



CLAN EWEN SOCIETY

Bulletin

No. 31

APRIL, 1994



*Photograph taken at the unveiling of the Clan Ewen Memorial Cairn
on Saturday, June 9th, 1990, at Kilfinan, Argyll*

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held

on Saturday, 4th JUNE 1994

at Isle of Skye Hotel, Perth

at 2.00 p.m.

Old and New Members all Welcome

CEUD MIL FAILTE

1994 sees the 200th anniversary of the Yeomanry.

The Yeomanry Cavalry was formed in 1794, comprising part-time volunteers in order to defend Britain from possible invasion from revolutionary France.

During the course of the nineteenth century it was frequently used to prevent and contain civil disturbances, such as Peterloo, and a powerful organisation was built up to which many influential people belonged. Its history forms part of the fabric of British social history.

In the South African war and the two world wars, the Yeomanry regiments fought with distinction, initially as cavalry, mounted riflemen and dismounted troops; later they served with notable success as merchandised regiments and artillery and signal regiments. Although it became much changed in character during the twentieth century, the Yeomanry still faithfully reflects British society at large and maintains a distinctive presence as part of the modern-day territorial army.

Out of "Options for Change", the government scheme to amalgamate some regiments and even disband others, in the interests of economy, we in Scotland have been fortunate to have gained a new Yeomanry regiment - the Scottish Yeomanry, and your Chairman has been honoured by being appointed Honorary Colonel of "B" (Lanarkshire and Glasgow Yeomanry) Squadron of this regiment, the squadron being based on the older, and now defunct, Lanarkshire Yeomanry, and Queen's Own Royal Glasgow Yeomanry.

Incidentally, one of the names which appeared on the original oath of allegiance of the Glasgow Yeomanry in 1848 was Alex. Ewing - no relation.

To mark the bi-centenary, Her Majesty the Queen reviewed the Yeomanry in Windsor Great Park on Sunday, 17th April and my wife and I had the distinct privilege to be invited to attend.

It was a memorable occasion as, one troop from each Yeomanry squadron in the country, ranging from Shetland and Orkney in the north to Cornwall in the south, was on parade.

Afterwards we repaired to the V.I.P. tent where we were privileged to chat with the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Queen Mother.

Altogether a memorable occasion not to be forgotten.

As a complete change of subject, I look forward to welcoming a good attendance of members at our A.G.M. in Scotland's former capital - the fair city of Perth - on Saturday, 4th June. Most of you travel great distances to attend and this is much appreciated. It is also a privilege to welcome visitors from overseas.

Sadly, Betty, the editor of this publication has intimated that she wishes to "step down" after more than 10 years in the chair.

On behalf of all members of the society, I should like to record our thanks and appreciation for a good job well done. I'm sure all members look forward, as I do, to the arrival of the "Bulletin", and without an editor this would not happen, so very many thanks Betty.

Lt. Col. Alan Ewing, T.D.

A ROMANESQUE CRUCIFIX FROM MACEWEN'S CASTLE, LOCH FYNE, MID ARGYLE

Summary

This copper alloy crucifix was found during excavation at Macewen's Castle in Argyll in 1968 and closely resembles others known to date from the 12th century; it may have been made in Belgium. The arms could have been bent back to aid concealment in the 17th or 18th centuries.

Introduction

In 1968 and 1969 Miss D. N. Marshall excavated a promontory fort on the west shore of Loch Fyne (Marshall 1983). A palisaded wall was the earliest defence of the promontory, succeeded by a timber-laced wall, partly vitrified, which apparently as late as the 16th century was strengthened and reconstructed. Finds ranged in date from the prehistoric period to the Victorian era, but nothing datable came from a sealed context. Within the interior a turf-walled house, subrectangular in shape and 10.36 x 7.93 m in size, overlay the post-holes of two earlier structures (Marshall 1983, 134, Fig. 2). Just below the surface, on top of the turf wall and about one metre from the house entrance, was found a copper alloy crucifix (Marshall 1983, 138, plate 1). An excavation report by Miss Marshall appeared in Vol. 10 (1983) of this Journal, but detailed description and discussion of the crucifix were then deferred. For the present opportunity to report upon the crucifix I am grateful to Miss

Marshall, and to Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, where the crucifix now is, for permission to publish and for the photograph (plate 1) of the crucifix.

