



CLAN EWEN SOCIETY

Bulletin

No. 20 NOVEMBER 1988

A. G. M. — SATURDAY, 3rd JUNE, 1989

at 2.00 p.m. in

PARK LODGE HOTEL

32 PARK TERRACE, STIRLING

THE A.G.M. — KILFINAN

Peter MacEwen

We arranged the A.G.M. for the 4th June 1988 at Kilfinan which is just along the way from the farm of Fearnoch and the site of Castle Ewen. Kilfinan is a long, long way from the centres of population and I secretly wondered who, if any, would turn up. Maybe the Committee. Well we would see. In the event I needn't have worried: some twenty-five or so turned up including one or two members who had never been at a meeting before and believe it or not, the day was perfect.

As I write this — at the beginning of September — the rain is streaming down and it has been doing that with one or two exceptional days since the beginning of July. May and June were gorgeous and the farmers were beginning to grumble about water (Fancy!). But that, alas, as we feared, was to be our summer. The great cloud cover which keeps sweeping up from the South West and the Atlantic is firmly back in place. But, the 4th of June dawned fair.

Joan and I started off at eight o'clock from Quothquan. We sailed round Glasgow on the great bypass road (most useful) and headed for Greenock and Gourock to get the ferry across to Argyll. It's a

great road down the Clyde with its waters as blue as a strip of silk ribbon. On the right, Dumbarton and its Rock and the great names coming to mind: Port Glasgow . . . Dennys of Dumbarton; Kincaids; John Brown. Memories of sailing down the water in youth on the old paddle steamers . . . seeing the great Cunarders on the stocks; the 'Queen Mary' and the first 'Elizabeth' . . . and memories of the noise of the riveters, a constant racket. All quiet now, and only the occasional ship on the stocks, but still very beautiful.

We got the Western Ferry a little beyond Gourrock which took us over to Hunter's Quay and it was a crossing to remember. The water was like glass. The sun was hot. All round were the mountains in every shade of green, brown and black, one of the finest sights in the world, as one old sea salt once told me . . . (and he was English!). And on the ferry, drinking it all in alongside of me as we walked the deck was another man. Said he'd been at sea for forty years. He was the typical Scots Engineer.

The road from Hunter's Quay goes over to Glendaruel and then over another twisty little road high up in the hills which brings you down to Otter and along to Fearnoch and Kilfinan. Took us three hours from Quothquan.

The A.G.M. itself went well. There was a good mix of people including a MacEwen, an engineer with Ford's of Detroit; a young British Airways pilot, living in England, but up for his holidays; a retired naval commander from Plymouth. After the meeting and lunch, some of the more active went away down to have a look at the site of the Castle. The rest of us went home. It had been a good day. I hope many of you will be able to make that journey in your own good time and enjoy the sights and the sounds and the colours of the land of our Fathers.

A.G.M. — 4th JUNE Eleanor McEwan Williamson, Secy.

The meeting began with a few words from the Chairman, Rev. Peter MacEwen. He said how delighted we all were to have with us James and Shirley McEwan from Michigan, U.S.A., Lt. Com. and Mrs. McEwen from Plymouth and the Ewen family from Wiltshire as well as all the usual faithful members who always come and support us at our gatherings.

Business was conducted in a friendly and efficient manner and included discussion on the book 'History of the Clan Ewen', which by popular demand is to be again re-printed with tartan cover; a brief talk about family trees and coats of arms; various correspondence with members overseas; Treasurer's and Secretary's reports etc. and

concluded with the re-election of the present Chairman and Committee.

The energetic members then set off for Castle Ewen and were pleased to find that access was easier than previously as cars could be taken quite a considerable distance down the Fearnoch Farm Road. The walk through the woods and over the heather and bracken to the Castle promontory and the views over Kilfinan Bay were much appreciated and the friendly chat and company of people and dogs, all added up to a glorious afternoon. Many photographs were taken of the beautiful surroundings, the deep blue of Loch Fyne and the greens and golds of foliage and bracken. We were all so pleased that our friends from overseas and down South were seeing the area under such ideal conditions and they could not fail to be impressed with the position of the Castle and the crystal clear air.

Returning to the Hotel some gathered for tea or a drink and then reluctantly set off on their homeward journeys. It was agreed by all that it had been a most enjoyable and satisfying A.G.M.

