

CLAN EWEN SOCIETY



No 50

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Bulletin

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER OF WELCOME

Greetings!

Dear Cousins

Another year has passed and as well as another AGM, which was held at the Kilfinan Inn on the 7th June. At the AGM I was voted in as your new Chairman of the Clan Society and look forward to working alongside all of you to better this Society. We also have a new Vice Chair person, Rachel McEwen, who will be holding down the fort in the UK as I am from the States and will work towards increasing interest here in North America as well as across the world. Our membership has fallen and I will ask at this time for your help in bringing that membership back up. It is important to us, that you become involved in whatever way to further this Society in order to offer whatever services we may in the years coming.

As your new Chairman, I intend to chair this Society as a democratically run unit. It is you, the membership, who have the final say and I am but a reflection of that membership. We intend to include as many views and suggestions as we can on the running of this Society that come from those who are the most important, that being you the members. So, therefore, it is important for all members to band together and volunteer a little time and effort to help in the workings of this Clan. I believe just one hour a month would work wonders. Much of the volunteer work could be done over the internet, through the Clan web site, as well as personal contact through the mail, etc. We especially need folk from Canada, Australia and New Zealand. We have not forgotten you from that way and with help from you, we will be able to succeed. Simply contact us through the web site as well as mail to discuss whatever you may have in mind for your suggestions and what way you might be able to contribute.

I leave you with best wishes for the coming year and stay alert to the changes that are to come and please stay in touch.

Yours

Lynn

VICE CHAIR LETTER OF WELCOME

Hello,

I am Rachel McEwen and your new Vice Chairman.

My main responsibility is to help co-ordinate the workings of the Clan over the many thousands of miles that separate us all, e.g. I chair the committee meetings when Lynn is absent and act as a conduit, via e-mail on rachelmcewen@aol.com, through which members can air their ideas and opinions – so please get in touch as we would love to hear from you...!

The not so good news is that a number of difficulties over the last couple of years have had an effect on the running of the Society: some of these have been out of our control such as the effect that foot-and-mouth and 9/11 had on the numbers at the gathering; others, such as the late delivery of the May 2003 bulletin, we have been working to put right. Please accept my apologies for the late arrival of this bulletin and take some consolation from the following good news - that our work and effort to ensure the existing and new members really feel the benefit of belonging to the Society is starting to pay off. For example, the Society website is a place where our international family can come together with other members and the wider Clan - <http://www.clannewsociety.org> to chat, read about our history and find out about upcoming events. Also, we are organising an international gathering every three years – the first to be in 2005 – we are hoping that the international gatherings will help members to co-ordinate their visits to Scotland at the same time, and therefore enjoy the company of more family members. We of course want to see you at every gathering but realise the trip is not just expensive but a very long one!

Please can you pay your membership subscriptions – details of how to pay are included in this bulletin. Please can you help us to keep our database up to date by ensuring that you keep us up to date with any changes in name and address details and your intentions regarding membership – if you do not wish to be a member please let us know or return the bulletin to the address on the back of the envelope.

Lastly, on a personal note, my involvement in the Society I hope is an example of what we are all about. I am aware that I was not born a McEwen but married one and have given birth to one, with another on the way... I am a mongrel for the most part with my ancestry dominated by Irishness with a French twist! The Society and Clan offer me a home where I meet and chat to people from all over the world who have one thing in common which is that they are all related, however distantly, to my husband, children and through them, me. I find it enjoyable, lovely and fascinating to meet this variety of people in one large family... Reviresco!

All the best
Rachel

CLAN EWEN SOCIETY AGM

Kilfinan Hotel, Argyll
Saturday 7th June 2003 at 2.00pm

Chairman Alan Ewing welcomed visitors, friends and new members and as is the custom a special greeting to those who had come from overseas. In his opening remarks Alan read an extract from a letter from Donald Ewing, South Australia, urging positive methods to halt the decline in membership, wishing the Society every success and sending good wishes to all members.

Apologies Murdo McEwan, William and Donald Ewing, Sidnie Terry, Joan MacEwan, Colin Davies, Fiona McEwan.

Minutes of last AGM Read, approved and signed.

Matters arising Changes to Clan Constitution

The Chairman gave a brief explanation of the necessity for minor changes in the Constitution to qualify for any grants available for the Society. It had been agreed at previous committee meetings that this matter would be put forward at this AGM to the members to meet the objectives required. After the slight alterations in the wording were made clear the changes were passed by majority vote.

Change of Advertising Name

David Band introduced this subject giving his reason for change of name from Clan Ewen to Clan McEwan but Hugh McEwan pointed out that as the AGM had already agreed at this meeting on the constitution of the Clan Ewen the name could not be altered – legally it would have to remain as it was. This was endorsed by Duncan McEwan. At this point in the proceedings Jim McEwan resigned from the committee followed by Barbara, David Band and his wife. It was then agreed on a proposal from Hugh, seconded by Duncan that for advertising purposes goods could be named Clan McEwan under the heading of Clan Ewen Society.

Committee Members' Reports

Treasurer Iain has carried on as Treasurer meantime and gave his financial report which was circulated. Treasurer's statement was approved by Hugh, seconded by Charles.

Secretary Eleanor pointed out that her report was written in full in the latest Bulletin so it was agreed that it was not necessary to read it.

Membership Secretary Malcolm distributed some copies of membership lists, gave a brief word on a few new members but again reiterated his attempts at

recruitment. On a question from Jo he had to admit that few had responded to this phone calls.

Genealogist David spoke briefly about his work put (on CD Rom) also the research done on his own family with much assistance from his wife Betty. Charles thanked David for his work.

E-mail Correspondent Rachel made a few remarks on her correspondents – 5 so far.

Lynn gave some advice about the web site, members registered, subscriptions form on web site, how to contact etc. Re - membership fees – a motion was put forward by Hugh that Lynn would collect fees in America – this was seconded by Charles and passed unanimously.

Election of New Committee As is customary the present committee stood down and the election proceeded as follows:- Lt Col Alan Ewing indicated his retiral as Chairman and was thanked for all his excellent work during the years he had been in office.

Chairman	Lynn Gehling	Proposed by Alan Seconded by Duncan
Vice Chair	Rachel McEwen	Proposed by Duncan Seconded by Eleanor
Treasurer	Iain McEwan	Proposed by Hugh Seconded by Jill
Secretary	Eleanor Williamson	Proposed by Jo Seconded by Martha
Genealogist	David McEwan Assisted by his wife Betty	Proposed by Charles Seconded by Hugh

Committee members willing to continue serving were elected:-

Duncan, Malcolm, Murdo, Alan, Charles

AOCB The meeting was closed with thanks to the Chair and the Committee.

The date for the next meeting

First Saturday in September

Venue to be decided.

**THE BITTER CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF SCOTS
EMIGRATING THROUGH CLEARANCE AND STARVATION,
REBELLION, TRANSPORTATION AND SLAVERY.
FREEDOMS LOST AND THEN REGAINED**

Whatever happened to those who left Scotland during the late 1700s and through the 1800s? a good many went to Canada to establish colonies of Scottish settlements along the shores of the waterways. Many came across to the southern states to settle in Georgia and the Carolinas. Sadly, some were actually sold into slavery after the 45 and were treated as less than the African slaves in North America.

Examples;

Alexander Stewart was herded off the Gildart in July of 1747, bound with chains, Stewart was pushed onto the auction block in Wecomica, St Mary's County, Maryland. Doctor Stewart and his brother William were attending the auction aware of Alexander being on that slave ship coming from Liverpool, England. Doctor Stewart and William were residents of Annapolis and brothers to David of Ballachalun in Monteith, Scotland. The two brothers paid nine pounds six shillings sterling to Mr Benedict Calvert of Annapolis for the purchase of Alexander. He was a slave. Alexander tells of the other 88 Scots sold into slavery that day in "THE LYON IN MOURNING" pages 242-243.

The British government had realised as early as the 1640s how beneficial white slave labour was to the profiting colonial plantations. Slavery was instituted as early as 1627 in the British West Indies. The Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series of 1701 records 25,000 slaves in Barbados in which 21,700 were white slaves.

This and as well as the Great Highland Clearances resulted in the mass migration of Scots as well as a huge number of peoples from the UK to all over the world. But it is to be said that a vast many came to the Americas. Nova Scotia is the prime example of the migration of folk from Scotland. What happened once they arrived? In the latter period most were bound by contract to clear and farm land at a cost till they paid off their contract at which time they gained clear title to land and holdings. Many could not manage as they sometimes found the land too poor for farming or the winters too hard to survive and passed from the areas never to be heard from again. One article I have seen was the story of a Scot who had lived somewhere in Ontario, Canada and was discovered by another, way out in the wood. The man had lost his wife and children to hunger and sickness and was sick himself upon his discovery. The fellow died a few days later and was simply buried in the woods alongside that of his family, lost forever. One told of those who arrived in Canada wearing only their kilts, and in the harsh winters of Canada, kilts just do not work. The locals who had been settled for some time proceeded to help

them by making them proper clothing either from skins obtained from the Indians or by making warm clothing from whatever they had at hand to get the new arrivals past the cold winter.

