

CLAN EWEN SOCIETY



CLAN CEILIDH SATURDAY, JUNE 7th, 1997

A ceilidh will be held in the Clan Room, Kilfinan Hotel at 9.00 p.m. A warm welcome is extended to all.

It is hoped that members will give it their full support and make this a most enjoyable evening.

A small charge will be necessary to cover the cost of the musicians.

Accommodation can be obtained at the following:

<i>Hotels:</i> Kilfinan Hotel, Kilfinan	Tel. 01700 821201
Royal Hotel, Tignabruaich	Tel. 01700 811239

Guest Houses, Bed and Breakfast:

Mrs. McKay, Kilfinan	Tel. 01700 811397
Mrs. Alexander, Kames	Tel. 01700 811218
"Arden Eden", Tignabruaich	Tel. 01700 811354

FAILTE

ANOTHER SPRING is in the process of blossoming forth, albeit, it is somewhat tardy in so doing.

This has been accentuated by cold winds and night frosts aided and abetted by a superfluity of rain.

Hardly a day has passed without some precipitation. Spare a thought for those who live south of the border, where reservoirs all seem to be at a low ebb and dire threats of water rationing, in the summer to come.

We do not seem to be making much progress in our quest to establish a Chief. You will recall that I had written to the brewers - McEwan - making an approach for sponsorship. Not having had a reply within a reasonable lapse of time, I 'phoned and spoke to their "Brands Manager" who stated that he had to convince his board of directors that parting with a large sum of money must help to boost the prolonged sales of their products. Apart from creating a great deal of publicity at the inauguration ceremony of the Chief, and offering free publicity in this most illustrious, and widely read magazine I could not think of anything else to tempt him. He was not convinced. There the matter stands, *pro tem*.

Your committee met at Ballaig, the residence of Jack and Gudrun McEwan Joyce, on Sunday, 6th June, when we had a quorum.

The various items on the agenda were discussed, with particular reference to:

- (a) The Chiefship. This was discussed at length, but no fresh ideas were developed as to the raising of funds;
- (b) Ron Ewing gave us an up-date on sales which have been quite gratifying. Sales of the Clan History have been good, and stocks are at a very low level. Eleanor has undertaken to order a further 20 copies. We shall endeavour to have some stock by the A.G.M.;
- (c) A discussion on the programme for the A.G.M. took place and it was decided to round off the day with a ceilidh as we did last year;
- (d) We were all somewhat surprised to learn that out of a total membership of some 180 souls 63 members had not paid their membership fee.

We all enjoyed our day at Ballaig and offer our grateful thanks to Gudrun and Jack for their hospitality.

Finally, A number of members of the committee have been in office for quite a number of years and feel that their places should be taken by some of the newer and younger members of the society. Please give this some thought.

Lastly, I am sure that you will all wish to join with me in wishing our most senior member, Robin MacEwen of Inverness, congratulations on achieving his 90th birthday. May he enjoy good health to attain many more.

Alan Ewing

DEANS GATHER TO MARK ROBIN'S 90th BIRTHDAY

PRESENT and past Deans of the Faculty of Solicitors of the Highlands held a lunchtime party in honour of the 90th birthday of Robin MacEwen at the Lochardil Hotel, Inverness, last week. Mr MacEwen (seated centre), himself a former Dean, was admitted as a solicitor in 1929 and is the Father of the Faculty. Pictured toasting his health are (left to right): back - Frank Critchley, Bryan Longmore, Jeff Macleod, Peter MacDonald, Eric Allen and Bruce Merchant. Front - Michael MacMillan and Ian Morrison.

Congratulations to Robin MacEwen on his 90th birthday. Robin is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable member of the Society and was the instigator of the Society's meeting at Balnain House in October.

Although the gathering was small, it was warmly received, and very well entertained by the Balnain Trust. An apology must be made to Robin, for in an earlier Bulletin, a report on Balnain, misquoted his name and did not give him full credit, which he fully deserves. So I hope Robin will accept our sincerest apologies for the error.



TERRY McEWAN

TERRY McEWAN, a clan member from Bognor Regis in West Sussex, England, has sent me an article tracing his McEwan family history and the journey this search has taken him on. I'm sure it will be of great interest to other members who are exploring and searching, in a similar way. *Editor*

Terry writes, Firstly, I should explain how the family history became so important to me. I have to go back to my childhood visits to my grandfather, Alexander

James McEwan. He had a rich speaking voice, enjoyed his glass of malt and smoked a pipe. Born in 1876 in Glasgow, at the age of 15, he started work with the Glasgow Railway and whilst working there, he met my grandmother, Ada Ella Brice, the daughter of James Caselick Brice, an Inland Revenue Officer. He moved to Rotherhithe and married Ada at "All Saints" in 1900. Alexander then worked for the London and North Eastern Railways until retiring in 1936. On my visits he would tell me of the "Castle", the Clan battles and the countryside. I promised myself that one day I would see the ruins of the castle and Scotland. At the latter end of my childhood at 14, I joined the Civil Defence in London, did my spell of fire watching, enlisted in the "Home Guard" before being "called up" for the army. On returning to Civvy street I continued my work in accountancy, got married, became a father and continued in work until early retirement due to glaucoma in the right eye.

Now, having more time, I decided it was good timing for my belated visit to Scotland. Although I had decided to cease driving, my son and his friend, who are both enthusiasts of mountain walking, volunteered to share the driving. I discussed the idea with Jean, my wife and she agreed, (although, I understood later with some apprehension of the journey). But Jean knew I wanted to visit family graves, homes and businesses of McEwan family links.

