

CLAN EWEN SOCIETY



No. 42

Bulletin®

NOVEMBER, 1999

FAILTE

As we start our new financial year, I look back with pleasure on our achievements during the last twelve months.

We have attracted a goodly number of new members. We have a new Treasurer - Iain McEwan who replaces Charlie. We now have a new Buyer - Jim McEwen who replaces Ron Ewing and Sidnie Sherriffs who takes over from Gudrun who resigned the Membership Secretary's post. Sidnie's antecedents were originally Ewings and more recently became Ewens sometime in the mid 19th century, presumably by an error of spelling by some Registrar of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and, for some reason, this error was not corrected by the family at the time. We had a very successful A.G.M. at Kilfinan in June, with a record turnout - whole families descending upon us from various quarters of the Globe - New Zealand, U.S.A., etc.

It was gratifying to find that many more members contributed to the general discussions than previously, which made the A.G.M. much more interesting and worthwhile. As you will learn later, Jim set out his stall with a greater variety of items for sale than heretofore, and, with the result that the "shop" had a record turnover.

We were honoured by the attendance of Sir John McEwen and Rachel, his fiancée, both of whom enjoyed their sojourn with us.

Due to the large turnout of members at this year's A.G.M., and the fact that the accommodation at Kilfinan is insufficient, your committee has decided to hold the next A.G.M. in the town of Dunoon, which is on the Cowal Peninsula as is Kilfinan.

We have made special arrangements with the Royal Marine Hotel, Hunters Quay, Dunoon, PA23 8HJ, U.K. - Telephone Number: 01369 705810, whereby Mrs. Greig, the owner, is prepared to accord, to Clan Members, a special rate of £45.00, Dinner, Bed, and Breakfast, for a single night, per person, and £80.00 D.B. and B. for 2 nights per person. Members must make their own arrangement for accommodation.

The nights in question are Friday June 2nd 2000, and Saturday June 3rd 2000. The A.G.M. will take place on Saturday afternoon, as usual with a Ceilidh in the evening. As there is no accommodation available for Sunday night, members will be obliged to vacate their rooms by mid-day Sunday 4th June and go to Kilfinan to visit the Castle site, if they so wish.

Hoping for a record attendance in the first year of the New Millennium.

I send my best wishes, albeit somewhat early but nonetheless sincere, to all members of our Clan Society, for a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

Nollaig math is Bliadhna mhath Ur.

Alan Ewing

CLAN EWEN SOCIETY AGM & GATHERING

THE MEETING was held on Saturday, 5th June, 1999 in Kilfinan Community Hall at 1.30 p.m.

Chairman Alan Ewing welcomed all members and friends and as there was a very large number present each person was asked to introduce themselves and to say where they were from. Greetings were then extended to all overseas members and Sir John McEwen of Marchmont and Barbrochat and his fiancée were introduced to the company.

Apologies were received from Mary Barnes, Ella McEwan and David Newton. Minutes of previous A.G.M. were read, approved and signed. A copy of the History Book now printed by Heron at Queen's Crescent was displayed covered as before with tartan but now with Clan Badge embossed on the cover.

The Secretary reported on her correspondence and the satisfying result in new members. She reminded everyone to sign the Red

Visitor's book and encouraged people to lift copies of back numbers of the Scots Magazine which the publishing department of this magazine had very generously supplied for the meeting.

New Treasurer Iain McEwan was introduced and gave his Financial Report - He also explained about the "Special Appeal" for the Chief's Fund which has been headed by a donation from Paul in the U.S.A.

Genealogist Murdo contributed a few words on his research, showed a most intricate family tree and urged everyone to complete their family ancestry if possible. Several of the overseas members gave some interesting comments on their genealogy and Charles Ewen gave advice on his use of the internet for his own family connections.

Society Manager Jim McEwan explained about the new and varied stock available at the Sales Table at the back of the Hall. There were now over 40 items and that even fitting out a whole tartan outfit was possible through the Clan and he urged members to order now for the Millennium.

Raffle. As well as the prizes which had been selected for the Raffle there were in addition some splendid items donated by members. These included a beautiful clock, whisky, maple syrup, a plate and a hand-made wooden box. Sincere thanks for these articles was conveyed to all who had given so generously. The raffle would be drawn after the meeting.