Description

The crucifix is a solid casting, not completely in the round but hollowed at the back, 10 cm in height (plate 1). It is of copper alloy, apparently containing a high proportion of lead, with some tin: indeed in the neck region tin is so near the surface as to suggest tinning. Parts of the casting are crisp, particularly in the region of the torso, but in other areas detail seems to have been lost, perhaps not entirely because of corrosion but partly also because of imperfect casting. The arms, originally outspread, have in time past been bent back behind the head, the left arm touching the neck, the right arm behind the left. There are three nail holes for original attachment to a base, one through each hand and one between the feet.

Christ is portrayed with his head inclined forward and slightly to his right, his body sagging a little to his left at the hips (Fig. 1). He wears a long loin cloth probably tied in a knot, now damaged by corrosion, at the right hip and falling in folds towards his left ankle. He evidently wears a crown, though this is shown more by the way the top of his head is modelled than otherwise. His features and upper torso are emphasised by incised lines. His eyes are open, and he has a beard and possibly a moustache. His long hair falls over each shoulder. There is minimal modelling of his hands and feet.

Comparisons

It is possible to deduce these details not so much from the crucifix itself as from comparisons with better preserved Romanesque crucifixes of the 12th century. Several of these were included in the "Exhibition of Romanesque Art 1066-1200" organised by the Arts Council at the

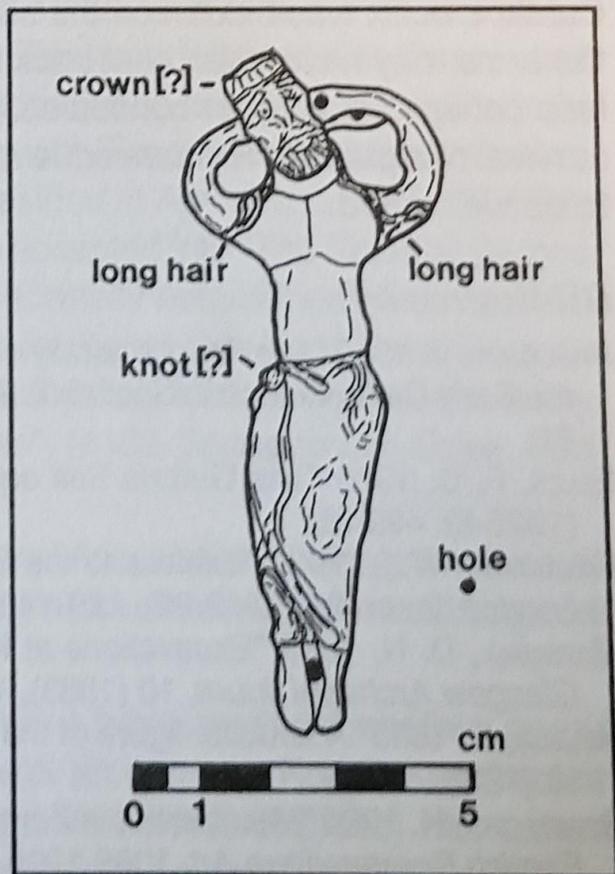


Hayward Gallery, London, in 1984. The metalwork was described and discussed by Neil Stratford in the exhibition catalogue. The knotted loin cloth can be seen in Figs. 233, 236, 240 and 241 (Stratford 1984, 242, 244-6), the first three judged to date to the second quarter of the 12th century, the fourth to c. 1170-80. All four figures are bearded and show long hair falling on to the shoulders. One of the earlier three figures shows a nail hole in each foot, and this may be the preferred earlier method of attachment to a base. The latest of the four figures, on the Monmouth crucifix, from the church of St. Mary (Stratford 1984, 246, No. 241), the only complete English altar cross of the 12th century to survive, and dated to C. 1170-80, has a single nail hole between the feet, as with the Macewen's Castle crucifix.

It is impossible to suggest with certainty where the Macewen's Castle crucifix was manufactured. On several of the crucifixes in the exhibition the loin cloth is shown with a V-shaped "apron fold" hanging down from the waist in front. This "apron fold" is described by Stratford (1984, 244) as "typically English". Even with allowance for corrosion it is difficult to suggest such a feature on the Macewen's Castle crucifix. The folds of the loin cloth on that crucifix would match far more closely those modelled on a crucifix of C. 1145 assigned to the school of Reiner of Huy, on the Meuse in Belgium (Nelson 1938, 183, illus.). If so the Macewen's Castle crucifix might be Mosan rather than English in style.

