefield, but he kept his physical distance from the Bard. He kept his silence. But occasionally, from under his jutting eyebrows, he watched him and wondered.

He loved that lad - for he was still a lad to him - loved him as a father might love a worthy and favourite son. Loved him to the point where he thought he had the right - born of unsentimental affection - to guide him, upbraid him, defend him, counsel him and rage at him.

And so, on the field of Culloden, Willie Nicol stood apart and watched his companion and clarified his feelings.

As the Bard had pointed out to him, Scotland had perished with the Jacobite forces and yet now, strangely enough, there stood on the graves of those dead Clansmen, the one man who might yet, save Scotland and bury the consciousness of her wrongs into the hearts and minds of generations yet unborn.

One man. This burning-eyed boy was only on the threshold of his genius. But he would live down the ages. Aye, and if there was to be any revenge for the horrors that Butcher Cumberland had visited on the defeated Clansman and their helpless dependents the young Robert Burns was the lad who would bring it about.

*With full acknowledgment to the writer of the above passages quoted from the book by James Barke.*

## ***THE END OF AN ERA***

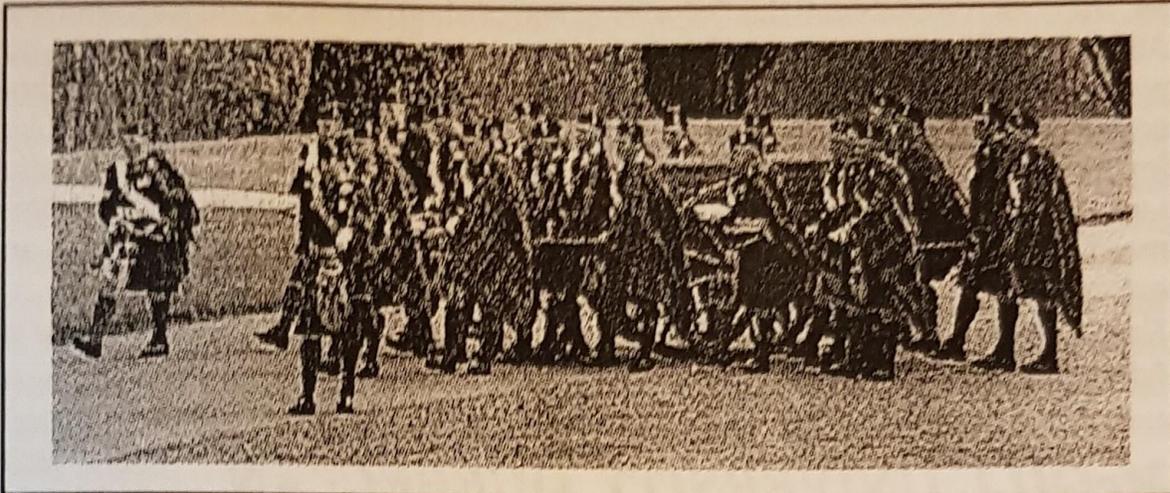
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**T**HE TENTH Duke of Atholl was carried to his last resting place on a gun-carriage from the time of the 45', draped in the green plaid of Clan Murray. There, in the grounds of Blair Castle he was laid alongside the 7th, 8th and 9th Dukes.

George Iain Murray, aged 64, was the last of a noble family line to hold the title as a Scot and the last owner of his family's estates so the funeral was a poignant affair.

The estate lands are now separate to the title as the castle was transferred to a charitable trust. The late Duke is succeeded by his third cousin John Murray, a South African who has no wish to move to Scotland or maintain the Duke's Atholl Highlanders.

There were 300 mourners gathered in the wood-panelled ballroom of the 120



*Fitting End: The 300-yard funeral procession passes through glorious scenery.*

room castle, their thoughts clearly in the past, remembering the life of their Laird and Chief "Wee Iain" despite his 6 ft. 5 in. frame.