The meeting continued with the election of Office-Bearers and on a motion put forward by Harry Davies and seconded by Robert and approved unanimously the present Office-Bearers were re-elected. As membership Secretary Gudrun had resigned. Sidnie Sherriffs was elected in her place and new committee member Malcolm McEwan was appointed to serve.

The meeting was closed with thanks to the Chair and refreshments were served to be followed as usual with the walk to the Cairn for those who wished to go. Later in the evening a very enjoyable Ceilidh of music and dancing took place in the Kilfinan

Hotel. Everyone entered into the spirit of the occasion and a rousing evening was had by all.

Sunday, 6th June

A number of the Clan Ewen members attended the morning service in Kilfinan Parish Church and were made welcome by the minister, the Rev. Kellas. We would hope to make this an annual event.

Eleanor Williamson

TO ALL MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE McEWEN CLAN

As you might already know, this is a crucial and exciting time in the history of our illustrious Clan. We are writing to you partly to keep you informed of developments and partly to ask you to consider contributing to the process now underway.

In short the Clan needs a Chief. The Clan has, in fact needed a Chief since the death of Swene McEwen in the 15th century, and its subsequent scattering, but perhaps because of a strong collective sense of identity, the need has never been felt as pressing. Until now.

It recently came to the attention of the Clan Society that the MacLachlans were advertising for members of their society with an announcement that McEwens were welcome to join, thus implying that the McEwen Clan was merely a sept of the MacLachlans. It is true that some McEwens formed an alliance with some MacLachlans at the time of the scattering but that certainly did not make the entire Clan - connected with the ancient Royal House of Ireland, bardic tradition and all - a sept; any more than it made the MacLachlans a sept of the McEwens.

The Clan, however, was powerless to combat the offensive suggestion, it transpired, because it had no Chief and was therefore ineligible for membership of the Standing Council of Chiefs.

It was, in effect, not a proper Clan. Something had to be done, and is being done.

After much correspondence with the Lyon Court, the Clan Society is presently preparing to convene an *ad hoc derbhfine* which will, we hope, result in our electing a Chief. Although we are, merely setting the scene, as it were, we believe that an appropriate candidate has already presented himself and would prove eminently suitable as Chief.

The process, though, is complex and, not least because so few lawyers are qualified to deal with it, expensive. We very much hope that you will be able to lend whatever support you can to this undertaking which will, we hope, prove once again the aptness of our Clan motto -

Reviresco - We Shall Rise Again.

Please send any contributions made out to: **The Clan Ewen Society (Chiefship Fund)** which would be gratefully received by, Lt. Col. Alan Ewing, TD, The Clan Ewen Society, Balgowan, Seven Sisters, Lenzie, Glasgow G66 3AW.

JULY 1, 1911 - AEROPLANE EXHIBITION ENDS IN DISASTER

Copy of report for United East Lothian Agricultural Society from The Advertiser of 7th July 1911. The Show and aeroplane flight took place on 1st July 1911.

The aeroplane exhibition flights advertised to be given by Mr. W. H. Ewen, Mus. Bac., principal of Lanark School of Flying, were undoubtedly the chief popular attraction. Mr. Ewen, previous to going to Glasgow, was organist of Haddington Parish Church and while resident in the county town, he experimented secretly with no attempt at flight but the spectators had a good opportunity of

seeing what the monoplane was like. It was then pulled back and again housed in the hangar.

Early in the afternoon - about 2 o'clock, the wind, which had been blowing from the West, seemed to have died down and the monoplane was brought out for the flights. The crowds, augmented considerably in the afternoon, stood thickly on the terrace and around the



William Hugh Ewen, c 1912

ropes. Away the aeroplane went at a great speed, slanting towards the river, the intention apparently being to circle the Artillery Park on the other side of the Tyne. When the necessary speed had been attained, the machine lifted from the ground and it rose to a height of about twenty feet. Just when crossing the river, the aeroplane gave a quiver — the right plane went up and the left down. Amid the terrified exclamations of the crowd, it dropped and in a second it was seen to turn a complete somersault in the field on the opposite side of the river. There was immediately a wild stampede to the bank, the common fear was that the aviator would be found dead

and it was a great relief to see him appear from beneath the machine. A number of anglers, who had been fishing near the spot had rushed to render assistance and lifting up the tail of the aeroplane had allowed Mr. Ewen to extricate himself. Almost miraculously the only injuries he had sustained were two scratches on his face, although he was evidently dazed with the shock. In a few minutes, however, he was busy superintending the removal of his machine.