GRANTS OF ARMS FROM THE LORD LYON

Murdo McEwan

Tucked away at the east end of Princes Street, Edinburgh, the office of the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, is set back behind 10 ft. high cast iron railings and a solid (oak?) wooden door. Not a very inviting exterior. Once past these fortifications, however, the visitor climbs the stairs and is immediately made most welcome. This is fortunate because, like myself, I suspect that most people do not really have much idea of what they are looking for, and even less of how to go about it.

The object of my 'expedition' was to obtain some information on Grants of Arms to persons who may claim some association with our Clan; also to find out how one goes about applying for a Grant of Arms.

The first part of the project was, by its very nature, a somewhat open-ended exercise. In the Clan History a number of pre 1904 Arms are described in the Appendix. I was particularly interested in those granted after 1904. A comprehensive index and helpful attentive staff ensured that the exercise would be productive and interesting. Brief details of Awards identified include the following:-

AUGUST 1954: Sir John Hewas Finnie McEwan of Marchmont in the County of Berwick and Bardrochart in the County of Ayr, Baronet, Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Berwick, sometime Member of Parliament for Berwick and Haddington, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, Member of the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers and formerly Captain, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

JOHN Mc EWAN
OF MUCKLY



SHIELD: Per fesse azure and or, in chief a lion rampant argent gorged with an antique crown vert, in base a garb of the first.

CREST: None recorded

MOTTO: None recorded

REFERENCE SOURCE: Burke's General Armory

VARIANT: M'Ewan, MacKewan.

RECORDED: Lyon Register,
Vol. 1, folio 376

OF DATE: 1742.

JANUARY 1955: John Orr Ewing of Buckland, Faringdon in the County of Berkshire, holder of the Military Cross, Major (Retired) 16th Lancers.

MARCH 1973: Vice-Admiral Sir (Robert) Alastair Ewing, Knight Commander of the most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of the most Honourable Order of the Bath, holder of the Distinguished Service Cross, residing at 328 Chilean Avenue, Palm Beach, Florida, USA.

AUGUST 1973: Charles Parker McEwan, Master Sergeant US Army (Retired), holder of the Degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Science, holder of the Purple Heart with four Oak Leaf Clusters.

JUNE 1974: Sir Ronald Archibald Orr Ewing of Ballikinrain and Lennoxbank 5th Baronet, sometime Major in the Scots Guards, member of the Royal Company of Archers (Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland), Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace for the County of Perth residing at Cardross, Port of Menteith in the County of Stirling.

SEPTEMBER 1986: Bailey Bruce McCune, holder of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy and the Diploma in Behavioural Medicine of the University of California, Graduate Institute, Fellow of the Royal Society of Health, Director of Psy-Med Clinic, medical and clinical Psychologist, late Colonel National Guard and Reserves and Commander The First Medical Brigade, State Military Reserve, Assistant Surgeon General Mental Health in the State, residing at Blake Road, Arabian Horse Farms, Yorba Linda, California, USA.

APRIL 1988: Maynard Leslie MacEwen, sometime Captain United States Army, Bookseller, residing at Stockton Springs, Maine, USA.

A varied selection indeed! Particularly interesting to note that Grants of Arms are not simply matters of "ancient history": they are very much in a sense "living history".

In the next Bulletin I hope to contribute a short article on how one

goes about applying for a Grant of Arms. In the meantime, reference Charles Parker McEwan above (August 1973), can anyone throw any light on the phrase "Holder of the Purple Heart with four Oak Leaf Clusters"??? (Information to Bulletin Editor, please.)

TRACING YOUR SCOTTISH ROOTS

The University of Strathclyde will again be holding a summer school course during August 1989. The course will deal with the practical aspects of family history and the problems likely to be encountered in producing a family tree and researching the details of our ancestors' lives. The course will be adapted to suit the interest of those attending. It will be appropriate for both the complete beginner and the more experienced amateur.

Accommodation can be provided in the new residence on the University Campus within five minutes walk from Glasgow City centre.