More later.

Submitted by Lynn

Note: Look to the old history books/records of the early settlements in your area. There is a wealth of information there in the records to give you a hint of what it was like and who was there in those early times.

FLORA MACDONALD EXCAVATIONS REVEAL THE FINER THINGS OF LIFE

Life of a Heroine

Flora was born in Milton, South Uist, one of the Outer Hebridean Islands to the west of Skye in 1722.

She was brought up on Skye and attended school in Sleat and then Edinburgh.

She married Allan MacDonald of Kingsburgh before emigrating to North Carolina in 1774. She died in 1790.

Excavations at the birthplace of Flora MacDonald, the Scottish heroine who saved Bonnie Prince Charlie, have revealed that poverty-stricken Highland farmers aped the finery of English high society.

In the decades around the time of the clearances, many Highland farmers lived in deprivation in windowless "black" houses made of stones and turf with earth or peat floors.

However, archaeological work at the old MacDonald home on South Uist has recovered fancy English and Chinese export pottery used for ostentatious display and taking tea.

The find suggests that Scottish farmers mimicked some aspects of English culture and corroborates later observations made by Samuel Johnson who, when he visited MacDonald on the Isle of Skye, noted houses with high-quality furnishings but floors of waterlogged earth.

James Symonds, executive director of Archaeological Research and Consultancy (ARCUS) at the University of Sheffield, summarised the research in a new study of Highland Scots and emigration.

The farmers' "conspicuous consumption" appears to have left the traditional house structure little changed with many spending what wealth they could in the form of portable objects like fine china, linen and silver.

When Bonnie Prince Charlie landed in South Uist in June 1746 after his defeat at the battle of Culloden, a young Flora Macdonald rowed him over the sea to Skye and earned her place in Scottish legend.

The Flora Macdonald Project is centred upon Milton, the town founded in the early eighteenth century where MacDonal, the heroine of the '45 rebellion, was born.

Work has been going on at the site for the past eight years and archaeologists aim to look at the settlement from the time of the clearances right through until emigration was well established to places such as Canada.

In extending Lynn's article the Skye MacDonal of whom Flora was one, many of her clan members emigrated to the shores of Canada, particularly along the shores of Nova Scotia.

Full acknowledgement to Stephen Stewart for article written.

Sent in by Charles Ewen

MCEWANS INVOLVED IN THE MAKING OF AMERICAN HISTORY

The dispute over the abolition of slavery in the United States of America produced a cleavage between the Northern and Southern States. The decision of the latter to secede from the Union led to the American Civil War. In 1861 President Lincoln declared a blockade of all the seaports of the seceding states to be enforced by the naval forces of the Federal Government. At the outset, the number of ships available was insufficient to render the blockade effective. The blockading vessels were neither distinguished for speed nor manoeuvrability. The difficulty of their task was increased by the fact that many of the harbours could be entered by several channels. Nevertheless the need of the Southern Confederate States for munitions, with which to prosecute the war soon became clamant, while the restrictions imposed on their exports caused the price of cotton and tobacco to soar.

To venturesome spirits the temptation of blockade-running proved irresistible. Many Clyde river steamers were purchased for the purpose. Purchasers evinced no desire to reveal their identity or the use to which the steamers were to be put. The latter were bought on behalf of the "Emperor of China" for the "South American Trade". Fitted out for the transatlantic voyage – stripped of saloons, if they had any; painted light grey to render them less conspicuous against the land; provided with smokeless fuel and sometimes with muffled paddle floats – many an old favourite passed down the river and disappeared into the blue.

Here was McEwan's chance – an adventure after his own heart! He signed on as first mate of the steamer "Pearl", hurriedly prepared for the voyage to Nassau, the capital of New Providence Island, in the Bahamas. The voyage had hardly commenced ere the frail craft threatened to founder while crossing the Irish Sea. By nightfall she was shipping water fast. The pumps, working at full capacity, barely sufficed to keep her afloat.

Immediate action was imperative. McEwan ascended the bridge and spoke to the captain, who had not yet recovered from his leave-taking celebrations. Having induced his senior officer to slacken speed and keep the steamer's bow to the waves, he hurried below where he spent the night in shoring up the more vulnerable parts of the ship to keep out the sea. When morning dawned she was in a more seaworthy condition, and, favoured by fine weather, completed the voyage to Nassau at record speed. From thence she sailed to Charleston, South Carolina. This was, of course, the most dangerous part of the trip, the waters being patrolled by ships of the Federal Government fleet.

When land was sighted the "Pearl" was stopped and prepared for the final dash for the harbour after nightfall. They were already on their way when evening fell. Steaming cautiously landward, the ship "blacked out" as we say these days, every available man was on the look out. McEwan perched in a barrel at the masthead to secure a wider field of vision. The atmosphere became tense with excitement as the small craft crept ever closer to the shore.

"Mac" the Clydeside Chief Engineer, a large, stout, phlegmatic man, was a wizard with machinery. Yet, as the moment of trial approached, he stood in the engine room, amidst the revolving cranks, wiping his brow with a piece of waste, "fair sweeting" with excitement. Well he knew the success of the venture depended on him and his engines. All his energies were concentrated on "pitten up a guid show". His task was not easy. A good head of steam must, at all costs, be maintained, with furnaces stoked and regulated so as to prevent sparks flying from, or even a red glow appearing above, the funnel; either of which might be the means of revealing the steamer's presence to vessels of the blockading fleet. As soon, therefore, as the latter were sighted, he must bank the furnaces and sit on the safety valve while awaiting the signal "to let her rip" for the shore.

It was McEwan who first spotted six naval craft anchored right ahead between the "Pearl" and the mouth of the harbour, beyond which the lights of Charleston twinkled a cheery welcome. Descending from the masthead, he joined the captain on the bridge. "Let's keep to starboard", whispered the latter. "If we can sneak by them undetected all will be well".

"No, no" answered McEwan firmly, "we must slip between them, so that they cannot fire on us without running the risk of hitting one another. Once through the flotilla we're half way there. Signal full steam ahead, Skipper, and I'll take the wheel". The "Pearl" leapt forward straight for the gap between the first pair of ships. At incredible speed she swept under the stern of one and across the bows of another and continued zig-zagging between the warships till she reached their landward side. Those on watch on the latter could not believe their eyes when, emerging suddenly from the darkness, the small paddle steamer pursued her perilous course, through the middle of the squadron and disappeared into the darkness on the other side. It was the sheer audacity of the exploit that paralysed all counter measures. Not a shot was fired after the retreating vessel.

She entered port as calmly and confidently as though she had been engaged in legitimate trade.

One of the first vessels to run the blockade, the "Pearl" was accorded an uproarious welcome. The kindly Southerners were delighted at the success of the venture and the prospect thus engendered of being able to maintain at some of their trade. Nor were they disappointed, for the "Pearl" was singularly successful in outwitting the vigilance of the blockading fleet in maintaining a regular service between Nassau and the port of Charleston. The city rang with the word throughout the Southern States.

With thanks and acknowledgement to Paul McEwan for the article contributed.

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

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 DN 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, partially 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 10.36X7.93m 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 1m from the house entrance was found a copper alloy crucifix (Marshall 1893, 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, 10cm 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.