My uncle "Les" lives in Findon and he was the oldest living relative. Before we set out I contacted him and he gave me all the family births, marriages and deaths known. He also had in his possession a brass plate from a desk presented to my great grandfather Alexander on his retirement as secretary of No. 2 Branch Blacksmith's Union, Greenock. In addition, he had details of my great grandfather's marriage showing Alexander had married Ann Allan on 31st December, 1869 at Free West Church at Greenock. Both fathers are noted, Alexander's father James McEwan, a ship's carpenter, Ann's father James Allan, a gas works foreman at Greenock. I then contacted the burials officer at Greenock Cemetery to find the resting place of Alexander.

When I received the reply I was pleased to find eight other members of the family had been interred in the same place. Making the journey, we reached Greenock and the cemetery. To my amazement the headstone was very large, 8 ft. by 5 ft. and nearby was another family plot with other previously unknown members of the McEwan registered.

On leaving Greenock, we found and visited the Castle site and Cairn. The McEwan Castle signs were very clear, but we came unprepared for the heath and bog terrain. Enquiries were made at the Kilfinan Hotel and we found that the "Bulletin" was being published. On returning home, I later wrote to Allan and Murdo, becoming a member of Clan Ewen Society.

In researching the family further, I contacted the Watt Library and had a reply from a Mrs. Couparwhite who seemed most interested in the task of compiling my family history. The information coming from her was quite incredible, dates

of deaths, marriages, births, etc. From the death dates, I again contacted the burial officer. He returned with eight more sites of interment covering around 30 members of McEwan and Allan families.

Now I was hooked, I received copy census returns from the Watt Library and places of birth. The next step was to follow the family line of James McEwan, my great great grandfather, his place of birth being Kilmarnock. In my ignorance I first contacted Kilmarnock Library, but eventually wrote to the right place. A reply coming from Graham Hopner, again, I had struck gold. Graham was able to trace James' marriage to Jean Scoullar in 1838.

I had already seen his death certificate showing his father as James, a maltster by profession and his mother Elizabeth McLuckie, which I learned was a derivation of the name Lucas and is part of the Lamont Clan name. He also found the marriage of James and Elizabeth on 31st May, 1812 at Kippen, from the Old Kilpatrick register. Also, from this register, finding that the son James McEwan who married Jean Scoullar took place at Little Mill, Duntocher, a child being born to them in 1838.

Interestingly, the James who was a maltman at Badshalloch and married Elizabeth McLuckie, his name was spelt McEoun, an older and rarer version of the name. Along with James, they also had two daughters, Jean, born 15th March, 1815 and Ann on 4th July, 1819 at the house called "Raws". A son, Alexander, followed in 1821 on 10th July. The house at "Raws" still stands although covered in Ivy. This is where James used to carry out the malting process for producing ale. He used to collect the barley from the field. It is fascinating to know that the McEwans have been brewing ale independently from 1812 at Badshalloch long before the more famous line of William McEwan and Fountain Brewery. There could yet be a family link.

From the International Index it appears that the family could be linked as far back as 1663 as McEoun. I have now found a relative living in Perth, a second cousin, daughter of James of Duntocher. She has told me her father worked in the London Midland Scottish Railway all his life.

He had an office on Princes Pier where the pleasure boats and steamers used to stop. Janet, my cousin, and her mother used to get free trips because her father knew all the ships Captains.

The areas so far traced, where the family resided were Little Mill, Duntocher, Kippen, Badshalloch, The Raws, Renfrewshire, Paisley, Erskine, Greenock. From the original name of the family McEoun I have traced changes to McEwing, McEwen and latterly McEwan beginning with the base of James and Elizabeth McLuckie in Kippen on 31st May, 1812.

I hope this little journey into the past has been of interest and who knows, there may be someone out there that might recognise part of their own family line.

Terry McEwan.

With thanks to both Mr. Graham Hopner of Kilmarnock Library and Mrs. Couparwhite of the Watt Library in appreciation of their help.
A journey of historical research into a McEwan family. A trip that is probably available to most of us if you know where to look.

Editor

The Annual General Meeting and Gathering of Clan Ewen Society

will be held at 1.30 p.m.
on Saturday, 7th June, 1997
in the Kilfinan Hotel, Kilfinan, Argyll
with a walk to the Cairn after the meeting.

Old Friends and New Members all welcome

Editor: As you may have already noticed, the time of the meeting has altered since the last Bulletin.

At the Society's Committee Spring Meeting in April, it was agreed to move the Gathering to the afternoon to allow more time for people making long journeys, to arrive in time for the event. We apologise for any confusion or problems this may, or has caused anyone in altering arrangements.

Hoping also, that the Bulletin reaches everyone in time to give advance warning of the changes.

McEWAN HISTORY - THE IRISH CONNECTION (cont.)

IRELAND, until the fifth century was a pagan country. It was St. Patrick introducing Christianity, which ushered in Ireland's golden age of learning. New laws, schools and poets abounded, actively encouraged by the monastic centres. Alongside this growth in the arts, however, was the constant warring between the Clans to retain power. St. Patrick baptised Eoghan, King of Ailech. The island of Iona was the burial site for the Kings of Ailech and Antrim. The Irish Prince of Dalriada in North Antrim, Fergus MacErc crossed to Argyll in 470 a.d. with three brothers, one being Loarn who became King of Dalriada in Argyll. In the ninth century in Ireland, the Vikings descended, plundering the monasteries and destroying much of the wealth of artistic heritage. Some of the Danes and Vikings settled in the area, founding the ports of Dublin and Waterford. The

Kings of Ailech in Antrim would spend several centuries, fighting the Norse Kings of Dublin.

Niall Glun Dubh (Black Knee), King of Ireland in 890 a.d. was killed in battle in 919 a.d. The grandson of Niall, Domhnall took the name Niall as a surname, the first to use the name O'Neill.