Discussion

Miss Marshall drew my attention to a crucifix which she had seen in Much Wenlock Museum, but which has since been moved to Ludlow Museum. She recognised this as being in the same style as the Macewen's Castle crucifix. The Ludlow crucifix was also shown in



pic

the Hayward gallery exhibition but not illustrated in the catalogue (Stratford 1984, 245, No. 288). Stratford gives its height as 14.1 cm. In fact four of the Romanesque crucifixes which he describes range in height from 14.1 to 16.4 cm, all therefore taller than the Macewen's Castle crucifix at only 10 cm in height. Thus it may be that the Macewen's Castle crucifix was not from an altar or processional cross.

The Macewen's Castle crucifix does, however, agree more closely in size with two crucifixes found in Scotland, the first on the bell shrine from Kilmichael Glassary, Mid Argyll, C. 8 cm in height (Anderson 1910, 275, Fig. 11), the second on the Guthrie bell shrine, possibly from Angus, C. 8.5 cm tall (Eeles 1926, 414, Fig. 4). Both these crucifixes are Romanesque in style, though they do not in detail match each other or the Macewen's Castle crucifix. It is therefore not impossible that the Macewen's Castle crucifix was originally a mount upon a shrine. Distortion of crucifixes by bending the arms back behind the head is not uncommon, and has been ascribed to Jansenist fanatics of the 17th and 18th centuries, who believed that Christ ought not to be shown with arms open as if inviting all people to come to him (Hildburgh 1920, 139). However, if the Macewen's Castle crucifix was hidden on the site, perhaps in the hope of recovery, the arms may have been bent back to make it more easily portable and less conspicuous when concealed. However this may have been, the survival of a piece of Romanesque metalwork, all too rare in Scotland, is to be welcomed.

Bibliography

- ANDERSON, J. 1910 "The Architecturally-shaped Shrines and other Reliquaries of the Early Celtic Church in Scotland". *Proc soc Antiq Scot*, 44 (1909-10), 259-81.
- EELES, F. C. 1926 "The Guthrie Bell and its Shrine", *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, 60 (1925-6), 409-20.
- HILDBURGH, W. L. 1920 "Exhibits to the Society of Antiquaries", *Proc Soc Antiq London*, 2 ser. 32 (1919-20), 129-140.
- MARSHALL, D. N. 1983 "Excavations at Macewen's Castle, Argyll, in 1968-69", *Glasgow Archaeol Journ*, 10 (1983), 131-42.
- NELSON, P. 1938 "A Crucifix-figure of the School of Reiner of Huy", *Antiq Journ*, 18 (1938), 182-3.
- STRATFORD, N. 1984 "Metalwork", in Zarnecki, G., Holt, J. and Holland, T. (eds.), *English Romanesque Art, 1066-1200*, London.

GENEALOGY AND RELATED AFFAIRS

In the last "Bulletin" I sought information on a C. M. McEwen who served in The Royal Flying Corps, probably during the period 1914-1918, and born around 1895. No great progress has been made, but I am currently following up a possible lead. Watch this space for further developments!

Meanwhile (again from the last "Bulletin") I have become acquainted with "The McEuen Family Association" and "The Ewen Family" - see page 333, "Bulletin", November, 1993. The former has been established by the descendants of Edward E. McEuen (born c. 1760 in Belfast) and our members Walter McWilliams and Ruth Richtermeyer have both been very involved in developing this Association - so much so that in their December 1993 newsletter there is a note to the effect that about 6,000 descendants of Edward have been identified! Insofar as the Ewen Family is concerned, our member, Joe Ewen (Texas), has very kindly sent me information about his great great grandfather Timothy Ewen (died 1829), his great grandfather William Ewen (1795-1853) and grandfather George W. Ewen (1842-1910). Joe tells me he is always finding more information on Timothy, Timothy's father (Julius Ewen), and their descendents. Part of his correspondence has been with a Marjorie Sheffied who through her relationship with Timothy, was able to trace her ancestry back to a John Ewin who resided in America c. 1685-1731/32. On the strength of this, she has been accepted into "The Colonial Dames of the 17th Century Society", having formally established her links back to the 1600s in America. Well done! Joe concludes his correspondence with me by saying that "there is so much family history; if you receive any more queries, tell them to drop a line". (4105 Springbranch Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76116, U.S.A.).

There must be scope for many more "Association's" along the lines of "Edward's descendents" and "Timothy's descendents". It would be good to hear about them.