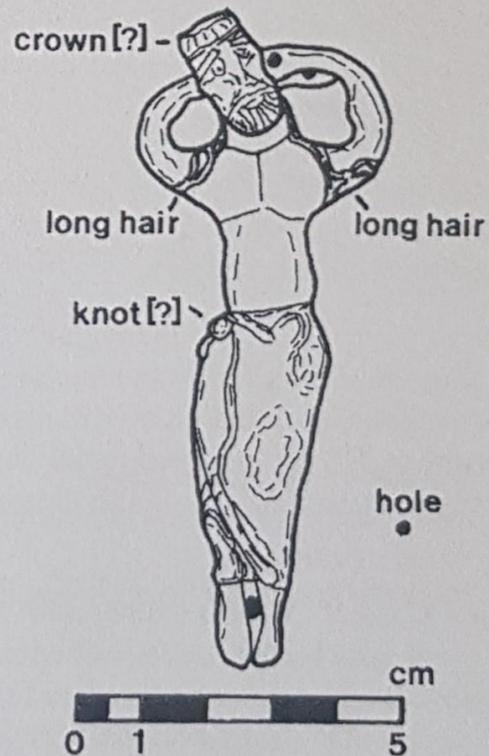
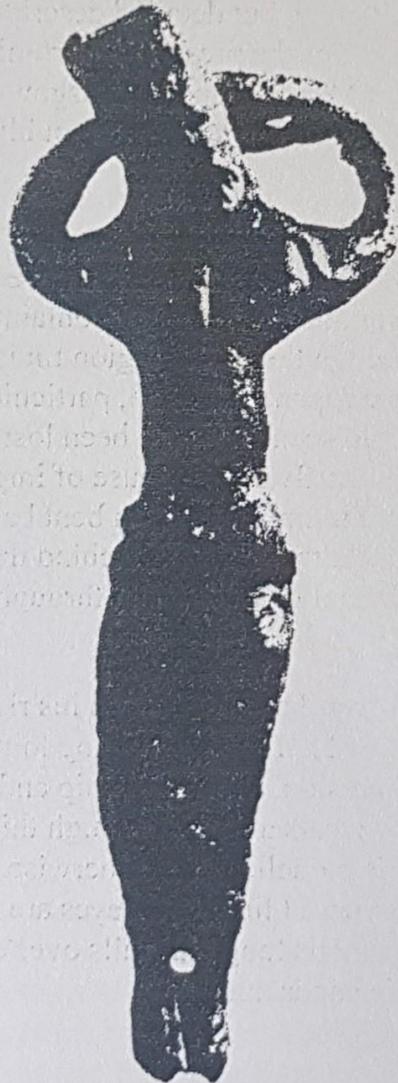
Comparisons

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 these earlier three figures show a nail hole in each foot, and this may be the preferred earlier method of attachment to a base.

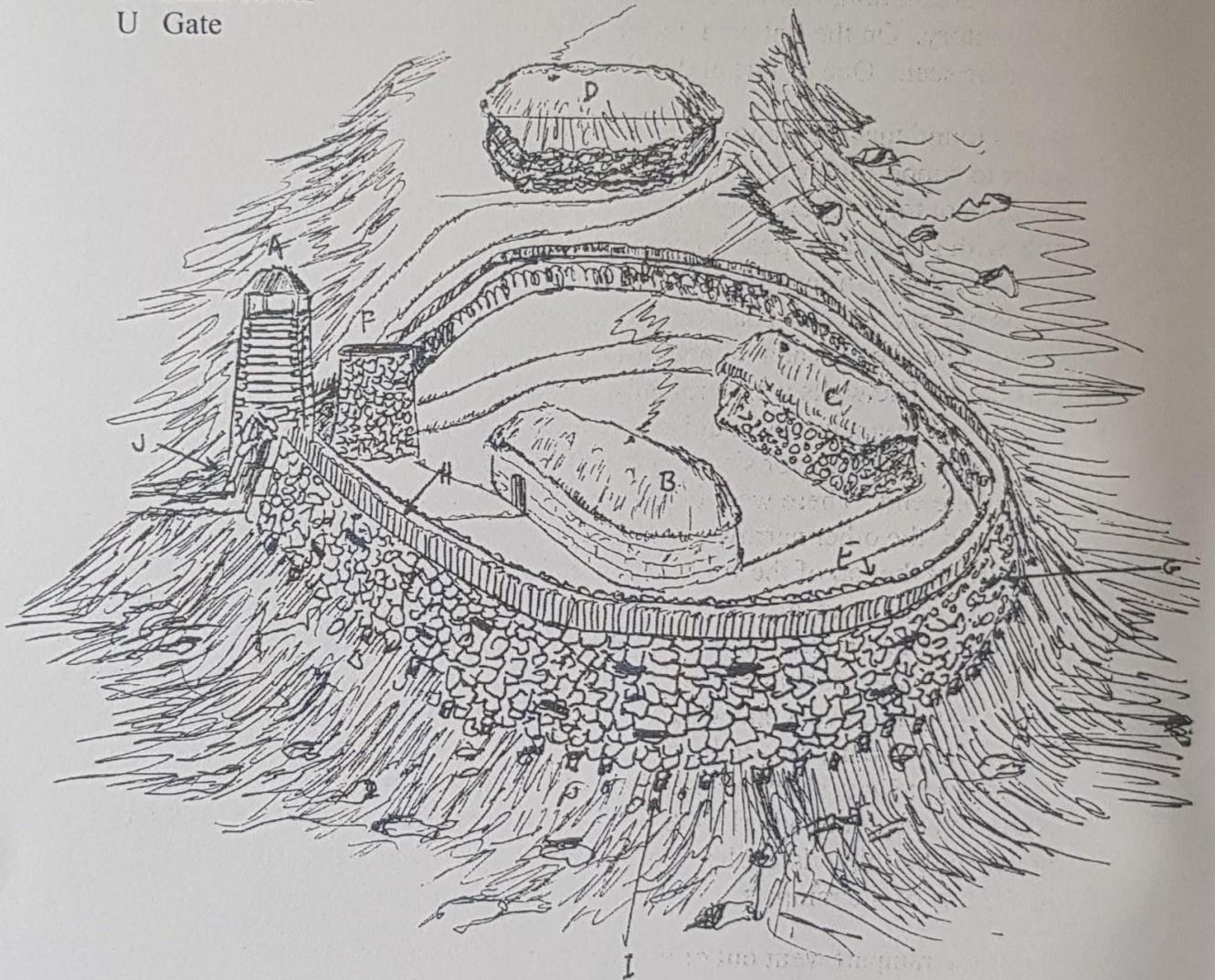
With full acknowledgement to JG Scott for this article

Note: Macewen's Roman crucifix c. 1170-80 it is possibly relating to the period of dedication to the Church of Kilfinan close by which would have had the attention of both the Bishop of Argyll and others along with clan chiefs.



Castle MacEwan

- A Wood Tower
- B Turf Building
- C Inside Store Building
- D Outside Stone Building
- E Rampart
- F Stone Tower
- U Gate



- Ramparts - undressed stone
- Inside and out - wood reinforcements (G)
- Wood palisade (H)
- Stakes to keep wall from sliding down hill (I)

Rob & Maggie Ewen, USA

EXCAVATION REPORT ON CASTLE MACEWEN SITE INCLUDING TIME LINE HISTORY OF CLAN CHIEFS

The excavations on the promontory called Macewen's Castle, were carried out by the Cowal Archaeological Society and the British Girls' Exploration Society.

Before excavation, walling could be traced around most of the edge of the promontory. On the flat area within these walls, foundations of two buildings could be seen. One of turf and the other of stone.

It was found that the first people to occupy the site lived in huts with small post holes to support the walls and roof, and had had a palisade round the edge of the promontory. They were succeeded by people who made more substantial huts with really large post holes and who rebuilt the defensive wall round the site with stone, strengthened with wood. Nothing dateable was found in these levels nor enough charcoal for C14 dating. Perhaps they were built in Iron Age times. The site was abandoned. Much later a substantial turf house 34' x 26' was built. The walls were probably 2'6" to 3' 0" thick. At one part the remains of seven turves could be seen, one on top of the other. There seems to have been a working or sleeping bench at one side and a low turf sitting bench round one end. There were opposing doorways, one wide with a pebble threshold, the other narrow. A 12th century crucifix was found, unstratified, in the turf on the top of the wall. A James I fleur-de-lys groat, first half of the 15th century, was found, also unstratified. The surrounding rampart was altered, and strengthened with buttressing posts outside the wall, and a guardroom built at the gateway, probably at the time of the turf house. Carbon from a post hole of the buttress gave a date of 1530 +/- 70 years. Vitrification was found all round the rampart, especially at the entrance where there was probably a wooden gateway, showing that the walls must have been attacked and fired. Nails and a spindle whorl were found on the rather nebulous floor of the turf house but nothing dateable. Thirteenth century green glaze pottery was found in the turf of the rampart.

After the rampart went out of use, a stone house was built on the north east landward side. Because of the number of querns (hand mills) found in it the excavators called it 'The House of Querns'. Its probable date is 17th century. Another stone built house, site D, was cleared. It lay outside the rampart to the east. Again nothing was found to date in it.

The promontory has long been known as 'Macewen's Castle'. It lies in the extreme south west of the territory, where the Macewens settled after their sojourn in Ireland and the Scottish War of Independence. In the first statistical account of 1795, the minister of the Parish of Kilfinan writes – 'On a rocky point on the coast of Loch Fyne about a mile below the church is to be seen the vestige of a building called Caisteal Mhic Eobhain'. A large high motte, also

associated with the Macewens, lies two miles north near Otter Ferry. Documentary evidence states that by the end of the 15th century the Campbells had ousted them from this part of Argyll. It might therefore have been the Campbells who reconstructed the rampart and built the turf house for one of their henchmen to hold the land.