The cause of the accident was a factor which had not been foreseen. The long row of high trees at the west side of the park sheltered the course for a good distance out and made it appear as if there was practically no wind at all. When the monoplane was crossing the water, however, it was caught in a gust of wind which was blowing with considerable force down the river. The aviator, not-

withstanding adroitly managed to regain equilibrium as he reached the other side, but the wheat growing in the field caught the front wheels and stays. Had it been a grass park, the monoplane would have ran along the ground and lifted, but its progress being suddenly stopped, it turned completely over. The propeller was smashed to bits while the front of the chassis was badly damaged. The right wing was ruined, but damage done to the left wing can be repaired.

The aeroplane lay in an awkward position for removal, there being no other road near the narrow footpath. The predicament was solved, however, by getting a couple of pleasure boats brought round from the Ford through the park on a lorry. Having been launched and rowed across the water, the fore part of the aeroplane was placed in one and the tail in another, the planes having been previously detached. Carefully the boats were swung across to the Amisfield bank and, on being unshipped, the machine was carried on battens to the hangar. Flying was over for the day, and, after being packed, the aeroplane was sent back by road to Lanark. Mr Ewen was not the least daunted by the accident and it is his intention shortly to attempt to fly across the Firth of Forth, besides giving other exhibition flights.

FIGHT FOR HISTORY

"If you're fighting for your history against the march of time, then the pen really is mightier than the sword".

A voice from America. If I was a campaign fund raiser I would root for Sir John McEwen in his bid for the Chiefship. This isn't a sales pitch, but reality. Getting a Chief again will take time and money. I wouldn't ask others to donate to the Chiefship fund unless I did so myself. I gave a modest amount to the fund because I wanted to see the return of a Chief after so many, many years.

Anyone who read Sir John's letter in the last Bulletin should have admired with respect his platform to be our Chief. He no more than I wishes to be called a Sept member. He said he could make no great claims for himself at the age of 33, but I see a bright future for him as our Chief of the Clan if we give him that chance. That chance could be achieved if Ewen Society members donated to the Chiefship fund.

To young members of the Ewen Society I say this. If you are fortunate enough to have members of your family who know its history, by all means ask them questions on the matter. It was family members who gave Alex Haley the family history for his story "Roots". He picked up that knowledge before they, themselves passed on. I used to be so dumb on the matter that anyone who didn't have the McEwan name wasn't actually a family member. The many names in the Ewen Society prove just how wrong I was. Many young members might ask themselves why should I worry about that? Don't wait like I did to get caught up in your family history, for many of the answer-givers might be gone.

Article from Paul McEwan, American Correspondent

ROYAL MARINE HOTEL

A SIXTY-ROOMED hotel, which is the venue for the next A.G.M. in the year 2000.

The size of the hotel and its facilities should be ample, to bring all the Society together under the one roof.

Next year, for several well documented reasons we will be more



Some of those who attended the 1999 A.G.M. taken at the Castle Site, Kilfinan

than happy to meet at the Royal Marine on Saturday, 3rd June. There will be a musical ceilidh in the evening.



Royal Marine Hotel, Hunter's Quay, Dunoon. Tel. 01369 705810

The traditional walk to the Cairn will follow on the Sunday. There is a church service at Kilfinan Parish, which all members who wish, have been invited to attend by the Rev. Kellas, as many did last year.

The walk would then take place after the service.

SOCIETY MANAGER'S REPORT

Dear Clanspeople,

Much has happened since the last Clan Bulletin and our A.G.M. The Gathering was a great success this year, due to many of our

kin gathering at Kilfinan and enjoying themselves, which was so very nice to see.

This year Barbara and I took great enjoyment and pleasure from attending trade Fairs and sales meetings on behalf of the Clan. We have made contact with many companies and their salespeople in order to bring new products and Clan memorabilia to you all at Kilfinan. There will be many of you who have not been able to attend our gatherings and therefore have not been able to see the new merchandise at first hand. But I can assure you all it is worthwhile buying many of these items as Christmas presents.

For example: Ideas for men for their wives:-

(1) Clan crested velour hand-bags are only £35.00. These can also be supplied in sporran style.

(2) Clan crested tablemats are £20.00 a set, produced also in leather finish at £35.00 a set etc.

Available also to buy are items suitable for women to buy their husbands:-

(1) The new Clan crested ties in blue background, which have only come onto our price list this year and are made available only through the Clan society at price £12.50.