Further particulars can be obtained from:-

The Continuing Education Centre

University of Strathclyde

McCane Building, 16 Richmond Street,

Glasgow G1 1XQ Scotland, U.K.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Some public libraries hold the following information which can assist in Family Tree Research:-

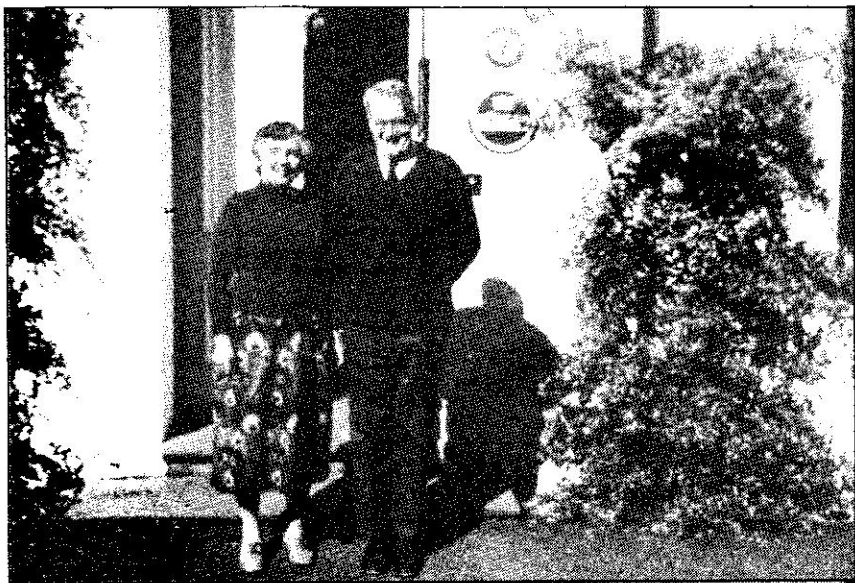
Census Returns 1841 to 1881

Monumental Inscriptions and Cemetery Registers

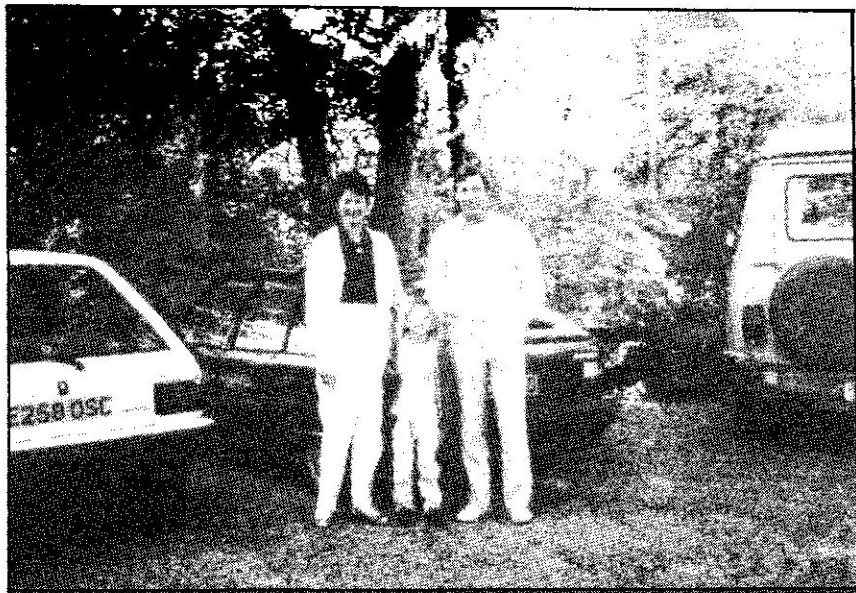
The International Genealogical Index

The IGI is an alphabetical index under surname to the names of deceased people found in the computer of the Genealogical Department of the Latter Day Saints Church. There are 367 fiche cards for Scotland containing mostly births and marriages from parish registers.

THE BATTLE OF THE ARMADA – 1588 – *England v Spain*. The occasion of the 400th Anniversary on the 19th July 1988. A commemoration was held on Plymouth Hoe, attended by H. M. The Queen and Prince Philip. The Standard Bearer for this event was Commander 'Tim' McEwan – one of our Clan members. *Phyllis M. McEwan*



TIM & MARY OUTSIDE KILFINAN HOTEL, THE DAY OF THE A.G.M.



**VISITORS TO A.G.M. AT KILFINAN
EDWARD & RUTH EWEN and their son JAMIE, from WILTSHIRE, ENGLAND**

VISITORS TO SCOTLAND:—



DAPHNE McEWAN FROM MOSGIEL, OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND



in centre of picture

*ROBIN and MARGARET EWEN from GOLDEN VALLEY, MINNESOTA, USA
with MARTHA and CHARLES EWEN from EAST KILBRIDE*

The IGI is useful as a general finding tool. It is not the primary source, but does refer to the source from which the information was taken.

A visit to your local library can be most rewarding. It will save time and money if one continues their research at New Register House, Edinburgh.