The full excavation report has been with the Glasgow Archaeological Society for some time. It should be in their next volume of Transactions. An account of the Turf House appeared in the Scottish Vernacular Buildings Group's publication, Vernacular Buildings No 5, 1979. Hon. Editor Mrs Auld, 5 Duntrune Terrace, West Ferry, Dundee.

The information about the origins of the Clan Macewen was compiled and researched by Mr Archibald McIntyre, Ashgrove, 12 Broomfield Dr, Dunoon. If any of his work is used in print due acknowledgement must be given to him.

The Crucifix is in Kelvingrove Museum. (Note: at time of publication, Kelvingrove is closed for re-furbishment).

But the Macewens lived on. In fact their solid position today is an eloquent tribute to the struggles of their ancestors, who fought so hard to preserve their identity in battle-scarred Scotland.

How near they must have come to extinction; for in a record of those persons who took part in the 1745 Jacobite uprising the total fighting strength of the clan is given as five.

Duncan of Ardgaddan

Working backwards in time through the persons who may have been associated with the site of Macewen's Castle and the buildings within the site, we have, firstly, Duncan Campbell of Ardgaddan. His wife was Mary Campbell of Otter (probably the second wife). She was the widow of Lamont of Silvercraigs, across Loch Fyne. Duncan was of a Knapdale family descended from the Campbells of Auchnaback. His duties as a servant of the Marquis of Argyll involved him for a time in being custodian of Sir James Lamont and his brother after the fall of Toward Castle. As Baillie of Kintyre he would find the Ardgaddan site convenient for access to Kintyre by boat. He may have been the occupant of the House of Querns.

1660

His charter of the farm of Ardgaddan including the right to cut peats on Strone, then part of the Barony of Otter. This indicates a scarcity of peats on Ardgaddan itself. The site of his peat stacks may be indicated by the peat dust at the south east end of the oval house. The peat extends beyond the side walls and end walls and fills the spaces between the foundation stones at the part.

This is an unlikely situation for a natural accumulation of peat, being too dry. The use of the site for a peat stack was later than the period of the outside hearth under the peat dust south east from the later doorway in the east wall. A further pointer to placing the use of the House of Querns in this period is that it belongs to a time when the rampart was no longer of consequence, and it was not the residence of the owner of a barony. The querns are possible not of great significance, as the breakages may have been accidental and have occurred over a long period.

1673

Duncan Campbell of Ardgaddan seems a likely person to have been the builder of this unusual house, and if as subsequent occupation can be dated as after 1673, the date of registration of his widow's disposition of her goods at her death.

It seems certain that the Campbells of Otter did not have their own residence of 'Macewen's Castle', though no site has been suggested as showing remains of their buildings. The Charter of Ardgaddan to Duncan Campbell rules out the Macewen's Castle site.

1667-1675

The lands of Otter were appraised by Stirling of Coldoch, Dugald Campbell, a son of Duncan of Ardgaddan, already the owner of Lindsaig acquired certain rights over some of the lands of Otter. He was also a Baillie of Kintyre. Soon after this he acquired Glen Saddell in Kintyre, where his descendants remained for at least six generations and several of whom were Baillies of Kintyre. It is therefore unlikely that Duncan was succeeded by any of his family in Ardgaddan.

1433 Sufyn MacEwan

Sufyn is only known because of the charters which he made with the Campbells. It was at this time that the family which owned Ardlamont, Luidbaig, (Auchagoyle (Millhouse)), Dorinacaorach and Glencha agreed to recognise Lamont as their chief, probably to resist pressures similar to those being put on MacEwan of the Otter. The latest radio carbon dating for the material of the rampart post hole probably comes within Sufyn's period.

John, Walter

Little is known of these two. Their names are probably known only from the tables of the descents of the clans, believed to have been compiled by a MacLachlan in the 15th century. The range of the possible dates for the rampart post hole probably covers the time of one or both of these chiefs.

1340? Ewan

Most clans took their names from persons known to history in the 13th century, eg Lagman, Lachlan Mór, Donalds, etc. the MacEwans were somewhat late starters in this respect, but partly through the known descent of the clan and partly through the confusion between the names of Ewan and his ancestor Suifin or Sween, the clan name has acquired an aura of antiquity equal to that of the other clans.

1315 Archibald

If, as has been suggested, Archibald obtained a grant from Robert Bruce after Bannockburn, he may have done so, because of a hereditary interest in the barony, either from the time of Dughal selling Knapdale to the Earl of Menteith or from that earlier ancestor who is said to have married the heiress of Cowal and Knapdale in the 11th century. Archibald's period therefore suggests a period of reconstruction and refortification to which the turf walled house and the strengthening of the rampart noted at the north west corner could be attributed. The house is of much more substantial construction than is usual in the turf walled foundations which are to be found in the district.

He may have brought with him the families of those two uncles who were mentioned in the offer by Edward II in 1310 of a charter of the lands of Knapdale if John of Menteith could be driven out of there.

1261-1310 John

Archibald's father, John is known to have spent much time in Ireland during the Scottish War of Independence, hence no doubt the tradition that the 'Macewans came from Ireland'.

1262 Dughall

He is not known after he sold Knapdale. His son John was called 'Mac Sweyn' after his grandfather, perhaps to avoid confusion with members of the Clan MacDougall.

Sween 13th Century to Aedhanradhan 11th Century

Among these there may be an ancestor common to Clan Lamont and Clan Ewan who made use of the site as a fort. This is the nearest fort to Kilfinan Church, which is known to have masonry of date c. 1250, but which had a church or earlier date which was given to the Monks of Paisley c. 1240 by Lagman. Here also there are stones of 11th century date.

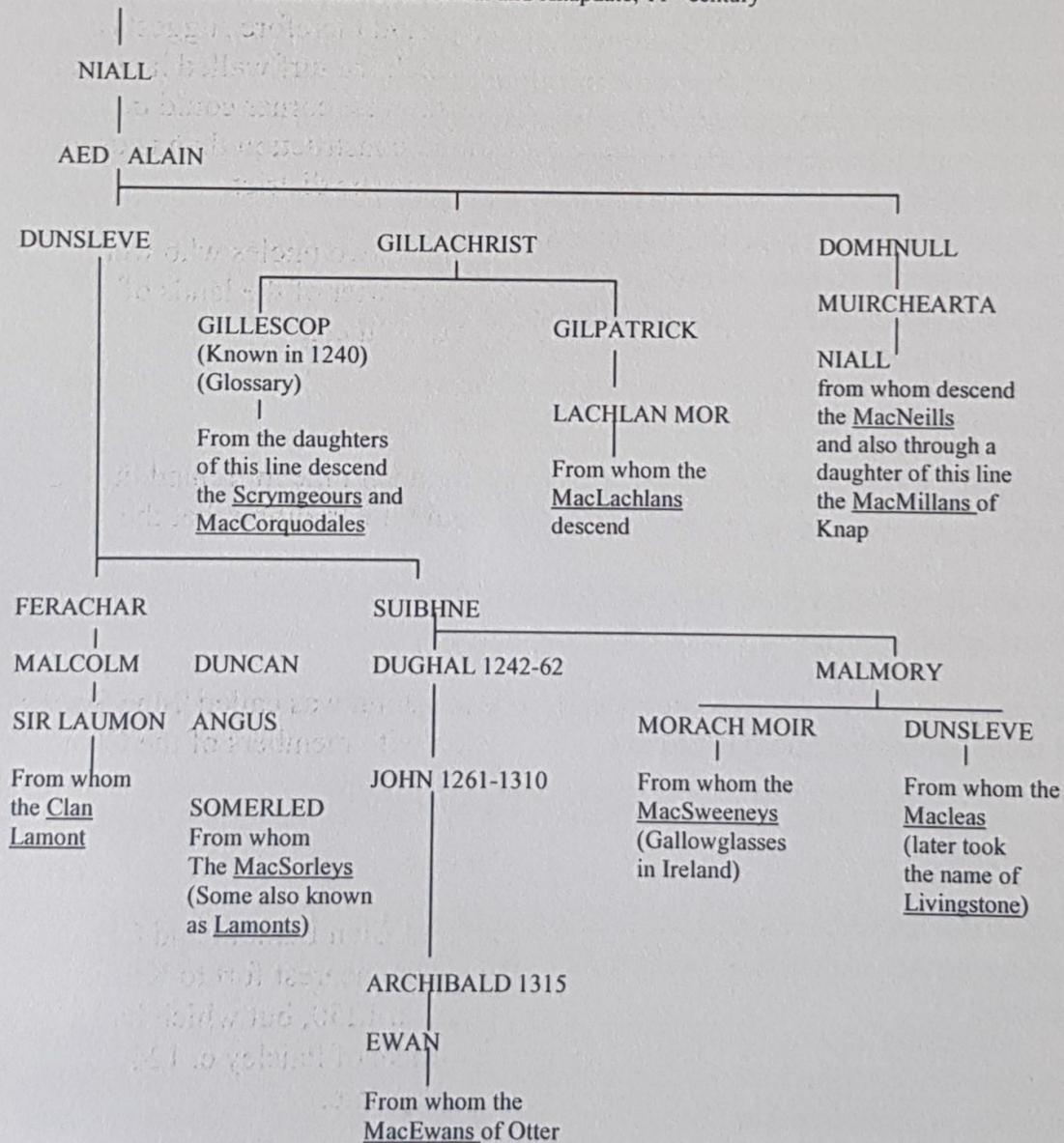
11th Century Back to 600AD

The church name probably indicates a foundation in this earlier period, in which case the situation of the fort may have some significance in relation to the church.