This Royal family held the Kingship of Ireland from the fifth to the eleventh century and the twelfth till the last O'Neill Chief in 1608, the only break being when Brian Boru wrested the throne of Ireland from Maoilseachlan or (Malachy), leader of the northern O'Neill's. After losing the Kingship, his descendants remained in Munster and took the name MacLaughlin, beginning a long feud with the O'Neill's over the High Kingship.

A major turning point came in 1014, at the battle of Clontarf in Dublin. The Irish forces under High King Brian Boru, defeated the Norsemen and the Norse Earl of Orkney, Sigurd along with their Scots Allies. However, just after the battle, Brian Boru was killed leaving a power vacuum which the Kings of Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connaught fought over. All of these Kings descend from the eight sons of Niall of the Nine Hostages. The biggest rivalry was between the Ulster MacLachlann's and the Connaught O'Connor's, allies of the O'Neills. This rivalry allowed a Norman settlement to begin and through this, an invasion followed, led by the Earl of Pembroke, a Norman Lord better known as "Strongbow". Within eight years of arriving, the Normans took over most of the country apart from Ulster and Connaught. They built castles across Athlone, Clonmacnois, Roscrea and Clones, with Cael-uisce on the Erne; their intention, to bridle the Ulster Kings. At that particular time, the Cenel Eoghain of Tyrone were ruled by a great King in Aedh O'Neill, who ruled from 1196 to 1230. He represented one branch of royal line of descent from Niall Black Knee, the other being the MacLachlanns. Aedh found a staunch ally in Egnechan O'Donnell who united with O'Neill to crush the MacLachlann candidate in the battle of Portrush.

From this beginning, the O'Neill's and the O'Donnell's established an unbroken line of Kingship which lasted until 1603.

The last great challenge from the O'Neill line came at the battle of Kinsale, where an army of the Earl of Tyrone, Hugh O'Neill and Red Hugh O'Donnell marched from Ulster to meet an English Norman army of superior armour and numbers resulting in the crushing of many of the Irish and Scots Clan Chiefs who, by kinship had come together against a common enemy.

In defeat, O'Neill and O'Donnell, together with more than 90 of the once most powerful chiefs in Ulster and their families, sailed from Lough Swilly in County Donegal to permanent exile. The tragedy for Ireland and its line of O'Neill Kings, later became known as the "Flight of the Earls."

As the O'Neill's were scattered, so were the McEwan's. The links between the two are historically very strong. The emblem of the McEwan's is a stump of Oak tree showing new growth; in a continuous line of descent from Niall of the Nine Hostages, who was killed jousting in France.

Through his eldest son, Laogarius (Laogaire) became the first Christian monarch, with the arrival of St. Patrick.

The four younger sons of Niall went north to Ulster and Antrim, becoming in turn O'Neill's, Princes of Tir Eoghan, O'Donnell of Tir Connell, O'Melaghlin's Kings of Meath and the O'Docherty's of Lands of Inishowen.

The Kings of Connaught allied to O'Neill's were the O'Connor's, one of their branches being the Keane's or (Cattain) who also have an oak tree as their emblem.

In a similar position amongst the O'Donnell's of Donegal are the O'Boyle branch, who have an oak as their emblem. In fact, all the tribes that belong to O'Neill descent have within their shields an oak emblem and the red hand of the O'Neill Knights.

The O'Connor Kings of Connaught, from the race of Conn, descend from King Conchobar, son of Fionn. The Chief of the Munster branch was O'Connor Kerry, along with O'Connor Roe and O'Connor Iraght. Interestingly, amongst the McEwans you find the names Kerry and Roe used for settlements. Iraght, you find amongst the Cameron's who are related to us (Erracht).

Beanmhide O'Connor, granddaughter of King Rory O'Connor, married Maolmhuire MacSweeney who descends from (Suibhne) Sweeney, who was a great grandson of Anrathan. Suibhne built Castle Sween in Knapdale. The ancestors of MacSweeney arrived in Knapdale alongside Anrathan, when he left Ailech after a dispute over the High Kingship. For 200 years the MacSweeney's stayed in Scotland. They returned after the battle of Bannockburn, having supported the MacDougall's against Bruce; they lost their lands. In Ireland, they returned to their Rathmullan seat, in sight almost of the ancient Fort of Grianan of Ailech circa 1700 b.c. from which they had departed for Scotland over 200 years before. In their movements, they still maintained a constant link with both Scotland and Ireland, the battleaxe chieftains, serving in both Irish and Scottish conflicts when called upon by family kin.

In Scotland the inauguration of the MacSuibhne Chiefs took place at Iona, as did the O'Neill's and O'Donnell's. The kings were buried at Iona. In Ireland they were inaugurated at Kilmacrenan in County Donegal, where the MacSuibhne Fanad had the privilege of sitting at the right hand side of the O'Donnell, Prince of Tir Connell.

McEWEN THE MARINER

THOMAS FORSYTH McEWEN was a truly remarkable man. Born into slavery in the days before emancipation, on the island of Grenada in the West Indies, his courage, determination and sheer will power took him from the warm waters of the Caribbean across the turbulent Atlantic seas and finally to our Australian shores where he carved out his career. He proved to be a brilliant

seaman lauded by his peers as he steered his small and sometimes unwieldy vessels through the virtually uncharted waters off the Queensland coast.

His job was to bring mail and supplies to new settlements in the north, and with few roads and no rail to rely on, Thomas and his fellow mariners became a lifeline to these people. These intrepid sailors risked their lives in often cyclonic waters and carved a name in our early Australian history by their efforts.

Thomas also became well known for his volatile nature, his brushes with the law and his occasional use of the colourful Australian vernacular, particularly when roused. In contrast, his kindness and generosity to those who needed his help, was recognised by the presentations he received from passengers on many occasions and the accolades from his fellow mariners.

