



CLAN EWEN SOCIETY

Bulletin

No. 18 NOVEMBER 1987

THE ARGENTINIAN CONNECTION

I wonder if there are any MacEwens in the Argentine? I feel there ought to be. There has been a very large British Colony out there for over a hundred years, and the recent tragic and totally unnecessary conflict must have caused many a sore heart to various families.

I am interested, in that I have some fairly direct relations out there in and around Buenos Aires. My paternal grandmother was an AULD. Some of her relations or immediate forebears went out to these parts when life was tough and rather primitive. They set up a store in Buenos Aires and settled down.

In Stirling, we in the family were just aware of them. The occasional letter turned up for my father who, as the head of the family, kept in touch. The letters carried exotic-looking stamps which I would purloin and trade with other grubby little boys at school.

One year — about say 1934 — they asked for a little assistance. All young men in the Argentine had to register for their Armed Forces whether ex-patriates or not. They could only claim exemption if they could prove 'foreign' ancestry back for so many generations. Dad and one of my sisters did this readily enough and without too much difficulty and were able to put their minds at rest. Of course once you start this research business you get fascinated. He and Margaret found a great deal of MacEwen lore which of course I now have, and which forms the basis of my own interest.

Incidentally, the rest of the Auld story is not without interest. Some of the blokes in my mob in the Army (the Intelligence Corps) were Argentinian types. They had patriotically come 'home', joined up and were sharing the boredom and the discomforts with the rest of us. I mentioned that I had relations out in Buenos Aires and that they had some kind of a store.

"What's the name?" asked one of the Argentinos.

"AULD", I said.

"Golly," he said with a whistle, "some people have the right kind of relations. AULD'S is the Harrods of Buenos Aires!"

I didn't believe a word of it. However, he was right and I was wrong. After the war, the Aulds turned up in Stirling on the Grand Tour of Europe, Scotland, etc. in a Rolls Royce!

Up until recently, the Church of Scotland had three large congregations in Buenos Aires. They are still there but have been taken over and merged with some American Gospel Presbyterian Church. However the Kirk still has its own man, Rev. Bruce Downes, in Valparaiso from where he ministers to all Scots in Chile, Patagonia and as far south as the Tierra del Fuego, where I gather there are still not a few Scottish sheep farmers.

So, if any of you have any MacEwen relations in South America, let me know and we will try and gather them into the fold. At least we can make them feel that they are certainly not forgotten and that they have a direct if tenuous link with the seas and the hills and the mountains of Argyll, from which beautiful land we all originally stem.

PETER MacEWEN

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The A.G.M. of the Clan Ewen was held this year in the little town of COMRIE, on Saturday, 3rd October. Comrie is the home of the Tartan Museum and this was one of the reasons for choosing this venue. We also hope that by varying the location of the meetings we may make it easier for some to attend and attract others in the vicinity.

The afternoon started with our welcome to the Royal Hotel where the arrangements had been made by a committee member, Gudrun MacEwan Joyce. The Chairman welcomed twenty members and expressed our delight at seeing Alex and Kay from Wisconsin, U.S.A. These McEwans attended our A.G.M. at Symington in 1983, and we were very happy to see them again. Three of our members from Edinburgh were also given a warm welcome.

Business was conducted in a friendly and efficient manner and thereafter the company enjoyed a pleasant tea and conversation together, giving our new members a chance to get to know each other.

We then walked the short distance to the Tartan Museum where

we were shown round by David Herschell and Gudrun. This was a most interesting visit and clan members saw several hundred specimens of tartan, authentic period costume and many other artefacts relating to tartans. There was a visit to the Weaver's Bothy and Dye Garden, and as a special privilege we were taken upstairs to see the cataloguing of tartans.

There was a delightful ending to the afternoon when we were all welcomed to the MacEwan Joyce's charming home at Ballaig for a refreshment. There followed a most happy hour and we are all indebted to the Joyce's for their hospitality and also for all the arrangements they had made for the A.G.M.

ELEANOR McEWAN WILLIAMSON

JOHN McEWEN

We regret to inform Clan members that Mr. John McEwen, from Coatbridge has not enjoyed the best of health for some time, and is now a patient in the Monklands General Hospital, Coatbridge, seriously ill. We wish him a speedy recovery and return home to his wife Betty, who as most of us know is our Bulletin Editor. Our thoughts and our prayers are with John and his family.

OVERSEAS VISITORS TO SCOTLAND

The 8th of August this year was a lovely day in more ways than one. It was then we took our journey to Airth Castle, Stirling. The weather was at its best, bright, sunny and warm, and the countryside just beautiful. It was here we met Rab and Maggie Ewen, Golden Valley, Minnesota, U.S.A., who were on a tour of the United Kingdom.