The fort may have been in use as such before the earliest possible date of the church.

DESCENT OF THE MACEWANS

AEDH ANRADHAN married heiress of Cowal and Knapdale, 11th century



FIFE'S RING AND CUPS FIND AS IMPORTANT AS SKARA BRAE ON ORKNEY

Colin Kilgower and Jock Moyes spent their childhood building dens among the rocky outcrops and crags of Binn Hill near Burntisland on the Fife coast.

They barely paid a moment's notice to the geometrical shapes carved on the rocks around them... until almost three decades later.

Jubilant archaeologists this week declared their discovery to be 4000 years old after the men reported the site following a visit to an exhibition on ancient cup and ring carvings.

Their find could soon be given the same ancient monument status as Edinburgh Castle and Skara Brae in Orkney.

Similar markings have been found throughout the Highlands and in Ireland but archaeologists say it is the first time multiple carvings of this kind have been found so far south in Scotland. They also say it could shed fresh light on how they were carved and how the design was spread through the country. Mr Kilgour and Mr Moyes now both 37, only realised what they had found when they approached an archaeology expert at last month's Royal Highland Show. "Jock had been to see an exhibition in Edinburgh earlier this year, where he saw rock engravings like those we'd found as children," said Mr Kilgour.

"We asked an archaeologist at the Highland Show about the carvings we had found when we were 11 and he told us they were very rare."

Most cup and ring marked rocks probably date from the late Neolithic and Bronze ages – from about 2800 to 500BC.

They are often found close to burial mounds but no-one knows why ancient Britons spent so much time and effort carving shapes into stone.

They may have been used in rituals and have some religious function or have had some astronomical significance.

The carvings have also drawn comparisons with the rock art of aboriginal Australians.

Douglas Speirs, an archaeologist at Fife Council, verified the find. He is planning further excavation in the area to see if there are more ancient treasures.

Yesterday he described the find as astounding. "This type of art is quite well known throughout Scotland but is very rare in Fife," he said. "These cup and ring markings are an extremely accomplished example of this ancient rock art."

“They show us that whoever carved them either travelled around the country or had links with other rock artists in Britain. Whoever is responsible appears to have followed the same pattern of engravings found across the UK. We don’t know if they were done by individuals or by a group of people. My guess is they were done by religious figures or by groups of travelling artisans. But it is impossible to know for certain who would have carved these markings.”

He added that a series of crosses had been found near the site.

“I think these crosses may have been carved by Christians in an attempt to dilute the pagan influence of the other engravings,” said Mr Speirs.

A spokesman for Historic Scotland yesterday welcomed the find.

“The discovery is an important one, but we need to determine who exactly owns the carvings and whether or not they are under threat before it is declared an ancient monument,” he said.

The engravings offer further insight into how technologically advanced Bronze Age Britons were. Mr Speirs said; “One of the carvings is unfinished and from the peckings on the stone we can tell how old it is and how they were crafted. It’s possible stone tools were used to chisel into the rock. The engravings would have taken a considerable time to do - there is so much detail in them. The discovery is really important for Scotland and our understanding of this type of art, as it broadens our knowledge of its geographical distribution.”

MYTH AND MAGIC

Cups are circular hollows carved out of the rock by a sharp stone or antler. They can be between 2 cm and 10 cm in diameter.

They occur on their own or along with grooves. When the groove encircles the cup it is known as a cup and ring.

Other such sites are in Argyll, Perthshire and Shetland.

The most extensive group of pre-historic markings is at the village of Cairnbaan, in Argyll.

The meaning of the stone carvings has long since baffled archaeologists, but some mystics believe they signify the earth’s magical power.

It is thought the Fife carvings are the work of religious groups during the Bronze Age.

With full acknowledgement to Eleanor Cowie for the above article.

Submitted by Charles Ewen

SCOTS HERALDRY AND TARTAN ETIQUETTE

SCOTS ROYAL AND SOVEREIGN ARMS

WEARING OF TARTAN

From: The Court of the Lord Lyon
HM New Register House
Edinburgh EH1 3YT

- 1 A lady of Scottish family, married to someone not entitled to a Clan, Family or District Tartan, shall continue to wear her own tartan in skirt, etc., but wears her sash over the right shoulder and tied in a bow over the left hip.

Unless her child or children, or one of the children, takes their mother's name, these children have no right to wear their mother's tartan at all. They are not members of their mother's Clan.

- 2 Those not entitled to wear a Clan, Family or District Tartan have no right to wear any Royal Tartan, and particularly not the so-called "Royal Stuart Tartan", which is the tartan of the Royal House and accorded to the Pipers of The Sovereign's Royal Regiments.

Those of Scottish descent with no Clan, Family or District Tartan wear one of the following:-

- (a) the now so-called "Hunting Stewart", which was originally a general Scottish hunting tartan, and only named "Stewart" about 1888;
 - (b) Caledonia Tartan;
 - (c) Jacobite Tartan – for those with ancestors of Jacobite proclivities;
 - (d) Black Watch or "Government" Tartan in its exact regimental form, or one of the modified forms for those of Hanoverian or Whig ancestral proclivities.
- 3 There are a number of District Tartans which are worn, or wearable, by persons belonging to, or descended from ancestors belonging to these Districts. These Districts, however, only cover certain small areas of Scotland.

THE KILT PIN

Before the reign of Queen Victoria, the Scottish kilt was worn without the kilt pin, now used to secure the fold-over on the right hand side. As a result, there were many embarrassing moments, especially if you wore the kilt in a high wind. The truth was that nothing in the nature of undergarments was worn with the kilt.

One day, Queen Victoria arrived on a visit to Balmoral Castle, and reviewed the Gordon Highlanders. A stiff wind was blowing and one young soldier, at rigid attention, was unable to control the flapping of his kilt, and avoid exposure on this important occasion. The Queen noticed his embarrassment and walked over to him. She removed a pin from her own dress and, leaning over, pinned the overlap of his kilt. And that – believe it or not – is the origin of the kilt pin, without which no kilted Scot would be properly dressed today.

THE ROYAL ARMS AND NATIONAL FLAG

There is much confusion in the public mind regarding the nature and use of Royal Arms. A modern official term, 'Personal flag of the Sovereign', some years ago led one overseas statesman to describe the Royal Arms as 'the domestic symbol of the Royal House', which is precisely what the Royal Arms are not.

Royal Arms are technically described as 'Ensignia of Public Authority', and are governed by different rules from other arms. They are not hereditary, but pass by 'succession, election or conquest' along with the sovereignty of the dominions which they represent. The Duke of Rothesay bears the Royal Arms with a plain label for a difference, in consequence of his relation to the Throne, as heir, but younger children of the Sovereign inherit no right in the Royal Arms until a differenced version of them has been assigned by Royal Warrant, and that differenced version is then not the actual Royal Arms, for 'differenced arms are different arms'.

From the time of the accession of the House of Hanover until 1948, warrants for differencing the Royal Arms were passed only to Garter, and even when a Prince received a Scottish dukedom, some version of the English arms was assigned. On older precedent, when a Royal Prince had for his principal dignity a Scottish title, a differenced version of the Scottish form of the Royal Arms would – as in the case of the Duke of Albany and York, 1672 (in addition to any existing arms and in virtue of a Warrant directed to the Lord Lyon) – be matriculated for such Prince in Lyon Register, and thereafter descend to his successive heirs. On the creation of the Royal Dukedom of Edinburgh at the marriage of HRH Princess Elizabeth, however, King George VI issued a separate Warrant directed to Lyon ordaining the Duke's arms therein

'depainted' to be 'extended' (blazoned) by the Lord Lyon and matriculated in Lyon Register according to the Law of Scotland.