In all a complex but engaging personality, well suited to live the life he had chosen and the very epitome of what was expected of the captains of the "mosquito fleet" of those times.

Grenada, a small and the most southerly island of the Windward group in the Caribbean, and where Thomas began his life, was a far cry from the Queensland waters where he spent most of his adulthood. Its chequered history over the centuries had led to a highly multi-cultured population and varied but very definite social stratas. When "discovered" by Christopher Columbus late in the fifteenth century, the peaceful Arawaks had already been conquered by the warlike Carig Indians coming in droves in their war canoes from South America. They gradually ventured further north and it is from them that we get the name "Caribbean".

Over the next centuries the French and British waged a cat and mouse game for supremacy to enable them to colonise, build plantations and export their sugar; a very profitable business. It was the French who first introduced slaves from Africa and by the time the British took over in the late eighteenth century they out-numbered the Europeans by ten to one. Subsequently, two rival cultures emerged in Grenada between the established French community and the newly emergent British one.

This was responsible for the Fedon rebellion led by the French promising to abolish slavery, but the uprising was crushed in 1796. After that the British became the dominant group, and among these we find David McEwen living on the island - Thomas' grandfather.

It must be remembered that in the aftermath of the Fedon rebellion when thousands left the island, there was a great shortage of eligible women of marriageable age, especially on the plantations where life was sometimes very dull. Therefore the white estate managers and owners, among others, turned to the slave women and naturally chose the best looking and the healthiest. In some cases there was a lasting love between them - in others both the slave and her children were manumitted (freed) and often received land, money and education. This of

course, led to the establishment of a varied society both in colour and names - many bearing Scottish and French ones, both of which are very distinctive.

So it happened that Sarah Hall - a free mestee (of Spanish Amerindian parentage) became Thomas' grandmother. She and David McEwen had two children, the first James born in 1797 followed by Elizabeth in 1800.

The following year David married a widow - Sophia Maria Palmer - who had three sons and whose late husband had been President of the Island Legislative Council. They then had four more children, Samuel, Margaret, Archibald and Sarah. Sarah's life has been well documented from her education in Dundee, Scotland to her marriage in Jamaica and eventual return to Grenada where she died in 1873. Her present day descendant, Ray Smith, of Grenada has been responsible for this.

From the records one and a half centuries old, Thomas' grandfather's life is pieced together gradually. David owned St. Cyr Estate in the district of St. Andrews and at some stage before 1817 was appointed to be Receiver of Confiscated Properties for His Majesty. He had several trips back to Great Britain which are evidenced by his appointment of Power of Attorneys to act for him while he was away. His marriage to Sophia must have failed over the years, as although she is still mentioned in his will as his wife, in 1813 he obviously entered into another liaison with a Florence Chateau and this must have been a lasting relationship, not necessarily legalised. With Florence he added to his family another six children, Thomas, Mary, David, Felix, Louisa and Margaret.

So it appears that David's busy life was divided by his running of St. Cyr Estate, his position as Receiver of Confiscated Estates, his fairly regular sojourns to Great Britain and his large and varied family. His family commitment is evidenced in many ways - assisting his son Samuel to pay off a plantation he had bought called Balthagard, putting money aside to allow his son Archibald to enter holy orders at Cambridge and his very will itself. This was a lengthy document at least eight pages long detailing precisely how his money, estates and chattels were to be divided. His wife Sophia Maria, sons Samuel and Archibald, daughter Sarah and the children of his deceased daughter Margaret, all benefited in different ways. So too did Florence Chateau and his natural born children become beneficiaries from this remarkable document. In the terminology of that day, natural born children were those born out of wedlock as opposed to lawful born children who were born to a wife.

Of those not mentioned in the will of David McEwen were Sarah Hall and her two children from David's first liaison, James and Elizabeth. James, like his father before him, also was attracted to many of the slaves and free coloureds working on and around the plantations. One in particular was a Carib Indian slave called Charlotte Nash and she gave birth to two children, Frances born in 1822 and Thomas on 25th August, 1825. At his baptism, Thomas' sponsors were his uncle Samuel McEwen and estate manager Thomas Forsyth - hence his name Thomas Forsyth McEwen.

and benefit or to be disposed of as she may think proper. I give and bequeath also to my said beloved daughter, Sarah Hall Prudhomme, the whole of my freehold property with the building thereon erected facing Tyrell Street and extending to the carinage and which I now occupy, for the use of her and her children - also the large mirror. My son Ewen James - my gold watch with chain and trinkets. My wife Ellen George - a bedstead, a mattress, a bolster with two pillows also a small press. Remainder to my two grand-children Jane and James, offspring of my late son Archibald Samuel!

Meanwhile Thomas had left home at around the age of 13. Hearsay tells us that his mother had previously died when he was about nine years of age and this would have coincided roughly with the death of his first stepmother, Jane. His mother's death reportedly affected him deeply and so two or three years later and about the time his father remarried, Thomas left home to go to sea. By the age of 15 he was sailing as an apprentice out of Halifax, Nova Scotia on the Emily. This was followed by the Falkland and Fleter - all in the West Indian trade and probably allowed Thomas to keep in touch with some of his family in Grenada.

However, after four years as an apprentice he sailed on the Alexenia as an Able Seaman and then joined the Indus to Liverpool. From there Thomas appeared to work out of London on ships including the Agincourt, Conway, Eagle, Maria Hardy and the Magdalena to Glasgow. He obviously gained a wealth of experience in these years with so many different ships of varying tonnage plying their trade in waters not noted for being easy to negotiate, especially in those years.

He joined the Chusan as Able Seaman and Quartermaster and made his first trip to Sydney in 1852.