CHARLIE EWEN

EDITOR'S NOTES

Major Hugh McEwan from California forwarded a request that all society members be published annually. This was debated at the A.G.M. and committee decided that this would be done every three years as there are only two bulletins per year and both have a list of new members and change of addresses as and when forwarded to us.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT BULLETIN TO BE IN THE EDITOR'S HANDS BY WEDNESDAY, 1st MARCH 1989.

NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Brian C. Davis, 1470 Summer St., Suite 2003, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3A3 CANADA

Walter McWilliams, 25003 Hollyhock Ct., Newhall, CA 91321, USA.

Byron McEuen, 2126 Griffith Place West, Owensboro, KY 42301 USA

Annie Laurie McEuen, 8826 Cottage, Baton Rouge, LA 40806, USA

Ruth Richtermeyer, 4325 Kay Lane, St. Louis, MO 63123, USA

Walter, Byron, Annie and Ruth are all members of the McEuen Family Association of America. Perhaps Walter who is their President will give us a few words on how the Association came into being.

John McEwen, c/o E. McEwen Scragg, 1291 Stonington Drive, Youngstown, OH 44505, USA

FAMILY LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. J. MacEwan Joyce

CLAN EWEN SOCIETY

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st OCTOBER 1987 to 1st JUNE 1988

INCOME	£
Subscriptions (39 Single 24 Family)	236.00
Subscriptions (Life Membership 2)	100.00
Donations	91.41
Interest on Deposit Account	13.05
Interest on Clan Centre Account	3.27
Sale of nine "History of Clan Ewen"	63.35
Profit from sale of Clan Badges, Scarves, etc.	10.87
	<u>517.95</u>

EXPENDITURE	
Printing of Bulletins 18 & 19 also additional copies of Bulletins 1 & 7	230.00
Postage	124.90
Purchase of eight "History of Clan Ewen"	50.50
Sundries (record cards, holder, binder for correspondence, envelopes, etc.)	17.64
Income over Expenditure	<u>94.91</u>
	<u>517.95</u>

TRADING ACCOUNT			
Stock	£66.56	Closing Stock	50.40
Profit	<u>10.87</u>	Sales	<u>27.03</u>
	<u>77.43</u>		<u>77.43</u>

Assets at 1st June 1988

Closing Stock	£ 50.40
Deposit Account	591.43
Clan Centre Account	158.00
Current Account	3.71
Cash in Hand	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>803.54</u>

Assets at 30th Sept. 1987

66.56
488.10
144.73
5.08
<u>4.16</u>
<u>708.63</u>

(Signed) CHARLES EWEN, Clan Treasurer

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

The Treasurer explained to the meeting at the A.G.M. that if it had not been for donations the account would be in the red to approximately £100.00. It was discussed and noted that the subscription had been held at the same level since 1982. The following was approved:-

Single Yearly Membership	£ 4.00
Family " "	£ 7.00
Single Life " "	£50.00
Family Life " "	£75.00

MEMBERSHIP: Single Yearly — 78; Family Yearly — 31; Life Members — 2;
Honorary Life Members — 4.

SIR ALEXANDER MacEWEN — 1875 — 1941

Sir Alexander MacEwen's family came from Sutherland but he was born in 1875 in Calcutta where his father, R.S.T. MacEwen, (the author of the History of Clan Ewen) was a magistrate. He was educated at Clifton College and at Edinburgh University where he took a B.L. degree and qualified as a solicitor. He then joined the firm of his uncle, William Taylor Rule in Inverness where he remained until the end of his life.

At Edinburgh, Alexander MacEwen had been active for the Liberal Party at the University and on coming to Inverness he soon took an interest in the town's social problems, particularly health and housing; he became a member of the Town Council in 1908 and a Magistrate two years later. In 1913 he gave evidence before the Royal Commission on Housing in Scotland which highlighted the then appalling conditions in some parts of the town (with the consequent incidence of disease) and pressed for a municipal housing programme. He left the Town Council before the First War (he was unfit for active service) during which he worked for the relief of Belgium refugees for which he was later awarded the *Medaille du Roi Albert*. He returned to the Council in 1925 when he was immediately elected Provost. In the meantime he had been acting as Secretary to the Highlands Reconstruction Association and in 1920 he had framed the Association's Memorial to the Government urging wide-range improvements for all kinds of transport following the deterioration of the railways, shipping and roads in the aftermath of the war. His Provostship from 1925 to 1931 saw many municipal improvements (including the reconstruction and extension of the Royal Northern Infirmary at a cost of £150,000) and the Burgh's status as capital of the Highlands was enhanced by the granting of the freedom of the Burgh to the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor), the Duke of York (later King George VI) and in one unique ceremony (which became known as the "MacDonald Freedom Ceremony") to Ramsay MacDonald (then Labour Prime Minister), Sir Murdoch MacDonald (the Liberal M.P. for Inverness-shire) and Stanley Baldwin (then Conservative Leader of the Opposition and whose mother was a MacDonald). But his activities were not confined to Inverness or the Highlands and in 1931 he became a member of the Scottish Development Council (the forerunner of the Scottish Development Agency).