The service in the ballroom was in keeping, dignified and understated. After the ceremony, the cortege proceeded to Diana's Grove, the burial ground named after Diana the Huntress of mythology and legend. The Atholl Highlanders carried their chief with their heads bowed as they made their way through the enchanting countryside of this Perthshire estate.

"The Hills of Perth" and the "Atholl Highlanders Slow March" were played by the pipers as the late Duke's half sister, Sarah Troughton walked behind the cortege with her son, Robert, who carried a single yellow carnation in one hand, behind them, were her husband James Troughton and two daughters Jane and Claire. In a moving scene, they wound their way through the estate grounds, set to a backdrop of the white walled castle, the flag set at half mast and looming up, the distant hills of Atholl.

Pipe Major Sandy Spence gave a final rendition of the Murray Clan Lament for his Clan Chief. Then the Highlanders, in pairs, took off their black Glengarry bonnets, removed the sprigs of juniper and laid them to rest on the coffin. These Highlanders showed impeccable conduct and bearing producing a moving and memorable moment. All of them Estate workers, their future is uncertain as the new 11th Duke has no wish to maintain the traditions of the last and only independent Scots Army.

The Very Reverend Professor Robin Barbour, who took the service had known the Duke from the age of 10. His father had served with the Duke in the Scottish Horse Regiment.

He spoke emotionally of the shy, but much loved man who had worked with Westminster Press, the National Trust for Scotland and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, alongside his beloved estate.

Mr. Barbour remembered the Duke as a man of sharp intellect and a lover of the Atholl Hills for walking, stalking and shooting grouse in. Despite his shyness, he was a deeply loyal, consistently honourable kind and generous man with a firm sense of public duty. He is summed up best by a man who had known the Duke for 30 years. Geoff Crerar runs the Estate's Caravan Park. He remembers the Laird as an "old school gentleman, friendly but shy, but a good and "gentle" man". It was a fitting ending to the life of an exceptional man belonging to an extraordinary family line.

*Edited, from a report by Sarah Chalmers in the "Daily Mail". Acknowledgment in full is given to her, for the original report.*

## **McGILL UNIVERSITY, QUEBEC: AN EDUCATION IN HOW TO GROW**

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**T**HE MCGILL UNIVERSITY in Quebec, Canada, has passed thousands of graduates through its learned halls. Many of them being of Scots descent and with a few McEwens amongst them.

The institute has an international reputation as a leading teaching and research centre, particularly in the medical fields. Such examples as the Moulson Foundation with a gift of \$3.5 million commitment to the Faculty to develop informatics, whereby students can use computers and information technology to assist in diagnosis, thus having far reaching benefits in medical research of all kinds. There are a handful of universities in America with this kind of advanced facilities, so the McGill will play a leading role in opening up new avenues of research, education and patient care.

The university's donors have contributed to creating seven endowed chairs in several different spheres of learning, funding the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada. The Montreal Neurological Institute and a new research greenhouse at the MacDonald Campus, as well as the Centre for University Teaching and Learning.

The MacDonald Campus has also just inaugurated a new Sports Field, the McEwen Field. The students, faculty and staff all turned out for the celebration, with just cause, as many of them helped to build it. Devoting much time and energy in projects ranging from irrigation to seeding. The field also has features such as lights and removable goalposts, so is also ideal for non-athletic events. It is named in honour of the McEwen Family of Ormstown, Quebec, several of whom are MacDonald graduates.

Murray D. McEwen, B.Sc. (Agri.) in 1953, his wife, Elenor Snow McEwen, Dip. Ed. in 1952 and Alton W. McEwen, B.Sc. (Agri.) in 1966, are all among the principal donors to the project. Other major contributors included the Jean Rich Foundation, Redpath Sugars and MacDonald's Class of '63. Many other

MacDonald graduates along with staff and faculty members made gifts and contributions towards building the facility, making it a real community project.

McGill University moves towards the 21st Century with renewed momentum as its goals in six main target areas of development are met by the continuing generosity of its Donors. The building and teaching campaign has reached over the \$175 million milestone and the overall target of \$200,000,000 is now close to reaching the mark, as the new millennium draws in.