A 'phone call to Charlie from Rab was enough to get us together and what a delightful afternoon and evening, we spent with them. Rab, who is a very keen member of Clan McEwan, U.S.A. and deeply interested in all things Scottish, was eager to hear all about our activities and clan meetings. We look forward to a long and lasting friendship and hope next trip here they will meet many more of Clan Ewen members

It was too bad that Alex and Kay McEwan, who were also on vacation from Wisconsin, U.S.A. and attended the Clan meeting on 3rd October, did not meet Rab and Maggie. How nice it would have

been for us all to be together.

Charlie and I met Alex and Kay at Paisley and later visited the Burrell collection. The weather was very unkind on that day – it was ATROCIOUS.

But our U.S. cousins enjoyed their visit to our country and I'm hoping they will come home again soon. We have a lot to show you Rab and Alex and lots more to discuss.

HASTE YE BACK

MARTHA EWEN



ALEX AND KAY WITH JOHN AND GUDRUN MACEWAN JOYCE AT "BALLAIG"

A CHALLENGE TO THE CLANS!

Members of the Association of Clan and Kindred Societies met in the St. Columba Gaelic Church Hall, Glasgow on Friday, 4th September 1987 to listen to a talk by Mr. Rennie McOwan, the distinguished Writer and Broadcaster (a member of the Clan Ewen Society). Mr. McOwan had written an article in the "Scots Magazine" entitled "*The Great Clan Con*", which challenged the relevancy of Clan Societies in modern times. Are they dwelling too much on the glories of the past and living in a world of "Brigadoon and a Tartan Never Never Land?".

He reminded us that in the old days of the Clans, when the clansmen gave unswerving loyalty to their Chief – the Clan could, and did depose a Chief if he was unworthy or unfit.

What is the relation of a Chief to the Clan Society of today?

Happily several Clans have still their own Chief descended from the mists of time, e.g. Campbell and McLean – but alas the McEwens have lost the means of tracing their Chief and are now landless. We know that about 1431 A.D. Suibne (Swene) McEwen of Otter on the shores of Loch Fyne resigned his lands to the Campbell Chief's eldest son, and after Swene's death, the Campbells retained the land.

What then is the role of a Clan Society without the guidance of a Chief, Mr. McOwan concluded? The Clan Society is a spiritual band of people believing in a common ancestry and with a desire to see Clan lands thriving in a way worthy of the past. They can express opinions when Clan land is being oppressed by foreign landowners – M.O.D. activities Conifer Forestry and the Gaelic Language.

Questions and comments were invited and expressed by several members. Out of twenty-three Clan Societies, only five were present. During tea, Karen Hunter a brilliant young Scottish fiddler played some exciting music. Mr. Angus Campbell, the Chairman, then brought the interesting evening to a close.

PHYLLIS McEWAN

LINK-UP

The following is an extract from a letter that we have received from Judy Revoy:-

*I would like to correspond with Ewen descendants of
BALQUHYNDACHIE, Methlic Parish Aberdeenshire.*

I am a descendant of John Ewen, c. 1762 – 1832 and Margaret Ewen, c. 1765 – 1851; their son John Ewen, c. 1802 – 1880 and Margaret Taylor, c. 1814 – 1851; their son John Ewen born 1839 came to Canada and settled in Kirkfield, Ontario, married twice and raised 17 children. I also have connections with Munro's of Ross-shire. Any history of BALQUHYNDACHIE would also be appreciated.

Judy's address is:-

BOX 118, ARCHERWILL, SASKATCHEWAN,
CANADA SOE 0B0

P.S. It is interesting to note that our last request in LINK-UP, (Bulletin 11) was also for Ewen descendants in Methlic.

GENEALOGIST

At last we have a successor to the late Mr. Colin McEwan, from Cumbernauld.

The new genealogist is Mr. A. G. Murdo McEwan, from Edinburgh and he is now in the process of continuing this onerous task, and as a result, members should direct any Clan information that they think may be useful to Murdo, whose address is listed in November issue of the Bulletin. We wish him well.

We hear that Murdo recently completed a sponsored walk along the West Highland Way, which runs from Milngavie, near Glasgow to Fort William, over ninety miles. Congratulations.

CLAN EWEN SOCIETY FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30/9/87

<i>INCOME</i>	£	
Subscriptions (52 Singles 28 Doubles)	296.00	
Donations	111.48	
Interest on Clan Centre Account	3.68	
Interest on Clan Deposit Account	13.07	
Sale of Clan equipment	<u>45.52</u>	469.75

<i>EXPENDITURE</i>		
Printing of two Bulletins	202.00	
Postage	99.74	
Hire of meeting room	10.65	
Subscription to Association of Clan & Kindred Societies	10.00	
History of Clan Ewen (2)	21.80	
Sundries	4.20	
Income over Expenditure	<u>121.36</u>	469.75