In 1930 MacEwen also became Convener of the Inverness-shire Education Committee and on leaving the Town Council in 1931 he became the County Council member for the island of Benbecula. His interest in Gaelic, particularly in education, was recognised by his appointment as Chief of the Gaelic Society of Inverness in 1933.

He was knighted in 1932.

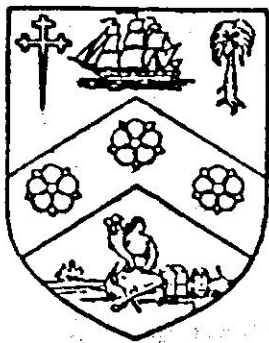
The movement for Scottish Self-Government was gaining ground particularly in Inverness where Neil Gunn (one of the brains behind the National Party of Scotland) was a frequent visitor at the MacEwen's house. MacEwen's experience of the system of government in Scotland now convinced him that some form of self-government was essential but the intransigence and apparent extremism of some members of the N.P.S. made it difficult for him to join them and along with the Duke of Montrose and others he formed the more moderate Scottish Party. Later he became the joint candidate of both parties at a bye-election in Kilmarnock and got over 6,000 votes (or 17%) the highest vote yet for a self-government candidate. By April 1934 the two parties, largely as a result of the joint efforts of MacEwen and John MacCormick, merged under the name of the Scottish National Party with the aim of self-government for Scotland within the frame-work of the U.K. but with control over taxation and finance.

In the General Election of 1935, MacEwen stood as the Nationalist candidate in the Western Isles and got over 25% of the votes — a figure at which political parties became serious contenders for seats. But he was no narrow nationalist: he was a European with a particular affection for France in which he had spent much of his youth.

MacEwen's publications included two books which embody his political testament, "The Thistle and the Rose" (1932) and "Towards Freedom" (1938). In the latter book he outlined his ideas on co-operative democracy and the importance of a spiritual element in public life and from it emerges his own deep Christian faith and the charity and tolerance which characterised his whole life.

Unhappily, he did not live to see the fruition of two causes for which he had campaigned over the years, the development of hydro-electricity in the Highlands and the setting up of a Highlands and Islands Development Board. The necessity for the latter was set out in a far-seeing booklet "Act Now for the Highlands and Islands" which he wrote jointly with John Lorne Campbell in 1939.

QUERY FOR THE CLAN BULLETIN:-



Major Hugh McEwan (Casta del Sol, 28356 Borgona, Mission Viejo, CA 92692, USA) asks if anyone can identify, or provide any information on the Arms depicted at the bottom of page 44 of R. S. T. MacEwen's "Clan Ewen History".

CLAN EMBLEM

The Clan Ewen emblem of the regenerating oak tree is a striking one and if any reader can throw light on the origins of this it would be of interest.

A letter from Malcolm R. Innes of Edingight, the Lord Lyon King of Arms, to member Rennie McOwan says that the crest is that of McEwen of Bardrochat, but the Lord Lyon cannot say why this motto of "Reviresco" was chosen.

The Lord Lyon adds: *'It is perhaps strange that an oak tree was chosen when the name MacEwen derives from the Gaelic Mac Eoghain, a Gaelic personal name meaning 'born of the yew-tree'. One might have expected a yew stump rather than an oak'.*

1989

SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL GATHERING

&

WORLD CONGRESS OF SCOTS

SATURDAY 6th — SUNDAY 14th MAY, 1989

I N V E R N E S S

Clan Ewen will be having a booth from Monday, 8th — Thursday, 11th May at the Ice Rink. We look for helpers and we hope to welcome many visitors during this week.

People willing to help should contact our Vice Chairman —

Lt. Col. A. R. Ewing — Telephone 776 3525