Meanwhile though, closer to home, I have received another query where I haven't (again!) come up with an answer. Ron Ewing (recent "new member" from Wakefield, West Yorkshire, England) has asked about a historical dispute with the McLachlans over Chieftainship of Clan

Ewen. He had heard that Clan McLachlan claim Clan Ewen as a sept, and that on some Clan charts it is stated that Ewen / Ewan / Ewing is part of Clan McLachlan, but go on to illustrate MacEwan as a principal Clan not related to McLachlan or Ewen. Can anyone shed any light or explanation on this?

I have not received many more "Pedigree Charts" since the last "Bulletin" - if you haven't sent it to me yet, there's still time! and it doesn't have to be "complete"! Amongst those received, Michael Noftsgar can also trace his forebears back to the John Ewin mentioned above. We learn that John reached America about 1682 and sometime between 1730 and 1750 he built a brick house (in what is now called Juliustown) out of old bricks which had been used as ballast in ships from England (canny fellow!). This house, in New Jersey, has had some repairs and extensions but is still lived in and appears in good shape.

Robert Campbell Hines can trace his forebears back to Campbell McEwan, born 26th August, 1836 in Paisley, Scotland - son of John McEwan who had married Jean Coates on 11th January 1834. Campbell married a Martha Davies and went on to be a ship builder during the U.S. Civil War. Back in Scotland, Susan McEwen Albee's great grandfather Andrew B. McEwen was born in Cumnock, Ayrshire in 1851, son of John McEwen and Catherine McClatchie. Andrew had emigrated to Oregon by the time he married Rhoda Smith in 1886. On this side of the "pond", Colin Davis' great great grandfather David MacEwan married a Jean Adams, and their daughter Margaret (born 1850, Springburn, Glasgow) married a Peter Kerry (Potter / presser Journeyman) on 2nd June, 1870.

I'm very conscious that this is a "world-wide" publication, so I want to be sure not to miss out on our cousins in the southern hemisphere. Included in this "Bulletin, therefore, is a pedigree chart from Heather McKay in Dunedin, New Zealand. She actually traces her McEwan line back to the ninth generation John McEwan, known to one and all as "Strong John". Heather's sister (Betty Hellyer) came all the way from New Zealand to be at the A.G.M. at Kilfinan in June 1993 (and a great day was had by all present).

In closing, though, I'll go back to Timothy Ewen. Here is a copy of his Last Will and Testament:

Will: Timothy Ewen's Last Will

In the name of God, Amen. This is the last dying will and testament of Timothy Ewen living in Fountain County, State of Indiana. I do will and bequeath unto Sarah Ewen, my wife, all the moveable property except sixteen dollars and sixty two and a half cents worth which is to be sold and the money to be paid to Andrew Ewen, as long as she liveth and then the property to be divided between my six daughters so as to make them equal shared taking an account of what they have received heretofore. I do will and bequeath unto Joseph Ewen and Andrew Ewen one hundred and forty two dollars and fifty cents which is coming to me from John Ewen when collected and it is my will that John Ewen pay no interest on the note given to Joseph Ewen for me. This is my last will as witness my hand and seal this 30th day of February in the year of our Lord, 1829.

*Teste. Levi Fleming Timothy Ewen (SEAL)
 John McAlister*

State of Indiana Fountain Probate Court

Fountain County November Term, 1829. November 2, 1829

Now comes Levi Fleming and here in open court on his solemn oath says he saw Timothy Ewen sign, seal, publish and declare the within as and for his last will and testament that he believes he was of perfect sense and memory at the execution thereof, and that he signed his name as witness thereto in his presence.

Teste W. B. White, Clerk

If you have any stories, comments, queries, etc., do write in; we all share a common interest! Please note my change of address from previous "Bulletins".