<i>TRADING ACCOUNT</i>	£		£
Opening Stock	82.27	Closing Stock	66.56
Purchase of two Clan Books	21.80	Sales	45.52
Profit	<u>8.01</u>		
	<u>112.08</u>		<u>112.08</u>

<i>ASSETS</i>	
Closing Stock	66.56
Deposit Account	488.10
Clan Centre Account	144.73
Current Account	5.08
Cash in Hand	<u>4.16</u>
	<u>708.63</u>

Membership 147

(Signed) CHARLES EWEN

AUDITOR'S REPORT — I have today examined the books and accounts of the Clan Ewen Society and have found all in order and expenditure receipts submitted.
(Signed) Ian McEwan

At the A.G.M. on the 3rd October 1987, it was agreed to hold the single subscription at £3.00 and family at £5.00. Life membership was also discussed and agreed at £50.00.

NEW MEMBERS

May we take this opportunity to welcome the following new members who have joined since we published our last Bulletin:-

**PATRICIA EWEN FOLEY, 233 East Whitney Street, Green Bay,
Wisconsin, 54301, U.S.A.**

**MR. J. M. EWING, 1442 Kirby Road, McLean VA 22101,
U.S.A.**

**MR. & MRS. JACK McEWAN, 429 Pacific Highway, Belmont,
New South Wales, Australia
(Postal Address – Box 13 Belmont)**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS UP-DATE

**MR. & MRS. C. EWEN Jnr., 9 Whitelee Crescent,
Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6RW, Scotland**

**MR. I. L. MacEWEN, Highfield, 3 The Paddocks,
Cowden, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 7HY, England**

**MR. J. B. EWEN, 1731 Homestead Lane, Windsor,
Ontario, N9H 2C5, Canada**

**DR. VON KEARNS, 5419 Northumberland Street,
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, 15217, U.S.A.**

continued over

CHANGE OF ADDRESS UP-DATE (continued)

MR. J. R. COON, 13710 Aleppo Drive,
Sun City West, Arizona, 85375, U.S.A.

MR. R. A. McEWING, P.O. Box 236, 137 Main Street,
Essex Junction, Vermont 05452 - 0236, U.S.A.

MR. L. MacEWEN, Meisenwinkel 10,
D-32 Hi-Newhof, Federal Republic of Germany

MR. D. O. McEWAN, Drumore House, Campbeltown,
Argyllshire, PA28 6HD, Scotland

MR. D. I. McEWAN, Dunarden, Horsewood Road,
Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, PA11 3AT, Scotland

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 4th JUNE 1988

at 1.00 p.m. in

KILFINAN HOTEL

KILFINAN Nr. TIGHNABRUAICH,

ARGYLL

The early start will allow our active members to walk to the Castle Ewen ruins. This is a beautiful area and would be well worth an overnight stay.

HISTORY OF CLAN EWEN by R. S. T. MacEWEN

Copies of the above book are now available from the Secretary, Miss E. Williamson, Bellcairn Cottage, Cove, by Helensburgh G84 ONX, Scotland, at a cost of £6.50, plus postage. This addition has a soft cover without the McEwen tartan material.

OFFICE BEARERS

Chairman: Rev. Peter J. MacEwen, M.A., 66 Shieldhill Road, Quothquan, Biggar, Lanarkshire, ML12 6NA, Scotland.
TEL: Tinto (089 93) 337

Vice-Chairman: Lt. Col. Alan Ewing, T.D., Balgowan, Garn-gaber Avenue, Lenzie, G66 3AW, Scotland.
TEL: 041 776 3525

Secretary: Miss E. Williamson, Bellcairn Cottage, Cove, by Helensburgh, G84 ONX, Scotland.
TEL: 043 684 2352

Treasurer: Mr. C. Ewen, 3 Havelock Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow, G75 8QL, Scotland
TEL: 035 52 36375

Bulletin Editor: Mrs. E. McEwen, 1 Blantyre Place, Coatbridge, ML5 5JL, Scotland
TEL: 0236 22638

Genealogist: Mr. A. G. M. McEwan, 6 Magdala Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 5BE, Scotland
TEL: 031 337 0922

*North American
Correspondent:* Mr. W. H. MacEwen, P.O. Box 3, St. Peters, Nova Scotia, BOE 3BO, Canada.

Cheques should be made payable to —

CLAN EWEN SOCIETY

crossed and forwarded to:-

*MR. CHARLES EWEN
3 Havelock Park,
EAST KILBRIDE
Glasgow G75 8QL
Scotland U.K.*

CLAN EWEN SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FORM

SESSION 1987/1988

Member/s Name:

Address

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SUBSCRIPTION : SINGLE — £3.00 : FAMILY — £5.00

LIFE MEMBERSHIP — £50.00

Additional Contributions (*Optional*): To operating Acc.

To Clan Centre Acc.

NO RECEIPT WILL BE SENT UNLESS REQUESTED