(2) A new outfit of kilts, jackets, sporrans and shoes etc, now available through the clan.

There is also a special price for larger items this year, such as gold and silver plated dirks, knives and forks sets. They will be sold by the Clan for £350.00 which normally retail at £550.00, etc.

For the children we have a selection of Clan notebooks, key fobs, neckties and bowties. Also available are Clan postcards to send to their friends and Clan badges to wear.

We are sitting on a fairly healthy stock of items at the present. So fulfilling Christmas orders should not be a problem. But please do remember that goods requested which are not currently in stock can take a considerable time to be processed, (ask our Antipodean brothers).

Due to your great support in buying goods and tickets at the raffle at the A.G.M. this year, you enabled us to raise a grand total of over £600.00, double the amount raised the year before.

I hope next year's AGM, held in the Royal Marine Hotel in Dunoon, will be an even greater success, sending our Clan into the next Millennium, with even more growth and prosperity.

Could I in finishing, reiterate my message to you all who attended the AGM, that the Clan depends on new blood and especially new young blood to carry us ever onward. So I would ask you all to bring along children and teenagers to Dunoon so that I and all our other office bearers can plan for meeting their needs in the future.

May I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Special Happy New Year.

Yours Aye, Jim and Barbara J. G. McEwen.

CLAN EWEN PRICE LIST

Clan Notebooks	£1.50
Clan Paper A5 & Envelopes (18 of each)	£4.00
1 Box Green Clan Crested Coasters (6 of each)	£7.00
Book Markers (Blue/Red)	£1.50
Clan Crested Coasters (6 of each)	£7.00
1 Box Clan Crested Table Mats (6 of each)	£35.00
Clan Table Mats (6 of each)	£20.00
Clan Coasters (6 of each)	£9.00
Clan Postcards x 10	£2.00
Clan Chopping Board	£8.50
Clan Tray - Gilt Edge	£10.00
Clan Tray	£8.00
Fishing Table Mats (6 of each)	£14.00
Fishing Coasters (6 of each)	£7.50
Fishing Chopping Board	£6.00

Gents Tartan Ties (Ancient)	£8.50
Gents Tartan Ties (Modem)	£8.50
Gents Tartan Bow Tie (A)	£5.00
Children's Bow Ties (A)	£3.00
Gents Tartan Ties Long (A)	£9.50
Ladies Scarves Wool (A)	£8.00
Ladies Scarves Wool (M)	£8.00
Tartan Material Pure Wool Per Metre -	
Double Skirt Width 61 Inches (Ancient)	£15.00
Ladies Tartan Sashes Wool	£12.00
Tartan Cummerbunds Wool	£15.00
Leather Clan Key Fob	£3.00
Acrylic Tartan Key Ring	£2.00
Clan Fridge Magnet	£3.00
Clan Gold Colour Tartan Brooch	£3.00
Clan Tea Spoons	£3.50
Clan Paperweight	£5.00
Clan Tartan Mugs	£5.00
Clan Crested Velour Cushions (Red, Green & Blue): -	
By Order Only	£22.00
Ladies Velour Clan Crested Hand Bags	£35.00
(Black, Blue & Green): - By Order Only	
(These can also be made in sporran-style)	
Box White 4 Damask Clan Crested Napkins	£30.00
Clan Crested Kilt Pins	£8.00
Silver Clan Crested Key Fob	£8.00
Silver Clan Crested Brooch	£8.00
Clan Wool Scarves (M)	£8.50
Clan Battery Clock	£15.00
Clan History Books	£26.00
Tartan Waistcoat Wool (A)	£25.00
Multi Crested Polyester Waistcoat	£40.00

(Never been available before - only available through Clan Society)

Clan Crested Polyester ties on blue background	£12.50
Bow Ties Crested on blue background	£8.00



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TARTANS AVAILABLE
THROUGH MAIL OR-
DER AND SHOULD BE
PRE-PAID.