As the above report shows, the Scots instinctive love of learning and education is apparent wherever their foundations are made. Be it Canadian, American, Australian, New Zealander or farther afield. It is also nice to see that our Clan family is also part of that growth and development, holding to the faith of their Clan motto: "Reviresco".

*With acknowledgement to Clan member Murray McEwen who sent the report.*

## ***FOR EXTREME VALOUR***

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**T**HE WAR MEDALS of one of Scotland's greatest war heroes are to stay in the country.

Piper George Findlater won acclaim across the British Empire in 1898 when in battle on India's North-West frontier, he showed extraordinary heroism in continuing to play his pipes despite being shot in both feet. The 25-year-old piper had advanced into withering fire playing "Cock-of-the-North", after being hit, he continued to play on, still sitting in the fire zone, the pipes lifting and inspiring the Gordon Highlanders on, to advance on a 20,000 strong force of Pathan and Afridi tribesmen and take the Dargai Heights objective, after both the Dorset Regiment and the Ghurkas had been forced back with heavy casualties.

It was seen as the Gordon's finest hour. For his outstanding courage and defiant act of valour under fire, George Findlater was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Now, almost a hundred years later, his old regiment was celebrating the news, that the Gordon Highlander's Regimental Museum in Aberdeen, had bought all five of Piper Findlater's medals, including the V.C. It had been feared at first they would be lost abroad, like so many others, gone to a private collector.

The crimson-ribboned bronze medal was recognised as a symbol of national pride. When George returned home, crowds of adoring Scots lined the streets and his story dominated all the national newspapers at the time.

George became a celebrity and was feted wherever he went, with London theatres desperate to sign him up, to play his pipes.

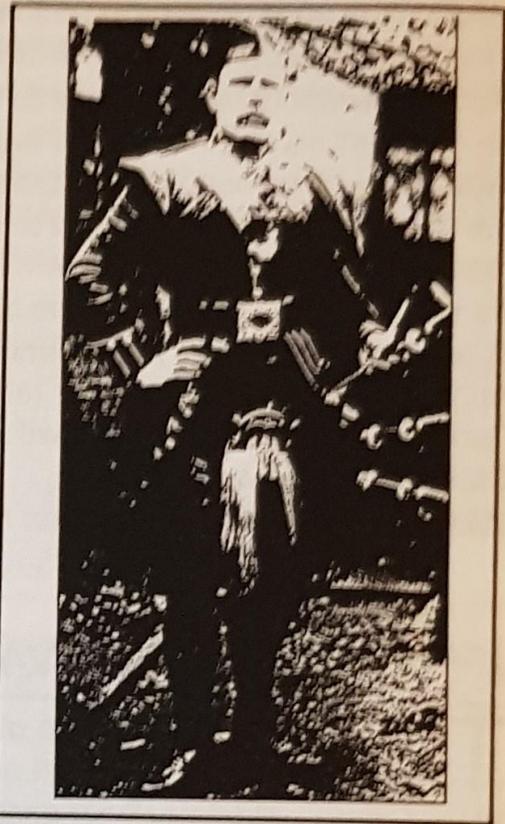
Now, years later, when Findlater's family decided to sell the medals, it provoked an outcry in Scottish military circles. But it was his family's wish that if possible, it should go to the Museum, as that was George's wish. In achieving this aim, the Museum stated: "Nothing can ever take away what Piper Findlater did, but

the medals are a lasting symbol of the act." It will be a key exhibit in the Museum which is due to re-open after refurbishment in the latter part of 1996.

Along with the generosity of George Findlater's family, the acquisition had been made possible by the auctioneers co-operation and an anonymous private donor. Aid was also given by National Museums of Scotland and a grant from Heritage Memorial Fund.