This was P. & O.'s first steamship to arrive in Sydney. Chusan left Southampton on 15th May via St. Vincent, Capetown and Port Phillip to inaugurate the P. & O. Mail Service to Sydney. It arrived to a great welcome on 3rd August and from then for the next two years, together with the Shanghai, provided the regular link between Australia and Singapore where the connection was made with the mail service between Suez and Hong Kong. Thomas was bosun when he left and transhipped to the Norma working out of Sydney. He then became second mate on the Wizard and Mouria and even worked on the Harbour Pilot Service as a boatsman during the years 1855/56.

By 1856 and through 1857 he became Master of the schooner Ariel working out of Sydney and it was during this period of his life that Thomas met Ann Loiterton. She was living at North Sydney, probably Milsons Point, and Thomas would also be near the docks in the same vicinity during his sojourns in Sydney.

Ann Loiterton was formerly Ann White, an English lass born in Leek (north of Boston) in Lincolnshire around 1830. In 1850, age 20, she was working as a

house servant in Wigtoft and the following year she married an Adam Loiterton in Grove Street Chapel, Boston. Nine months later Adam and Ann together with Adam's brother Charles and his family, and sister Elizabeth and her family sailed from London on the Harriet to Sydney. What motivated the whole family to emigrate "en masse" can only be guessed at, but perhaps it would be unlikely they would ever own their own farms in England as at that time the lot of the farm labourer was very lowly indeed. In contrast to that expectation, the British government of the day was offering assisted passages to Australia and a new life in a new country where land was plentiful and farmers were badly needed to establish the colony.

The Harriet arrived in Sydney in May but it was June before the families could depart for the Camden area, Cobbity in particular, to lease land and start clearing for their first wheat crop. For some reason, Adam and Ann must have returned to North Sydney where Adam worked as a labourer until their daughter Sarah Ann was born in 1854. The following January little Sarah died aged nine months and was buried at Cobbity Paddock. The months after that must have been difficult ones for Adam and Ann and, in fact, it appears that they must have parted company. By 1857 Adam had moved to Wagga Wagga and Ann had met Thomas Forsyth McEwen. On 17th June, 1858 she gave birth to another daughter, Cassandra, at Milsons Point, North Shore. The father of the child was Thomas McEwen, a mariner, from the West Indies.

By this stage Thomas had joined the Pilot Service at Rockhampton, but on the separation of Queensland from New South Wales, this was closed. However, when gold was discovered at Canoon Station on Bonnie Doon Creek just north of Rockhampton it appears that he was there. Lorna MacDonald in her book "Rockhampton - a History of City and Districts" makes reference to Thomas' involvement in the subsequent "gold rush" that followed when she said "Captain McEwen captained the Canoon that masterpiece of steam naval architecture and organised two tons of damper to be made when the biscuits ran out".

After that Thomas really began to make his mark on this stretch of coastline. He became master of the ketch Elida, at Rockhampton. We assume Ann and baby Cassandra must have accompanied him to Rockhampton, which was still virtually a "tent city" in those days. In the Elida he made his first trip to Port Denison which had only been settled earlier that year.

In November of that year, Thomas became master of the 20 ton ketch, Ben Bolt and had the first mail contract to carry mails between Rockhampton and Bowen at 50 pounds per month. Meanwhile, Ann had given birth to a son as he noted in an exercise book "Thomas William McEwen born Monday, 17th September, 1860 at a quarter to 10 at night at Rockhampton, on the banks of the river". This was followed three years later by another son, John Henry Forsyth, born, also in Rockhampton - To be continued.

This article was produced for the Bulletin by Bunty Forsyth Mason, our Australian correspondent.



Bardrochat, the Ayrshire home of Alexander McEwen, the singer-guitarist, and a McEwen site for centuries. Alex is the fourth son of the 1st Baronet of Marchmont (in Berwickshire) and Bardrochat. His sister, Christian Hesketh, is an authority on tartan and Scottish history generally, and is the rugby union correspondent for the Spectator magazine. His nephew, John, the 5th Baronet, is preparing to press his claim to the Chiefship of the Clan Ewen.

"REVIRESCO" translates as "We Shall Rise Again". Renewal is taking place, growing strand by strand as we make contacts with each other.

THE MACEWENS AS POETS

HISTORICALLY the MacEwens were well known as bards / poets, holding lands by virtue of their office. Whilst possibly not being the best known, they were certainly in the "first division". The greatest bardic line is (arguably) that of MacMhuirich - having a strong Scottish / Irish influence, and lasting from the early 13th century through to the 18th century. They were based in South Kintyre - just across the water from Ireland - on extensive fertile farmland, and had very close associations with the Lord of the Isles. Other hereditary bardic lines included the O'Muirgheasains (again, a strong Irish connection) who were bards to the MacLeods of Harris and Dunvegan. Lesser known bards were attached to the Chief of the MacGregors, and to the Chief of Macintosh.

Much of the poetry from these bards consisted of a careful blending of historical fact (and, often, some fiction to enhance it) interwoven with a genealogical record of the Chief for whom the poetry was composed. While, therefore, we get the

benefit of history and genealogy passing from one generation to the next, it must be remembered that the element of fiction thrown in can "muddy the waters" a bit - so everything should not necessarily be accepted at face value.

In a long poem attributed to one of the MacEwen bardic family around 1650 for the Chief of the Campbells, close parallels are drawn with the Courts of King Arthur:

His of right are the young warriors of the isles,
Let him not allow the charter that is his to slip his grasp;
The leadership of the Gael is his by right,
He is the one whose hosts range most widely.
From Ireland to the outmost bounds of Lewis
The warriors of the rugged lands, stern of deed,
Are his, as of right, all ready to obey his command;
Each one of these is an auxiliary of his.
If he follows in the steps of his forefathers
Servants will stay with him,
Companies of poets will be in his stronghold -
They will not move to their native territories.
Tales of wonder were told
To generous Arthur daily and nightly;
He was not interested in tasting a bite
Until the bones of a tale were laid before him.
Out from their pavilion and into the assembly
Went a full complement of men of art and learning of every kind;
Gold was distributed by the Kings
To the hearty exuberant throng as they sat over their drink.