A. G. Murdo McEwan

RECORD OF ANCESTORS

Name HEATHER McKAY
 Address CAPE SAUNDERS
 R D 2, DUNEDIN
 Date NEW ZEALAND

YOU

HEATHER MURIEL McKAY
 Born 30 April 1939
 Place Dunedin
 Married 11 June 1960
 Place Macandrew Bay
 Occ Farmer

YOUR FATHER

1 JAMES FINCASTLE McEWAN
 Born 17 February 1902
 Place Edinburgh
 Married 17 May 1934
 Place Dunedin
 Died
 Place
 Occ

YOUR MOTHER

2 IVY ARNOTT BENFELL
 Born 8 August 1902
 Place Wellington NZ
 Died 28 June 1971
 Place Dunedin

Your Father's Father

3 WILLIAM BARKER McEWAN
 Born 17 December 1870
 Place Edinburgh
 Married 16 June 1896
 Place Edinburgh
 Died 2 May 1933
 Place Dunedin
 Occ LIBRARIAN

Your Father's Mother

4 ELIZABETH STANNERS McARTHUR
 Born 7 July 1872
 Place Edinburgh
 Died 22 July 1945
 Place Dunedin

Your Mother's Father

5 JOSEPH BENFELL
 Born 2 May 1871
 Place Farnham Eng
 Married 6 April 1896
 Place Sandymount NZ
 Died 13 November 1905
 Place Dunedin
 Occ

Your Mother's Mother

6 ANN WELSH ARNOTT
 Born 3 May 1872
 Place Portobello NZ
 Died 29 March 1948
 Place Dunedin

7 WILLIAM McEWAN

B 1847 c
 P Crieff
 M 23 January 1870
 D Edinburgh
 O 2 November 1909
 P Edinburgh

8 MARY BARKER

B 1852 c
 P 11 August 1938
 D Edinburgh
 O Edinburgh

9 ROBERT McARTHUR

B 1848 c
 P 1 December 1871
 M Edinburgh
 D 26 May 1876
 O Edinburgh

10 SUSAN WARD MARTIN

B 1852 c
 P 14 March 1895
 D Edinburgh

11 NATHANIEL BENFELL

B 28 April 1833
 P Farnham Eng
 M 30 April 1860
 D Farnham
 O 11 December 1876
 P Dunedin

12 MARY ANN SCHOFIELD

B 1 August 1842
 P Elveham Eng
 D 29 January 1914
 P Dunedin

13 DAVID SMART ARNOTT

B 7 March 1837
 P Linlithgowshire
 M 27 July 1864
 P Dunedin
 D 14 November 1901
 O Dunedin

14 ELIZABETH ANDERSON

B 12 October 1842
 P Edinburgh
 D 15 February 1926
 P Portobello NZ

15 WILLIAM McEWAN

Chr 15 February 1824
 M 23 at Crieff
 P 9 October 1887
 O Edinburgh

16 MARGARET MARSHALL

B 1826 c
 D 11 August 1867
 P Edinburgh

17 WILLIAM BARKER

B 25 February 1812
 P Inveresk Midlothian
 M 15 April 1902
 O Edinburgh

18 MARY NIVEN

19 ROBERT McARTHUR

20 ISABELLA ANCRUM

21 JOHN MARTIN

22 ELIZABETH STANNERS

23 JOHN BENFELL

24 ANN KIELY

25 TIMOTHY SCHOFIELD

26 SARAH LOWLOCK

27 JAMES ARNOTT

28 MARY McPHERSON

29 RICHARD ANDERSON

30 EUPHEMIA WILLIAMSON

LETTER FROM LESLIE MacEWEN

I have of late read a most instructive handbook on Cowal. Perhaps my following report on that slender volume might interest the readers of "Clan Ewan Society Bulletin".

Elizabeth B. Rennie, *Cowal. A Historical Guide*. Edinburgh: Birlinn, 1993. £5.99.

Legend has it that Aedh Anradhan and his Dalriadic princess were the progenitors of many Cowal families, amongst these the MacEwans of Otter. Comgall, an ancestor of Aedh Anradhan, was perhaps an early ruler of Cowal, for the area now bears the English version of his Gaelic name. The earliest known "MacEwan" was a Ewan of Otter who thrived on the Otter territory of the 13th century. Some three centuries later, the Clan Ewan was apparently without Chief, castle or family records. From what we know, in the first year of his reign, James V of Scotland granted the "Barony of Otter to Colin, Earl of Argyll, and thereafter Otter remained in the possession of the Campbells". (*Bain, Clans and Tartans of Scotland*, p. 172).

Reputedly some MacEwans found their last resting place on the Motte near Ballimore House. MacEwan's Castle stood to the nearby south and recent excavations have unearthed evidence that the Castle area was occupied even before the 11th and even then again later well into the 16th century. Within 100 m of Ballimore House is Cnoc Mhic Eoghainn in which two 19th century Campbell gravestones can be discerned.