For George, after the celebrity status he retired from the army and went to live on a farm. But he rejoined the army in 1914 when the First World War broke out. But due to the terrible injuries received at Dargai Heights he was invalided out and returned home to Forglen in Aberdeenshire, where he died in 1942.

*Edited from a report by Donald Stewart in the "Daily Express" with full acknowledgement to him.*



*George Findlater in his piping prime.*

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Nearer home, on July 2nd, 1971, Alexander Austin, a Gordon Highlander who had fought at the "Dargai Heights" battle in the Tirah Campaign of 1897-98 in the North West Frontier, died at Campbell hospital, Portsoy, in Aberdeenshire. He was 90 years of age and was one of two living Gordon Highlanders who had fought at Dargai. At his funeral were two regular Gordon Highlanders and a Territorial Gordon Piper, for like George Findlater, Alexander was also a piper at the battle. He was also, on a more personal note, uncle to our Treasurer, Charles Ewen, so there is a direct historical link back to the brave events that occurred in 1898.



*Alexander Austin*

## *THE SWORDS AND THE SORROWS*

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**T**HE REPRISALS after the defeat of the Jacobite army in 1746 are legendary and it is now almost 250 years since those loyal to the House of Stuart took up arms to fight for the cause that ended in tragedy on Culloden Moor.

The National Trust for Scotland is marking this important anniversary with a unique exhibition in the visitor centre at Culloden, in which for the first time since 1746, many artifacts return to the fatal field from where they were dispersed.

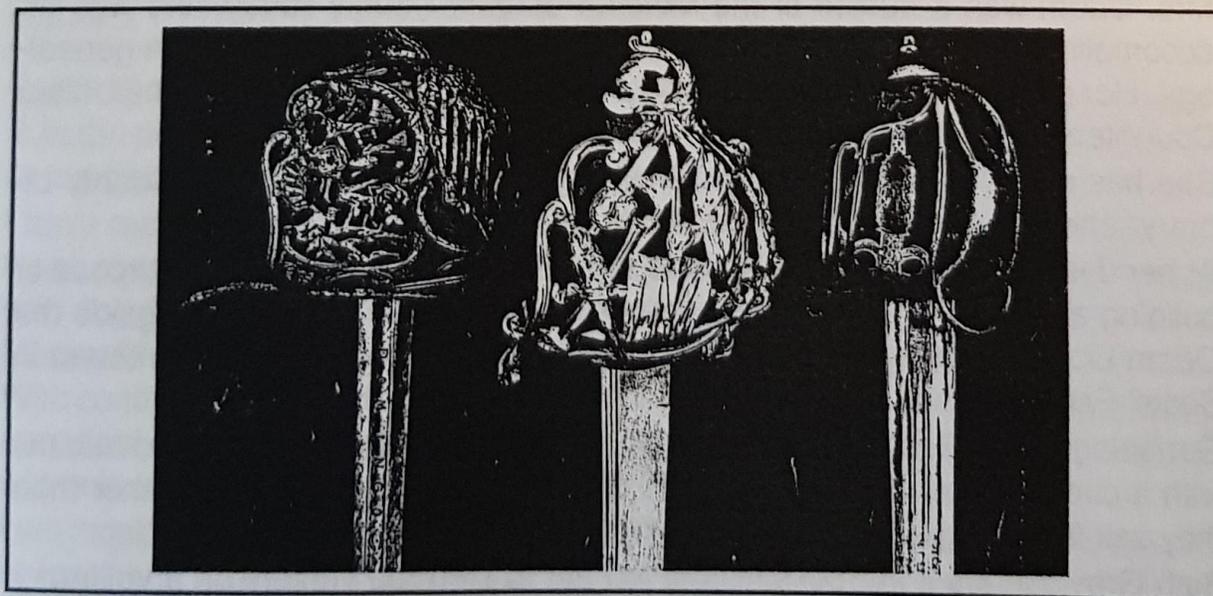
Entitled "The Swords and the Sorrows", the exhibition will run from April 16th, the date of the battle in 1746, until September 20th, the date Bonnie Prince Charlie left Scotland for France.