**BUY EARLY
FOR CHRISTMAS!**

McEWEN SEARCH

I am searching for information about my McEwen ancestors. They came to America and joined the Mormon Church. They were in Philidelphia Pa first, then Utah. The descent is as follows:

John McEwen b. 1658 in Abbey, Scotland m. Elizabeth Clark b. 1677

John McEwen b. 1699 m. Anna Campbell b. 1698

Children:

Mary b. 1725

John b. 1728 m. Elizabeth Allen

Elizabeth b. 1730

Alexander b. 1734

Ronald b. 1737

William b. 1740

Anna b. 1743

John m. Elizabeth Allen

Children:

Elis b. 1746

Jean b. 1748

Anne b. 1750

William b. 1753 m. Eliza Mendenhall

Children of William:

William b. 1780 m. 1 Eliza Grayham 2 Mary Craig

Anne b. 1782 died young

Belle b. 1783 died young

Martha b. 1785 died young

Betsy b. 1787 d. 1805

If you have information on this family and their spouses, I would appreciate hearing from you. Thank you for your time.

Joanne Hickle jhickle@prodigy.net

EDITOR'S LETTER

AS THE new millennium approaches, has anyone else noticed how so many people are searching for a positive meaning in their lives and are currently at a crossroads, understanding that family ties, culture, heritage, are just as important, if not more so, than being successful. Many more people are now searching for and seeking out their roots. The fear of losing that source of knowledge and link with the past, has galvanised many into finding out about their family origins.

Things tend to happen in cycles and we appear to have gone through a very independent era in the last few years. However, the youngsters coming through the schools and colleges at the moment seem very interested in their family ancestors and relations. I think it probably stems from the fact that they know so little about them and are curious. But also they sense that the 21st century will bear little resemblance to this century, as this does, to the 19th.

In past generations, families were extended and everybody knew distant relations and they came together on regular occasions. Now,

that large family closeness is a lot rarer. Nobody seems to make, or have the time anymore.

If we intend to grow as a Clan Society in the next millennium, then we need to start feeding the young now with information between the oldest generation and the youngest. The simplest way to start is with your immediate family and work outwards. If you are doing your family tree, fine, but do not let it stop with you, pass it on. Tell them about who is who, what they did and where they're from.

As a race of bards, we were once taught about all our family and in a lyrical, verbal way, so as generation after generation remembered it. There are stories out there, tell them!

If I leave you with one thought for the next millennium, it is that with all the time and energy spent finding each other again as Clan Ewen, it would be an absolute tragedy if we lost each other again, as a family, in the next generation to come.

My very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Colin and Family

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 6 JUNE 1998 to 21 MAY 1999

INCOME

Subscriptions Life Single	£120.00,
Subscriptions	764.57
Donations	198.04
Bank Interest	91.47
Sale of Clan Merchandise	504.05
Cash in hand from Clan merchandise	67.00
Raffle at AGM	40.00
	<hr/>
	£1785.13

EXPENDITURE

Printing of one Bulletin	327.00
Postage of two Bulletins	258.28
Other Postage	64.03
Clan Merchandise Purchases	477.18
Adverts in Scots Magazine	175.14

Clan Ceilidh Musicians	80.00	
Stationery and e-mail	17.89	
Room Hire for Meeting	23.50	
Label Printing	57.92	
Income over Expenditure	304.19	£1785.13

TRADING ACCOUNT

Opening Stock	£739.25	Closing Stock	£807.94
Purchases	477.18	Tartan for book cover	30.79
Profit	193.30	Sales	571.00
	<u>1409.73</u>		<u>1409.73</u>

<i>Assets at 21 May 1999</i>		<i>Assets at 22 May 1998</i>	
Treasurer's Account	£2823.53	Heritage Fund	£1113.96
Cash in hand from sales	67.00	Treasurer's account	1431.23
Closing Stock	807.94	Closing Stock	739.25
	<u>£3698.47</u>		<u>£3284.44</u>

The foregoing accounts of the Society have been examined by me and found to be correct.

Charles Ewen, Auditor

NEW MEMBERS

The Chairman, on behalf of the members of the committee welcomes the following new members who have joined since our last publication.

Mr. Robert D. McArthur, FSA. Scot., 3 Highfield Road, **SCONE**, Perth PH2 6RE, Scotland.

Mr. David McEwan, 35D Clouden Road, Kildrum, **CUMBERNAULD**, Glasgow G67 2EW.

Mr. Garry MacEwen, 110 Confederation Avenue, New Maryland, **NEW BRUNSWICK**, EC3 1ES Canada.

Miss Jenny McEwen, 18 Moorfield Avenue, Carleton, **HOLTON-LE-FYLDE**, Lancashire FY6 7QD, England.

Mr. Malcolm McEwan, Union Street, **MONTROSE**.

OFFICE BEARERS

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