Worth a MacEwen's interest are the parish churches of Kilfinan and Kilmodan. Kilfinan was first mentioned in the 13th century, a chaplaincy at Kilmodan in 1250. The Kilmodan churchyard possesses "a lapidarium with the largest group of medieval grave slabs in Cowal". (Rennie, *op. cit.*, p. 95).

After 1779 tourism entered Cowal in a small way. Prominent amongst its later tourists was James Ewing, M.P. For walking or motor tours of the peninsula, Elizabeth B. Rennie's historical handbook is a decided assist for those who want to explore the stamping grounds of our common ancestors in Cowal.

In closing I should like to comment on an entry in our *Bulletin* that appeared in April, 1993, page 321.

"John Benjamin McEwen, farmer, born Prince Edward island (*sic!* Island), 1854, married Martha Ann Leslie (possibly born in Aberdeen, Scotland), December 8th, 1886."

John Benjamin was my grandfather and Martha my grandmother. My grandfather "imported" this "foreign woman" from Scotland much to the chagrin of the relatives on Prince Edward Island. Martha spoke both English and Gaelic. She and my father, Leslie, communicated in Gaelic as a kind of "secret language". My father was born in 1900 and died as the result of a household accident in 1975.

In 1996 I shall retire. From then on I expect to attend as many of the "Clan Gatherings" as I can.

Leslie MacEwen, Hildesheim

THE EWING FAMILY

Findley Ewing (1), a Scotch Presbyterian, and his wife, Jane, left Scotland in the days of persecution, and settled in Londonderry; there, for his bravery at the battle of the Boyne, King William presented him with a sword. Their son, Thomas (2), born in Londonderry, Ireland, owing to troubles in that country, came to America, in 1718, and settled in Greenwich, Cumberland county, N. J., and there married Mary Paget, of English descent, and had 10 children. The youngest, James (3), came first to Trenton as a representative of Cumberland county in the Legislature, in 1774, and made it his residence in 1779. He was for years auditor of public accounts, and commissioner of loans under the government. He was mayor of Trenton from 1797 to 1803. He was both trustee and elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton. He died 23rd October, 1823. His wife was Martha Boyd, by whom he had one son, Charles (4), born 8th June, 1780.

Charles (4), son of James (3), was a student at the Trenton Academy, and graduated at Princeton College with the highest honours of the class of 1798, was admitted to the bar in 1802, and was appointed Chief

Justice of New Jersey in 1824, and was among the greatest ornaments of the New Jersey bar. Ewing township was given its name in honour of him. He married Eleanor Graeme, eldest child of Rev. James F. Armstrong, who was, for 30 years, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton, and for some time preached in the Ewing Church. Their children were: James; Francis A. (5); Emily Augusta, first wife of Henry W. Green; Susan Mary, second wife of Henry W. Green, Charles; and Eleanor Graeme, wife of Caleb S. Green.

Dr. Francis A. (5), son of Chief Justice Charles (4), was a graduate of Princeton College and of the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, and practiced his profession in Trenton.

He was an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton. He married Adeline Nottingham, and had children: Louisa, Eleanor, Graeme, Frances A., Charles, Bessie, Mary A., Robert L., and Emily Maud.

Ewing township skirts Trenton, New Jersey on the north side. It has a population of about 24,000. Trenton is the capital of New Jersey.

Paul McEwan

NEW MEMBERS

The Clan Society warmly welcomes the following new members:

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Owens, 3207 Barnes Spring Terrace, Midlothian, Virginia, 23112, U.S.A.

Mr. Frank Fisk, 1438 N. Kingston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74115-5407, U.S.A.

Mr. William W. M. Ewing, P.O. Box 718, Stanwood, Washington, 98292, U.S.A.

Mr. Murray McEwen, RR3, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2L9, Canada.

Mr. Allan F. R. McEwen, 1 Turner Road, Norwich, Norfolk, England.

Mrs. Geraldine H. McCausland, 148 Leland Street, S.W. Port Charlotte, Florida, U.S.A.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Paul W. McEwan, Saraland Apartments 105B, 8010 Highway 49, N.
Gulfport, Mississippi, 39501, U.S.A.

June Hildreth, 532 Dean Road, Mars, P.A., 16046, U.S.A.

Coleman Clay Ewing, 6541 S. Vine Street, No. 212 Littleton, Colorado,
80121, U.S.A.