This historical eulogy - very flattering - goes on to a succinct genealogy (64 generations in one verse!) to the poem's rousing conclusion:

Three score and four generations
Of your warrior stock from Archibald
To the generation of Adam who did not do violence to understanding,
In the line of that generous, valiant company that kept their honour
well.

There you have the culminating point of your story,
With warrant of chronicle behind it,
From the lips of wise men, omitting no one,
O young, modest man whose cheeks are fresh and joyous.

A much earlier example of a "praise poem" takes us back in time to about 1475 where a MacEwen bard records the universal grief following the death of MacDougall of Dunollie. The scenes conjured up by the words are magnificent, and merit reading two or three times, slowly, in a quiet room:

The chick not yet hatched from the egg suffers drought
Now that MacDougall of Dunollie is dead;
Since he died (he was of the race of Conn)
No nut has parted from the trees.
A savage storm breaks the woods,
The yawning ocean laments him;
On the high part of the shore, because of John's death,
Flocks of birds have been unable to descend from the sky and settle.

Closer to the MacEwen's own heart is the poem addressed to the Marquess of Argyll, in the early 1640s, requesting the return of lands which had been granted to the MacEwens by the Campbells as their right, by virtue of their bardic office. It is quoted as representing a particularly fine example of the etiquette, or series of conventions, governing the relationship between the Chief / patron and the poet:

Restore to me my father's heritage
In honour of the art of poetry,
O branch laden with fruit,
As one might expect from the greatness of your name and the praise
you have had.
Understand, O darling of the schools
And guiding star of poets,
Since you are Lord over your kin,
That wrong inflicted by you on me is unjust.
The tribute of my ancestors from whom I am sprung,
The fervour of love, the rigour of their art;
What rent brings more lasting fame,
O chief whose hand is most resolute in warfare?
It is not gold nor other treasure
That you will get from me in special;
It is not tribute, nor gift of cattle,
But the choicest of our hard-wrought poems.
In the ancient books of men of learning,
And in the gleanings of our ever-fresh poems,
There will remain on record each good deed that shall be done to me,
O fair-judging, bright and lofty earl.

The above is but the briefest snapshot of a huge and complex subject - giving just a hint of the quality of work and of the influence / contribution made by our forebears. I am indebted to Maureen O'Brien for her introduction to the subject; also, and more so, to Derick Thomson whose book "An Introduction to Gaelic Poetry" (ISBN 0 7486 0127 9) inspired this short article. Anyone interested in pursuing the matter further could make a positive start by reading this book.

A. G. Murdo McEwan

EARLY CELTIC BARDS

AS AN EXTENSION of the article by Murdo on McEwan bards and Irish links with them. What follows is a continuation of the same theme. Between the 13th and 18th century, the wealth of bardic talent and quality of their work is very apparent. Murdo's article gave examples of their work.

Amongst these bards that are mentioned there could well be the writers of the poetry Murdo mentions.

An Irish historian, known as Aodh Buidhe Mac-an-Bhaird, or in English, fair and yellow Eugene MacAnward. He is known in Latin as Vardaeus, a bard truly of the first rank of literary men. Born in County Donegal around 1580, he was of a hereditary family of poets of the O'Donnell's who had flourished in Tir Connell from the 12th century. They gave their name to a wild district still known as Letter Mac-an-Ward, "the countryside of the bard's sons".

Earlier men of letters from the family are Fearghal Mac-an-Bhaird the younger, circa 1260. He was brought up as a bard by Magnus, Chief of the O'Cathains or (O'Cahan). Fearghal's elder brother was killed in the battle of Down in 1260. He wrote a lament for his brother Cearbhall and the other chiefs slain there. It has been edited and translated by J. O'Donovan and is in the Miscellany of Celtic Studies Society, Dublin, published 1849 p.404.

Another is Eoghan Reach Mac-an-Bhaird, Chief bard of Tir Connell, who wrote a poem of 136 stanzas in length (Rhymed Verse). Written on the death of Domhnall O'Donnell "Leasg an adhaighsi ar eas ruadh", (sloth is this night on Assaroe).

A Fearghal Mac-an-Bhaird served as bard to Black Hugh O'Donnell, writing an elegy for him "Ni trath aith reachius dahuil chonuill!" (no time of sorrow for the seed of Connell). Maolmhuire, flourished in 1587, son of Connla. He wrote a poem encouraging Red Hugh, son of Black Hugh O'Donnell to challenge for the High Kingship in Ireland. Throughout the Norman Invasion, he wrote poems encouraging the race of Conn to fight on. Writing on the ruins of Donegal Castle after it was destroyed and on "Turloch of the Wine", relating to Hugh bearing up when he was imprisoned in Dublin Castle in 1587.

Cu-ulaidh (Cuillin) flourished around 1608. He wrote an address to Red Hugh and the other knights on their voyage to Spain after their defeat at the Battle of Kinsale. He also wrote an elegy to Ruadhri MacSweeney the battleaxe Chief-tain and the First Earl of Tir Connell (Tyrone) in 1608.

The young Hugh Boy mentioned earlier, went with his Chief Red Hugh to Spain. He studied in Salamanca and in Paris. In 1616 he became the Professor of Theology in the Irish College of St. Anthony of Louvain, which had been founded by Flaithri O'Maelchonaire, a Franciscan monk who wrote poetry on the religious orders.