'The ruddy lion ramping in his field of tressured gold' has been the Royal Arms, or 'Ensigns of Dominion and Sovereignty' of the Kings of Scotland, since the days of Alexander II, and probably even of William the Lion; that is to say, it indicated the authority of the Scottish Government, vested in the King of Scots as pater patriae. Since the Union of the Crowns, it has been quartered with the arms of England and Ireland, but north of the border the tressured lion always occupies the first and fourth quarters of the shield. In addition to this quartered version of the Royal Arms, the tressured lion still retains its individual status as a sovereign coat of arms, and there are still many occasions on which both shield and crest are officially employed. Our Kings have carefully preserved the sacred character of the emblem of Scottish sovereignty, and at the institution of the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in 1672, Charles II who (along with his brother, the Duke of Albany and York) set his subjects a good example by obtempering the Statue himself, 'gave in' not only the quartered Royal shield, but also the Tressured Lion Rampant with its Unicorn Supporters and Lion Crest, which therefore stands recorded in Lyon Register as the exclusive property of the Sovereign.

About the close of the nineteenth century ignorant tradesmen began selling cheap and usually hideously proportioned versions of the Scottish Royal Banner under the trade description of 'Scotch Standard'. No willing subject would have dreamt of displaying such a flag in the Middle Ages and so late as George IV's visit in 1822, contemporary drawings show that no such flag was used in decorative schemes, though there is nothing in the Law of Arms to prevent any coat of arms being used as a unit in a decorative scheme, so long as it is attributed to *its proper legal owner*, and is not 'brought into contempt', or authority suggested, and the owner does not interfere.

When the Royal Lion is flown as a flag or in place of the Scottish National Flag, St Andrew's Cross, a statutory offence is being committed against the ordinary Parliamentary Law of Scotland, as well as a piece of heraldic bad taste. The Scottish Lord-Lieutenants in their official capacity and a few Great Officers who are *ex officio* the Queen's Lieutenants, are entitled to 'display the Queen's Banner'. And it is in this capacity that the Secretary of State, as Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland, is entitled to fly the Tressured Lion over the Scottish Office in Whitehall.

The Lieutenants, on whom, in commissions, this right of displaying the King's Banner was conferred by the clause *vexillum Nostrum gerendi*, treated the flag with the utmost solemnity. When at sunrise the tressured lion was hoisted before the Lord-Lieutenant's pavilion, it was greeted by a salute of trumpets, and such a salute it was, in 1645, that first warned Argyll that Montrose, the King's Lieutenant, had crossed the hills and descended upon Inverlochy.

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL FLAG

The Scottish National Flag and Arms, so defined by Act of Parliament, are *Azure a saltire Argent*, and this is recorded in Lyon Register, pursuant to 1672, cap 47, as the 'Armes or Badge' proper and peculiar to the Kingdom of Scotland. This national badge, 'the Silver Cross to Scotland dear', is traditionally said to have been instituted by Achaius, King of Picts (really Angus II who actually did introduce the veneration of St Andrew). The Cross of St Andrew is the flag which any Scotsman is entitled to fly, or wear as a badge, as evidence of his national identity or patriotism. This is also the proper flag to fly on Scottish churches, and corresponds to St George's Cross in England, to the Red Dragon in Wales and St Patrick's Cross in Ireland.

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL BADGE

Just as a Sovereign kingdom requires both Ensigns of Dominion and Sovereignty (viz the Tressured Lion), and a National Flag (viz St Andrew's Cross), so it is usually considered necessary to have a National Badge for wear in bonnets or as a brooch or jewel. The Scottish National Badge is a *Thistle* proper, as that of England, a Rose, Ireland, the Shamrock, and Wales either a Daffodil or a Leek. This badge may be worn by any Scotsman and when any of these badges are used in an official capacity, they are ensigned with the Crown. The *Crowned Thistle Or*, and a *Rose Gules crowned Or*, are Royal Badges.



Royal Thistle
Badge



Royal Saltire
Badge



Saltire Badge:
of the Scots



Thistle Floral:
Badge

HOW SHOULD LANDED ESTATE OWNERS AND CHIEFS OF CLANS HOLD THEIR LANDS? SHOULD IT BE BY TRUST? BY GUARDIANSHIP? OR BY PIT AND GALLOWS OVER THE LAND?

Cuillins For The People

Can a price be put on a national asset? John MacLeod of MacLeod attempted to do just that when he put the Cuillins on Skye up for sale more than three years ago at £10m. The chief of the Clan MacLeod's decision caused an uproar. It seemed to hark back to the bad old days of land ownership when Highland estates could be sold to the highest bidder on the whim of the landlord, regardless of the interests of communities dependent on the land. At the time, the concept of ownership was heading in the opposite direction. Land reform has given crofting and other communities the right to buy the land they worked. Although only a small amount of the land Mr MacLeod wanted to sell was workable (and therefore likely to be bought), the drive to land reform sent a message to potential buyers that the old ownership ways did not fit in with the new Scotland.

In the event, Mr MacLeod failed to find a buyer. Yesterday (9 July 2003), it was announced he is negotiating with Highlands and Islands Enterprise about giving the mountain range to a public trust in return for the cost of essential repairs to his castle, the ancient clan seat at Dunvegan. That bill is estimated at £10m and, possibly, rising. The proposed deal, which is in its early stages, was described as an imaginative solution to making the castle's leaking roof watertight, and giving the Cuillins to the Scottish people – something they had assumed was de facto theirs, even when the "for sale" signs were figuratively planted on Cuillin peaks. In principle, the agreement, if satisfactorily concluded, appears to offer benefits. Funding would come from the public purse and it would not directly benefit the MacLeod family, although they would continue to live in a part of the castle, presumably at no cost. Taking the Cuillins and Dunvegan castle into public ownership would be a step in the right direction but we need to see the fine print to establish exactly what the public would get from the deal.

If a deal can be done, none of the Cuillins would be in private hands, from one end of the range to the other. That is an appealing prospect, in line with the provisions for a right of reasonable access as delivered by land reform. The vision as presented yesterday is for a new type of National Park for Scotland, under public control and responsible for striking a balance between recreational and economic interests on one side, and environmental concerns on the other.

However, it is still only a vision. £10m is a lot of money. Can the taxpayer afford it? There have been suggestions the funding could come from the lottery. With ticket sales, and revenues, continuing to fall, is that a realistic option? Would a Dunvegan castle, refurbished at great cost and largely under public ownership, provide the boost the local economy needs? Before the vision becomes a reality, a thorough building audit of the castle should be undertaken to establish if £10m is a realistic price for repairs – and whether more public money would be needed in the future. That level of funding would require the sanction of the Scottish Executive, and the last thing it needs is a mini-Holyrood in the Hebrides.

From "The Herald", 10/7/2003.

What MacLeods Think About the MacLeod Coup

It seems to be generally perceived that John MacLeod of MacLeod has brought off rather a coup in swapping the Cuillin and the deeds of Dunvegan for a promise of perpetual tenancy and the repair of the building. Personally I'm not convinced it's a good deal for the Scottish tourism industry at all. It's certainly repulsive to many MacLeods.

On Friday night I phoned round some of the senior executives of the Clan MacLeod Society worldwide to gauge their reaction to the proposals. In the main they were sympathetic to John MacLeod's 30-year struggle to find a way to seal his sieve-like structure in perpetuity, and glad that he could now put his feet up at last.

But there was also worldwide frustration, and intermittent instances of red-hot fury, that the building that has housed a single family for the best part of 800 years (the longest span in Scotland) should be nationalised and placed in the care of civil servants who wouldn't really give a damn, and who over the years will dilute its' character.

There were several who thought that we, as a nation whose tourism industry is built on daft romanticism, must be nuts. They may have a point.

John MacLeod's predecessor, Dame Flora, revolutionised the clan-related tourism industry, convincing MacLeods worldwide that they had two homes, their own and Dunvegan.

Of course it was all largely hokum, but it was grasped with passionate enthusiasm by thousands of MacLeods who flocked "home" to be given the traditional cup of welcoming tea. They then returned to their real homes to make the clan society a worldwide community. Thousands kept pictures of the castle in their living rooms.

During my phoning around I was particularly struck by one call. It was to a US lawyer who last year had taken her failing father for his first visit to the family castle. John MacLeod had welcomed him and he had returned heartened by the thought that he had saluted at the last a continuous thread of decency that had influenced his family for generations. She said she was glad they had gone when the castle was still "Proper MacLeod", and doubted they would now return.

Of course to the millions whose group loyalty is perhaps only to football clubs such behaviour is absurd. But to other millions who have a similar sense of loyalty, to chiefly families, it makes perfect sense. Both patterns of behaviour are bonkers, but often produce good results.

The MacLeod's legal case to the Cuillin may be thin, but it was decreed valid, so he has given the finest land mass in the world to the nation for nothing and in response we are insisting that he hands over the deeds of his castle before we can help him fix it.

Given the dynamic could we, the nation, not use a bit more imagination in contriving a legal framework to address the needs of this situation other than crude nationalisation?