Mr. D. O. McEwan, Barochan House, Argyle Street, Campbeltown,
Argyllshire PA28 6AZ, Scotland.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. M. McEwan, 25 Carnethy Avenue, Colinton, Edinburgh
EH13 0DL, Scotland.

Mr. L. MacEwen, Meisenwinkel 10, Ot Neuhof, D31139, Hildesheim, F.
R. of Germany.

1912 IN MEMORIAM

EWEN, PETER, *late Gas Department, A.T.C.* Died 9th June, aged 96 years.

Mr. Ewen was born on the estate of Castle Fraser, parish of Cluny, where his father was a forester. In his early days he was in the service of Mr. Charles Napier Gordon of Esslemont and Mr. George Gordon of Ellon Estate. After being in the service of the gas company of Ellon, he came to Aberdeen in 1866, and was employed at the gasworks, where he remained for 24 years, retiring about a quarter of a century ago with an allowance from the Corporation. Mr. Ewen also enjoyed the State old age pension. Mr. Ewen was predeceased by his wife about 27 years ago. He is survived by a son, who is also in the employment of the Aberdeen Corporation Gas Department, and by two daughters. There are 20

grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren. Coming from a family of remarkable longevity, both his parents having lived till their 97th year, Mr. Ewen in the course of his long life passed through quite a number of interesting experiences. He witnessed the last execution which took place in Aberdeen, on Wednesday, 21st October, 1857. On that occasion he had driven his employer from Ellon to Aberdeen. He arrived at the scene of the execution a few minutes too late to witness the hangman at work, but as he drove round the corner of King Street he found the large crowd of spectators in the vicinity of the old Tolbooth gazing at the dangling body of the murderer as it swung from the gibbet in front of the prison. The spectators were kept back by a barricade. The man who thus paid the last penalty of the law was John Booth, and the crime was the murder of his mother-in-law at Oldmeldrum. Several very severe snowstorms Mr. Ewen could recall, as they had impressed themselves very vividly on his memory. One in particular, about 75 years ago, he used to speak of because of his experiences while engaged for the work of clearing the roads, as traffic was practically at a standstill. Arrangements had been made for supplying the workers with food at a roadside inn, but when a gang, of which Peter was one, reached the inn after cutting through drifts nearly 20 feet deep at several points, they found that all the food and drink had been consumed by other hungry workers, and Peter was glad to dine off a raw turnip which he dug up from the side of one of the snow-covered fields near the roadside. - *Aberdeen Daily Journal*.

Peter Ewen's parents were William Ewen, late Crofter, married to Margaret Davidson and widower of Agnes Smith. William died in June, 1877, at his home in Craigearn, Kemnay, Aberdeenshire. His father was John Ewen, a Master tailor who was born in Cluny on 14th June, 1754.

In my research on my own family I have collected other Ewen's, like the above, who lived in or near the same area. I was delighted to make contact with a relative of Peter's and supply him with all the information on the families of the above. This contact was made possible by us both being members of the Aberdeen and North East of Scotland Family History Society.

Charles Ewen

FROM YOUR EDITOR

This is the last "Bulletin" that I shall be working at as Editor.

Truthfully, I would like to leave a blank page in this "Bulletin" and ask you to send a letter or article to your new editor for inclusion in a future "Bulletin".

Everyone who is interested in being a member of Clan Ewen should, at some time, be interested enough to make some input.

Charles Ewen, our Treasurer and Vice-Chairman, has had a very poor response from his article proposing the venue for 1995 A.G.M. being held at Inverness. If members haven't the courtesy to reply the committee cannot know what the members want.

Bunty Mason, our Australian correspondent, visited in July. I met Bunty when Charles and Martha Ewen hosted an evening for us at their home. We hope to have an article in our next "Bulletin" from Bunty.

I want to thank everyone on the committee for their considerable help and support over the years, and, one man who has helped not just myself but everyone. No matter what the project was, he was very generous both with time and effort. I am, of course, referring to Ian McEwan from Paisley.

Ian and his wife, Phyllis, are not enjoying good health at the moment and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all our members, of saying a big thank-you and wishing them both well.

Again, I want to thank the lady who deciphers, prints and makes such an excellent finished product from all the bits and pieces tacked together and forwarded to her, Miss McFall from Fast Printing. Many thanks.

I have enjoyed my little bit of authority, and, looking back through previous bulletins, I think they have improved and again, I say this can only happen if you, as members, put some effort into helping others to make it more so.

Many thanks and best wishes to everyone.