The items on display have never been assembled together before. They represent the best of private and national collections.

In total over 50 swords will be displayed ranging from the Marquis of Tulliebardine - William Murray who presented it to Buchanan of Drumakill as a gift for giving him shelter after the battle. This sword is from the renowned private collection of Geoffrey Jenkinson, one of the 160 objects on display.

From the estate of the Duke of Cumberland, will be displayed a group of Scottish swords believed to have been taken as booty to London and have never returned to Scotland since.

There are also rare Scots firearms, targes, dirks and powder horns which have been collected for the exhibition. Engraved on a 17th century English blunderbuss are the words "Taken at the Battle of Culloden, April 16th, 1746 by Captain John Goodenough containing 18 balls within it." The rare piece is part of a collection of the late William Keith Neal, who amassed the finest collection of antique firearms this century.



*The Swords and the Sorrows*

A fine French towing piece which passed to him by descent, has been lent by Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel. It was used by Prince Charles and given by him to Lord Elcho (eldest son of the Earl of Wemyss) who raised a small cavalry unit for the prince.

Silver items on display include a French travelling writing set given by the Prince to Andrew Hay of Rannes who rode into Manchester at the head of the Jacobite army.

A small French silver drinking cup was carried by Lord Ogilvy at Culloden and was recovered from the body of a descendant who was killed in 1900 at the battle of Diamond Hill in South Africa and returned to Cortachy with his effects.

Also on display is the Prince's silver hilted sword from Brodie Castle.

Although the exhibition is temporary, the exhibits are documented and illustrated in "The Swords and the Sorrows" catalogue which will inform the visitor and act as a permanent reference. It contains contributions from the present Duke of Argyll whose family supported the House of Hanover and the late Duke of Atholl whose ancestors Lord George Murray and the Marquis of Tullibardine were both loyal to the Jacobite cause.

*Edited from a report by John Batty of Heritage Scotland with acknowledgement to him.*

## ***SCOTS ROOTS***

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**O**NE OF THE World's largest libraries on Clan history in America is based in Moultrie, Georgia.

The Odom library was made possible by a bequest from Ellen Ashby Payne Odom.

Mrs. Odom was a trustee of the Moultrie Colquitt County library, she was an accomplished musician and researcher as well as being very active in genealogy. Her interest led her to membership of the Huguenot Society and the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

She has co-authored two books: "A History of the Moultrie Colquitt County Library" and "Colquitt County Confederate Soldiers".

At her death she had bequeathed the proceeds of her estate for the purpose of building a new wing specifically to house a Family Tree Library. Alongside the Odom Library a thriving business has evolved out of the world wide interest in Scots' Family History.

Genealogist Beth Gray produces the "Family Tree" newspaper every two months with a circulation of 50,000. There is no charge for the publication other than they ask for postage contributions, which are appreciated.

Beth Gray's interest in Scot's history led her to start the venture on a voluntary basis five years ago. Clan history is big business and Beth has been staggered

by the immense interest the library has generated from all over the world. The town of Moultrie in Georgia has a population of 15,000 known mainly for its agriculture, which is the community's main livelihood. But the library itself brought in \$4 million into the local economy last year.

The Odom Library is a central clearing house where people can call in at one place for information compiled by various Scots Clans, numbering 80 plus so far, who have Clan records registered along with other historical genealogical groups wishing to deposit their records there.

The Family Tree information is now being put on microfilm and Beth intends to have copies of it circulated to various libraries.

Details of thousands of family histories grows daily. As well as the Scots Family Tree details, it includes papers on American Indian nations, principally the Cherokee and Creek.

The Emmet Lucas Collection holds South Eastern United States records of people moving into and through the states on the migration routes West, along with a large number of private family collections.

If you would like to give or seek information from the library contact Beth Gray c/o The Odom Library, P.O. Box 1110, Moultrie, Georgia GA31776-1110, U.S.A. or you can telephone on : 912 985 6540 or fax on: 912 985 0936.