For example the Campbell Castle that lies at the eastern end of Loch Awe is theoretically privately owned, but run by the nation for the nation.

Might not a more intelligent, similar legal arrangement be contrived whereby The MacLeod keeps the deeds to his castle and runs it in partnership with the nation with a control of much that goes on within the walls with him and his clansmen?

Of course it would be largely camouflage, but much the same result would be achieved and the nature of the magical product that attracts over 100,000 visitors a year to the north of Skye preserved.

With full acknowledgement to Maxwell MacLeod

Laird Ordered to Rescue Clan Tower From Ruin

Captain Roderick Stirling, one of Scotland's most influential landowners, faces legal action to make him protect the rapidly crumbling 500-year old Fairburn Tower in Muir of Ord, Ross-shire.

He is accused of neglecting his duties, and Historic Scotland has warned that the A-listed six storey fortress, stronghold of the ancient Clan MacKenzie, is in a "ruinous condition" and may soon be lost to history.

Highland Council has threatened to impose a compulsory repair order demanding restoration of the castle which could cost up to £500,000.

Captain Stirling, 71, owns 16,353 acres of Ross and Cromarty

From the "Daily Express" 14/7/2003

Earl Shocked to get £2m for Family's Estate

The Earl of Haddington has sold his seven-bedroomed mansion and 1,330 acres of farmland for £2million.

He had hoped to raise around £1.7million from the sale of his ancestral seat of Tynninghame in East Lothian, but was overjoyed when the luxurious property became one of the most sought after buys on the market.

The Earl was forced to put part of his family's considerable estate up for sale because it wasn't pulling in enough cash.

The 61-year old aristocrat, who now stays in Mellerstone House in Kelso, Roxburghshire, said: "I will put the money into another investment. I haven't got any ideas what that will be yet, but I will enjoy thinking long and hard about it."

Thanks to Charles Ewen for contributing and sending in these articles.

ROMAN BROOCH FIND IN SHETLAND EXTENDS ANCIENT TRAVEL ROUTES

Amateur archaeologists may have found Britain's most northerly ancient Roman artefact, it emerged yesterday (10/7/2003).

The fibula or brooch, which has been dated to between 50BC and 50AD, could have belonged to an islander returning to the area around Norwick on Shetland after serving in the Roman army.

The archaeologists made the find when they were called in after bulldozers unearthed items while extending the graveyard at Norwick.

It is highly unusual to find Roman goods so far north, and the item gives a revealing insight into trade routes and social mobility at the time.

Les Smith, from Lerwick, is the member of the Unst Archaeological Group who found the bronze two-inch long brooch.

"This was a very rare and important find. I was very surprised when I saw the flash of the object. I have a reasonable knowledge of the artefacts in the local museum, but this was unlike anything I had seen before," he said.

"At first it was difficult to say what it was. Eventually, you could see that it was very finely made. Bulldozers at the graveyard site had uncovered some Viking objects and underneath that we found the Iron Age material."

Fibulas were used as fasteners to hold clothing together. Experts at the British Museum believe the one found on Shetland, from the late Iron age/early Roman period, could have been made in Germany.

It may have been traded several times and was likely to have been regarded as a much sought-after trinket by its owner.

Ralph Jackson, curator of the Romano-British collections at the British Museum, said: "It appears to be a Roman Fibula and if that is correct, it is very interesting as they aren't normally seen in that part of the world."

A fibula is a term given to a particular type of brooch. It is occasionally likened to a safety pin and consists of a spring and catch plate.

The Roman army occupied parts of southern Scotland at the end of the first century AD before units were transferred to the Danube, leading to the building of defences such as the Hadrian and Antonine walls.

Roman legions marched north several times, occasionally defeating the northern warriors but never fully subjugating them.

Dr Alan Leslie, director of the Glasgow University archaeological research division, said: "The brooch gives an indication of the extensive trading networks at the time. It could have been used as something to barter with and is certainly a very special find; there was substantial seaborne mercantile activity but it could have got there via other agencies. The Roman army was established in different areas and shifted about a lot. There were legionnaires who were Roman citizens and auxiliary units from allied or conquered countries. Someone could join the army, serve their 25 years, and then move back to their locality."

Owen Cambridge, an archaeologist from Shetland Amenity Trust, who assisted the Unst group during the excavation, said: "It was fantastic that it was an amateur team of archaeologists who made the find. It is also good because in Shetland, we are often thought of as Orkney's poor neighbour in archaeological terms."

With full acknowledgement to Stephen Stewart

Submitted by Charles Ewen.

EARLY CLAN HISTORY

Clan McEwan of Otter (Eoghan na hoitrich)

Descended from St Columba's mother and the Dalriada Scots. The year 505 is usually said to be the beginning of the reign of their first king in Argyll. Skene thinks they came as colonists, not invaders. The first leaders were three sons of Ere.

Lorn, Fergus and Angus

Partly subject to the Picts from 736 to 800. St Columba was one of them.

Monastery in Iona.

He was sprung from the Royal House of Northern Hy Meill while the female line was of the kings of Dalriada. According to Skene the last of the old Abbots of Iona died in 1099 and thereafter for upwards of 60 years there is an unbroken silence regarding the monastery. The Celtic Church had to give way

before one of the religious orders of the Roman Church. Somerled tried to restore the old abbey in 1166. It was offered to the Abbot of Derry but the Abbot of Armagh and the King of Ireland disallowed it. In 1166 the monastery was rebuilt adopting the policy of the Scottish Kings (the religious order of the Roman Church).

Three Monasteries

One, Black Monks in Iona, in honour of God and St Columba: one Black Nuns and the other, Grey Friars or White Monks at Saddell in Catrine. It is this Roman Catholic Benedictine Monastery and Nunnery of which the present ruins are the remains. The Western Celts were Roman Catholics till the Reformation, but the original Celtic Church in St Columba's time was not the Romanish Church as represented at the present day. St Columba stands forth as the great founder of the Ionian Church within the light which penetrated to England and a great part of the continent of Europe up to 1222. Argyll maintained self-independence of the Scottish Crown; not until 1266 in the reign of Alexander III did the Hebrides and the Western Isles become annexed to the Kingdom.

Quote from Hill Burton

In 1432 Swene McEwan IX granted lands to : Otter to Duncan, son of Alexander Campbell, 1432, he resigned the Barony of Otter to James I, but got it anew from the King with the remainder to be given to Celestine Campbell, son of Duncan Campbell of Lochan, 1493. King James, after Swene's death, confirmed the grant to Archibald, Earl of Argyll. Another Archibald Campbell appears in the Charter as "of the Otter" and in the Act of 1587 a Campbell is entered as the Laird of Otter. The estates of Otter passed to the Campbells and the MacEwans became more than ever the Children of the Mist.

The remnants of the Clan MacEwan – some remained and joined the Campbells, some went to the Colquhouns of Luss, some went to the Camerons of Lochaber, some went to the Lennox Country in Dunbartonshire, some in Galloway and some fought their way but most were peaceful. Some became bards and seanachies, honourable poets and dispossessed clansmen who obtained these posts and suffered no diminution in rank.

Lovat Fraser, in his "Highland Chief" says: MacEwans were hereditary bards of the Campbells and there are MacEwan poets; they were the learned men attached to the Clan. The Celtic Bards were members of the priesthood, genealogists and Herald of Arms, Poet Laureate, Lord Lyon, registrars etc, and no class of society among the ancients has been more celebrated. The MacEwans had free lands in Lorne for acting as bards and also at Dunolly in 1572. In 1630 the last of that race composed an elegy on the death of Sir

Duncan Dow, Campbell of Glenorchy (composed by Neil MacEwan) - he may have lived some time after that.

The Bards were retained by the Highlanders to preserve faithfully the history of the respective clans; they attended births, deaths, marriages and collected the genealogy from eight immediate ancestors. These he registered in his books and delivered a true copy to the heir which was produced on the day of the funeral when they were assembled in the great hall of the castle or mansion house; MacEwan genealogical tree, done by Meil, received from his father Eachern and his grandfather Arthur – were seanachies from great families for many years (ages).

A considerable sept of the clan settled early in Dunbartonshire, Loch Lomond and the Lennox Country whose Earls of Lennox were descended from Bancho Thane of Lochaber. Some were buried in Luss but the graves are lost. The name spelt McEwan; a paper in the family tracing them back to the Battle of Langside where they won their colours fighting for Queen Mary. History of Strathendrick, Glenboig family in 1614; charter granted by the Duke of Lennox to William Neanbog, alias Macewen. Then the Williamson came into that, if the first Williamson was not himself a William McEwan. He changed to Williamson and succeeded the McEwans of Glenboig, afterwards acquired by Napier of Ballikinrain. William MacEwan of Glenboig, Writer in Edinburgh, 1796, who received a grant of Arms from the Lyon Office; Netherton, the other division of the estate, was farmed by James Ewing, another form of the name.