Betty McEwen

JUST LIKE DALLAS: The Ewings may be worth millions - but can they find that vital clue?

HUNT FOR HIDDEN RICHES

The descendant of a Scottish millionaire believes an Edinburgh legal firm could hold the key to a £2.5 million windfall.

But Charles Ewing has a problem - he doesn't know the name of the lawyers involved.

Mr. Ewing stumbled upon a newspaper article from 1965 which said an "East of Scotland legal firm" had tried unsuccessfully to trace the relatives of industrialist Albert Peter Greene, who died in 1865. Now the teacher wants to make contact to see if he has a stake in the fortune.

"It's like a big treasure hunt," said Mr. Ewing. "I was interested in the family tree but then I found out there was money attached too."

He and his children have used computer technology to store their research, which involved a lot of letter writing and a few trips to Edinburgh's Register House to look at birth and death certificates.

Mr. Ewing believes almost all the pieces are in place to prove beyond doubt that he and his immediate family are descendants of Albert Peter Greene.

"He was involved in iron and steel works as a family business," said Mr. Ewing, who lives in East Kilbride.

"Then he sold them, put the money in a bank and went to make his fortune in America. As far as anyone knows, the £2.5 million is still sitting in a bank somewhere, with interest".

The 1965 article in the "Sunday Mail" said Mr. Greene's daughter or sister, Caroline, married William Henderson and then remarried a Mr. Andrews.

Mr. Ewing believes Mr. Andrews is his great grandfather - and he's now appealing for the legal firm to come forward so he can prove it. Nineteen of his family members also stand to gain if his lineage is correct.

Douglas Connell, a partner in Dundas and Wilson, Solicitors and a specialist in succession, said the case raised a range of questions.

"If it was invested in 1965 it could now be worth £20 million in theory," he said. "But if no heir was found the first time round there's a possibility it could have passed to the Crown as ultimate heir."

He suggested the office of the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer in Regent Road might be a good starting point for Mr. Ewing's search.

"Sometimes it's possible to go to the office and make a claim even after the money has passed to the Crown."

Anyone who knows the name of the "East of Scotland legal firm" should contact Mr. Ewing via the "Evening News" on 031-243 3356.

Edinburgh Evening News, 25th November, 1993

THE LAIRD'S CROPS

This is about a small laird who tried to force his tenants into reaping his crops before their own.

He was strong and they were weak, and it would need to be done, they supposed; who were they, poor helpless folk, to thwart the laird's command? But a right shame it was; such a grand drying wind a-blowing and their own oats standing white for the sickle! But wait you now, man, reap, Himself said; did you hear him say bind and stook as well? No, they agreed cautiously; the laird was not saying we behoved to bind the sheaves. So they whetted their sickles, and they reaped. The fine wind blew all day and all night; and when the next day dawned, wasn't it the terrible pity that all the young grand corn was blown over the dyke into the croft-fields beyond? And what could a poor crofter do but glean it all together, for who could tell which ear belonged to the laird and which had grown on the rig where it lay? After all stronger was tenantry than landlord.

OFFICE BEARERS

- Chairman: Lt. Col. Alan Ewing, T.D., Balgowan, Garngaber Avenue, Lenzie, G66 3AW, Scotland.
TEL: 041 776 3525
- Treasurer & Vice-Chairman: Mr. C. Ewen, 3 Havelock Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow, G75 8QL, Scotland.
TEL: 035 52 36375
- Secretary: Miss E. Williamson, Bellcairn Cottage, Cove by Helensburgh, G84 0NX, Scotland.
TEL: 043 684 2352
- Bulletin Editor:
- Genealogist: Mr. A. G. M. McEwan, 25 Carnethy Avenue, Edinburgh EH13 0DL, Scotland
- Membership Secretary Mrs. G. McEwan Joyce, "Ballaig", By Comrie, Crieff, PH7 4JY, Scotland
TEL: 0764 670261
- Canadian Correspondent: Mr. W. H. MacEwan, P.O. Box 3, St. Peters, Nova Scotia, BOE 3BO, Canada.
- U.S.A. Correspondent Mr. Paul W. McEwan, 3500 9th Street, Gulfport, Mississippi, 39501, U.S.A.
- Australian Correspondent Mrs. Evelyn Jean Forsyth Mason, J.P. 88 Laura Street, Tarragindi, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
-

Printed by Fast Printing, 17 Thorn Brae, Johnstone

Tel: Johnstone (0505) 321074