With acknowledgment to an article written by Moira Kerr of the Fort William Star and information supplied by the Odom Library. My thanks go to Murdo McEwan and Paul McEwan who supplied me with the information shown.

Incidentally, the Fort William Star will print any request for information for Clan History Services.

## ***EDITORIAL COMMENT***

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IN OUR LAST "Bulletin" we launched an appeal for items which could be placed in the new Heritage Centre at Kilfinan Hotel's Clan Room. We've had several items donated, but would still like to receive any exhibit relating to Clan Ewen. I have received a good response for articles sent in for the "Bulletin". I wish to thank everybody who sent contributions, in particular Gordon Ewen from America, who regularly sends something of interest or relevance to Clan Ewen. Also Murray McEwen of Canada for his assistance.

With continued support from Clan committee members and our American correspondent, Paul McEwan. But I would like to see other contributors as well, to widen the variety of research and to explore new view points.

I am indebted to the regular team who send in articles. But I would think there is at least one article in every one of us. When you consider your family, their ancestors, where they have moved from and where you live now. I will, hope-

fully, look forward to many new articles, maybe from someone who doesn't think their own contribution is suitable; I can assure you, it is!

As a way of making us more accessible to new and old members the committee agreed at the last meeting to show a background profile on each member of the committee. The list of office-bearers on the back page reveals the bare minimum of details of each member. We thought some more background information on their interests and family, might be helpful for members abroad and those who cannot attend the Gatherings in June, to help you get to know us a little better.

If you do come across anything which you might think might be suitable for the "Bulletin", do let us know. It will need to reach us before the last two weeks in September. I hope you have enjoyed this edition.

*Editor.*

## ***THANK YOU FROM THE TREASURER***

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I WOULD LIKE to take this opportunity to thank the following members who supported our appeal for the Heritage Fund which now stands at £484:

Mr. P. McEwan, Mr. J. McEwen, Mr. R. Owen, Mr. A. McEwan, Mr. R. C. Hines, Mr. P. McCuen, Mr. and Mrs. R. Ewen, Judge David W. and Mrs. Ellen Enoch, Eileen McEwen Scragg, all from the U.S.A.

Mr. M. McEwen, Canada.

Lt. Col. and Mrs. G. M. McEwan, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Beevers, Dr. and Mrs. H. D. McEwan, Mrs. J. Dehn, Lt. Com. and Mrs. T. McEwen, all from England.

Mr. R. McOwan, Dr. A. C. MacEwen, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ewen, Mr. J. McEwen, Mr. and Mrs. J. McEwen, all from Scotland.

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

The Committee take great pleasure in welcoming the following as members of our Clan Society:

Anne McEwen, Pamela McCuen, Patrick McCuen, Mrs. Ellen McEwen Enoch, all from the U.S.A.

Shirley McEwen Borland, Pauline Ewing Shanks, from Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. A. McEwan, from Australia.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Ewan, Miss E. Ewen, Mr. R. S. E. Young, Mr. D. J. Ewing, Mr. L. Whittingham, Mr. N. D. McEwen, all from England.

Mrs. J. MacDonald, from Scotland.

# CLAN CEILIDH

## SATURDAY, JUNE 1st, 1996

A ceilidh will be held in the Clan Room, Kilfinan Hotel at 9.00 p.m. A warm welcome is extended to all. This being our first ceilidh it is hoped that members will give it their full support and make this a most enjoyable evening.

A small charge will be necessary to cover the cost of the musicians.

### Accommodation can be obtained at the following:

<b><u>Hotels:</u></b>	Kilfinan Hotel, Kilfinan	Tel. 01700 821201
	Royal Hotel, Tighnabruaich	Tel. 01700 811239

### Guest Houses, Bed and Breakfast:

Mrs. McKay, Kilfinan	Tel. 01700 811397
Mrs. Alexander, Kames	Tel. 01700 811218
"Arden Eden", Tighnabruaich	Tel. 01700 811354

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