Numerous families in Dumbarton, Stirling, Clackmannan, Renfrew, Lanark, Ayr. Mr William MacEwan, late MP for Central Edinburgh, and the donor of the McEwan Hall, belongs to the Clackmannan family. There were several Ewan and Ewing families in the Lennox County of position and affluence, Craigton and Keppoch of Glasgow, Levenfield, Ballikinrain, etc. I have heard my father talk of McEwen of Cameron (the first Cameron of the Western Celt in Dunbartonshire), hence the name Sir Ewen Cameron, and the first Cameron was a Celt, not a Dane. The MacEwans were fined for helping the Clan MacGregor.

McEwan of Lochaber, after break-up of clan.

McEwan of Kenmore district, head of Clan, left two sons and a white horse. One son won the horse by a feat of strength, the other went to Ayrshire and founded a branch of the family. Eoghan means kindhearted.

The Muckly family, (Argyll, McDougall of Lorne and Clan MacEan of Otter).

McEwan of Glenboig, Lennox Sept.

McEwan of Glasgow, Renfrew.

Seals were handed down. Stunted oak putting forth new branches and fresh foliage, Motto: REVIRESCO. In 1847 there was no instance of any other clan carrying this evidence of heraldry – usually a safe and reliable guide to enquiries.

There are nine grants of Arms by the Lord Lyon's office in Scotland to persons bearing the name. Six of these to Ewings and three to MacEwans. One of the earliest is to Ewen of Craigton, whose achievements appear on the tombstone, 1600, in Bonhill Churchyard, Craigton and Keppoch.

Seals, in the old days a common practice, 1540; a tree, flower, leaf or other symbol or motto; at later date spoken of as Clan Crests. Seals were handed down from father to son. McEwan of Glasgow has Arms granted in 1847, displaying emblems of his profession and pursuits.

Reviresco has been in use as seals everywhere, for a long period. At Galloway, Lennox, Renfrew, Dumbarton, Glasgow – family friendships. The Lord Lyon's office is unable to fix the date of these seals, but states they are common to the name - so that this quasi-heraldic device is another link to the past and the present with an ancient shattered but reviving race. It is chosen as an epitome of the Clan.

EWEN'S GHOST

(Showing a lighter note that not all our family of Eoghan's were of a friendly and generous nature. We all have our black sheep!)

The Ghost of 'Ewen of the Little Head'.

The Glen More road on Mull is an unusually lonely one, even on Mull, passing only an inhabited croft after it enters the hills, but the scenery is magnificent, the heather clad hills rising two to three thousand feet from sea level, with Ben More (3,169 feet) topping them all. A pleasant peaty stream runs through the glen from the watershed out to sea in Loch Scridain. It is unusual in that on one bank it is composed of red granite and on the other of grey, yet the stream is not more than three feet wide. Once over the watershed, the Ishriff Lochs appear. Assmall, a picturesque island in one of them, is said to be the site of the 'Castle of Ewen of the Little Head'. He was a warrior of note in fifteenth century Mull, the son and heir of Maclaine of Loch Buie. On the left Glen Forsa opens out and here was fought the battle in which Ewen was killed. There is a small cairn, now almost completely overgrown, marking the spot where his body was ultimately recovered. He is now Mull's best known ghost.

This Ewen seems to have been a most unpleasant person, quarrelling with, and even ill-treating his own father. It is said too, that at his mother's funeral when the bearers lifted her coffin high to do her honour, he forbade it, saying she was not worth it and might get wrong ideas. His wife, a MacDougall of Lorne, was an equally unattractive character, both being ill-tempered and mean. So bad did the situation become that old Maclaine sent word to his kinsman, Maclean of Duart, complaining of his son and begging for help. Duart was only too pleased to enter Loch Buie lands and at once set out with his men to teach 'young Ewen' a lesson and see what spoils he might collect in the process. Word of the approaching invasion came to Ewen. He was much troubled and went to consult a 'wise woman' on the outcome of the battle. After some hesitation she told him that if in the morning, when he was arming for the fight, his wife offered him butter with his breakfast unasked he would be victorious, but if she did not he and his two sons would be killed. When the breakfast hour came there was no butter on the table. Ewen frightened and angry stamped about complaining and refusing the food he was offered which was said to be very poor anyhow, and generally registering displeasure. Finally seeing that no butter would be offered, he set out after first turning all his hunting dogs loose in his wife's dairy.

Battle was joined in Glen Forsa and a stroke from a broadsword swept off Ewen's head. His horse with his headless body still upright in the saddle bolted from the field and for many days thereafter it was seen careering in mad terror up and down the glens and passes and along precipices and paths only fit for goats. At last, utterly exhausted, it allowed itself to be caught and the body taken from its back and sent to Iona for burial. But before the death of a Maclaine of Loch Buie or before misfortune of any kind befalls that family, the ghost of horse and headless rider can be seen careering across the island to the terror of children and their elders alike.

Old Mrs Maclean, a member of the Clan by birth and marriage said that Ewen was seen more than once during her childhood on Mull in the latter half of the nineteenth century though she herself never saw him. Some believed he was scalped, not beheaded, hence his title of "Ewen of the Little Head" (Eoghan a chinn bhig). She said his restlessness was due to the fact that he died fasting.

"Hungry ghosts always walk!"

EDITOR'S LETTER

As Editor of the Bulletin, I would just like to welcome both Lynn and Rachel to their new posts as Chairman and Vice Chairperson, respectively. May your positions be both rewarding and long-term.

It has been a rather unsettling and disturbing year all round for our members. We've had losses, including Irene Ewing, (our ex-chairman's wife) a stalwart supporter of the Clan Society. We've had resignations including Jim and Barbara and David and his wife from the committee. Then the significant retirement of Alan as chairman.

Add to this a down-turn in general membership and you can see the problems. They are not insurmountable though! We require a re-organisation of effort and input. All of us must take on some of that responsibility. Our Clan Family is like any other family, occasionally you fall out. But family are family! You learn, you move on, you grow.

We are entering a new era in presenting the Clan and our communications with one another. The Chairman, Lynn, lives abroad in America and therefore we have a much more global aspect to the Society. We do, or did, have membership in around 12 different countries, along with over 40 States in America. There is a need to develop these connections and introduce members from the same country and state to one another.

Not everyone can get to Scotland when they would wish to, so I understand that feeling. However, if members are shown that other members live close by, from the Society, then - for example - in America some members are in the same state, whereby travelling across State may be not so much a problem, for an informal gathering and a face to face meeting.

Secondly, I wanted to pick up on a particular point of interest shown within the Bulletin, highlighted by two articles on archaeological research.

If research is being done into your family history or Clan, do not always take as what is summation and assumption by experts as fact. Whether they are historian or archaeologist, an interpretation of events can be misleading or in some cases totally inaccurate.

Two examples of assumption are shown within this Bulletin. If you read the articles on Flora MacDonald and a Roman cloak clasp in Shetland. They both may be correct in their assumption of how events occurred, they also may be totally wrong.

The first, contains archaeological research on Flora MacDonald's place of birth on Skye and her family Macdonald kin. My alternative view is thus; since families of Jacobite connections were persecuted during and after all three rebellions '15, '19, '45. Much of the Clan estates and lands were forfeit. So many of these families took what they could carry - goods, chattels and household furniture and fled, refugees if you will. The Silverware, pottery and furniture are the remnants of these fine houses. In considering the Boswell

report as further evidence, the writer neglected to reflect that as a Lowlander and a supporter of the Crown, Boswell would have a biased opinion of Highlanders and no local history knowledge, or of Highland tradition of hospitality. Jacobites and Scots in general, traded much with French merchants and bought fine quality goods. There was certainly no compulsion to copy, ape, or even trade with the English.

The second article relates to a Roman soldier's cloak clasp, discovered in Shetland. The archaeological assumption is that the Scot who acquired it, brought it back from service in the Roman legions serving abroad as a foreign levy. That is possible, but equally so, is the possibility that the Scot won the clasp in battle and took the cloak as a trophy, fighting the Roman incursions into Highland territory. It is well known the Celts received support from the Isles as well as Ireland. Mentioned also, is that the clasp might be of German origin. One of the legions that disappeared in the Highlands was a German legion. To the Scot returning from battle with Rome, a cloak would be a medal of honour and respect, in showing the Celts that Rome could be defeated.

Both interpretations are possible, both are plausible, but what is the truth in fact!

A.G.M. 2004

Annual General Meeting and Gathering of Clan Ewen Society

will be held at 1.30 p.m. on

Saturday 12th June 2004

in the Kilfinan Hotel, Argyll

with a walk to the Cairn after the meeting.

All members and friends are most welcome

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