Fearghal Mac-an-Bhaird followed in 1655. He wrote an elegy on "Do toir neadh ceannus clann Cuinn. (The authority of Clann Con was raised) which was referring to the leadership of Eoin O'Donnell. His writings also included "Tre oin an cheannus clann Dalaigh" (Powerful the authority of Clan Daly) and on Calvach

O'Donnell and his allies "Goille Fodhla an Eirean Fuil Chonail" (supporters of Ireland are the blood of Conall).

Patrick, a bard in 1696 wrote: "Cuid ronna a nambhuainn Eireann (part of the divisions of Ireland) based on the death of Donoch, son of Maolmhuire MacSuibhne of Northern Donegal.

All the bards listed, as well as others, form a long chain of bardic history, being both relevant to Irish and Scots history. The bards in particular, made regular journeys back and forth, across from Donegal to Argyll and from Kintyre to Antrim. Both of the Kingships were in constant touch with one another, through the bards, the learned men of verse. They made perfect couriers, ready to assist each other, if one was being challenged. Historical records show that this occurred on a number of clan conflicts.

THE MACCORQUADALE'S OF PHANTILANS

A CLAN OF CONSIDERABLE influence in Argyll were long known as Barons of Phantilans. For several centuries the MacCorquadale family were known as the Mac-a-barain, son of a baron, a designation which also appertained to the Lamonts of Argyll.

This branch of Lamonts claim descent from Aengos Macraver (son of the baron) who swore fealty to Edward I in 1297.

According to Argyll papers in 1375, John of Prestwick, son and heir to the deceased Mariot Garrechal, sold to Colin Campbell, son of Gillespie, Lord of Lochow "half of the island of Inchald, lying in Lochow along with half of the lands of Shellachan, to which Duncan MacNeachtane, Lord of that ilk, had lived and died on". Sold as well, were lands granted by King Robert III to Maurice MacNeachtane by charter in 1403. Margaret, daughter of Gilchrist called (MacGilliegeacham) who with the consent of her son and heir, Finlay Macraver resigned a sixth part of upper Lochow, which belonged to her as inheritance and gave it to Colin Campbell of Lochow. It appears these lands formerly belonged to Alexander MacNeachtane, while part of the land at Shellachan belonged to the Barony of Phantilans. These lands had belonged to the Clan MacNaughton for many years. But they had lost out to a much more powerful and voracious Clan, namely Clan Campbell.

The first of the Phantilans family (who were close neighbours to the MacNeachtane), from whom descent can be traced is Lord of Phantilans at Lochow, Ewan MacEwan MacCorquidill, who on 16th October, 1434, granted procuratory resignation of the patronage of the parish church of St. Peter, Dean of Lochow in favour of Sir Duncan Campbell of Lochow and his heirs. The Campbell process of gaining lands by piecemeal effect was very efficient.

Ewan's heir, Malcolm MacEwan MacCorquidill, Lord of Phantilans, appears as a witness to several deeds of a similar type between 1450 and 1470. The next laird was Ewan McCorquidill of Edderlin. This Ewan on 14th July, 1495 at the church of St. Peter, Dean of Lochow granted a charter to Archibald, Earl of Argyll of the lands of Edderlin, Cammissien and Carren in exchange for the lands of Fannan, Shellechan, Craigenterf, for which the Earl granted a charter four days later. Among the witnesses to the Ewan grant are several MacCorquadales. In this particular transaction Argyll was returning lands already belonging to the MacEwan MacCorquadales but received in return a much larger tract of territory in the barony of Phantilans. The charters were confirmed by King James two years later.

When Ewan died his son Ewen was not old enough to inherit the title. King James granted the wardship of the lands belonging to deceased Ewan to Archibald Campbell, Earl of Argyll. The lands had been in the possession of the ward for 10 years.

Ewen MacDonald MacCorquidill was witness to the return of the estates. The 5th Baron saw the lands incorporated into a barony in his favour. Malcolm was placed under curators who consented to a portion of the estate to Duncan MacArthur of Therowdicht. On 29th of June, 1545 Queen Mary confirmed another charter whereby Malcolm through his curators sold to his friend, the Vicar of Inchald, land at Auchincreef.

Only a year later, Malcolm dying young was succeeded by his brother who regained the sasine of the lands back from Queen Mary. However, in receiving some lands returned, he was required to resign back the lands of Fanen with fishing rights upon the waters of Loch Awe back into the Queen's hands, who then granted them onto the Earl of Argyll. How the Queen received the estates in the first place is not made clear, but the McEwan McCorquadales served alongside their other McEwan relatives at the battle of Langside, fighting for Queen Mary and suffered casualties accordingly.

Duncan, the next heir, held a charter showing the lands erected into a free barony under the Great Seal given by Queen Mary on account of good service rendered by the young laird's father; the loss of the lands of Fanen, showing that neither Malcolm or Duncan had much choice in the matter.

Lachlan, the brother of Duncan, had gradually grown more angered at the erosion of the estates piece by piece. Eventually, he could not take the barony being swallowed up by the Earl of Argyll any longer. He sided with Clan Gregor against the Campbells, for according to a complaint made against him, by Campbell, he was with the MacGregors at the battle of Glen Fruin, and the Earl of Argyll gave orders for his capture. Issuing a directive to the Laird of Lundie to apprehend Lachlan, Lundie sent Campbell of Glencaridill to carry them out.

Due to Lachlan frequenting his brother Duncan's house at Phantilans - that is where Campbell made his way to - he then ordered Malcolm to give up his

brother to the Campbells, which was refused, unsurprisingly, and a siege took place. It proved to be an unsuccessful one for Campbell and his men retired. Argyll, incensed at the baron's refusal to produce his brother had them summonsed to appear before the Lord's Council to present Lachlan to the Court. He was fined a total of 500 merks and to appear before the Justices at Edinburgh on 16th March, 1612, as this was where Argyll could use his judiciary power against Lachlan. On what grounds, or the charges against him, nothing is mentioned. Due to this, the next three MacCorquadale heirs learnt by their predecessors' experiences. Two married Campbell women, the third marrying Isobel Stewart, the widow of Colin Campbell, Commissary of Lorne. By this method of keeping family links with the Campbells they halted the encroachment of Argyll on barony lands.

Several more descendants of Phantilans followed, a Duncan who appears on several charters and committees in Argyll and married a Margaret Campbell. Then Hugh, a cousin who had left to farm in Cambridgeshire. The last Phantilan recorded is Duncan, 14th Baron of Phantilans. In a manuscript giving the chiefs of various important clans in Scotland, appears the name of Duncan of Phantilans and his grandson, John. There is a John recorded as a son of Duncan MacCorquadale at Oban, to his wife Mary Campbell on 25th October, 1796 in the Kilmore registers and he died at Raw. But it is unconfirmed as a family link so the line of descent remains unproven. The only reference being a grandson as heir.

Edited from an article from the Oban Times in 1900. The article was sent in for the Bulletin by A. G. Murdo McEwan.

MALCOLM BEEVERS - A TRIBUTE

A REMEMBRANCE TRIBUTE to Malcolm Beevers, his life and his interests, one of them being, as a member of our Clan Ewen Society family.

Malcolm was born on 4th September, 1913 in England, although his parents normally lived and worked in India. They had come back to England for the birth, as at that time, if you were British but born in India, there were career restrictions. They returned to their home in Lahore when Malcolm was a year old.

The house he was born in was the same house that Grace, his half cousin, was born in, just over a year after him. Almost from birth they were linked closely together, 23 years later they would marry.

Malcolm's mother died when he was only seven, a victim of an Asian flu epidemic and so he was sent off to Bishop Cotton School in Simla, which was India's Eton. It was situated in the foothills of the Himalayas, a place Malcolm grew to love.

Throughout his childhood, Grace wrote to him and his father and despatched Oxo tins full of glass marbles to Malcolm, for they were unobtainable in India. From School, Malcolm joined the York and Lancaster Regiment in Delhi and came back to England with it in 1935. He then met and fell in love with Grace, having been well on the way to it before he met her, due to seeing a photograph she had sent to him and his father.

They were married in secret on August Bank Holiday, 1936, as he was going away again with the Army and Grace wanted to keep her job whilst he was away. To be married and working, was not acceptable to many in those years before the war. In 1939 they went public and had a Church Blessing (life at that particular time was heightened by the dangerous times lived in and every moment was grasped with such clarity of emotions). Malcolm was called to serve in the York and Lancaster Regiment soon after.

In 1941 he transferred back to India and was commissioned into the Indian Army Ordnance Corps, which was serving in Burma. After the war ended, he joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps serving in the Far East, Britain and Germany. From there, he joined the Territorial Army as a Retired officer and later, had several years at the Ministry of Defence in London.

Grace and the children followed along during those years with many different homes over the years. Malcolm, having been brought up in India and away at school, would never have claimed that domestic skills, other than washing up, were his forte and as a do-it-yourselfer, he was a non-starter.

One year he gave Grace a "Black and Decker" drill, knowing she'd know how to use it and could make good use of, which she duly did. Over the next years, he was unmercifully ribbed by the family about it, but took it in good part and joined in on the joke.

Through all the years sport was his great passion. He was a good all round sportsman, an athlete, hockey player and cricket player for School and Regiment. He played cricket for the Europeans against All India, a devastating spin bowler with his own special wrist flick action. His interests in sport were maintained, even though England's cricket team proved to be somewhat of a disappointment latterly.

When he retired, finally in 1977, Malcolm and Grace moved to Churchill in Avon, to be near their daughter Felicity, Pat and the boys. At this time, Malcolm could be seen daily keeping order amongst children getting on coaches at Churchill Comprehensive School.

In 1985, they moved into a new home in Felicity and Pat's garden plot. Building a new house and calling it Roshanara, naming it after a well known garden and club in Old Delhi, India. Roshanara Gardens were built in memory of the Shah Jehan's daughter and named after her and her beauty. The Shah also built the Taj Mahal.

From Roshanara House, Malcolm organised the football club draw for several

years. From here they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary last August and had a surprise party on a glorious day in mid September.

Malcolm was an avid reader, particularly travel and especially India, he had a large collection of books on India. In the last 16 years he made five trips back to the Indian sub continent, which is now known as Pakistan, all but one, with Grace, the last being only last year. India was always very close to his heart.

Up to a couple of months ago, when health problems started he was a familiar figure walking the dog several times a day, whatever the weather conditions. Malcolm died on 20th December, 1996 aged 83 and was buried at Wrrington Church. He will be remembered as a good and caring father, concerned for the well-being and happiness of all the family.

Editor: We extend our love and support to Grace and all her family. Within the ranks of our Clan and Society we have continued and been privileged to know a number of outstanding individuals - Malcolm continues that rich vein.

EDITOR'S REPORT

IN THIS REPORT I wish to follow on from the theme of the Bulletin if I may. Reading through the Bulletin you may notice that the reports, although different, have definitely one thing in common - detail!

I have edited very little out of most of them as that would detract from their information. The names and historical events mentioned can sometimes trigger a connection with someone looking for facts on family members and their ancestors.

As a Clan body as a whole, I believe there is an awful lot of detail still to piece together on the history of the Clan, but it is still possible.

Next on the agenda is a request to the younger members of the Society in particular, as well as anyone else interested. On the Clan committee we would like to see the meaning of "Reviresco" blossom.

We need young growth to add strength and vigour, to bring new ideas, stimulate and open up new avenues. If anyone is interested in sitting on the committee to give their views and to help out with the running of the Society, they only need to ask. You do not need to become an office-bearer to join in the quest to find and link together all people who have links with the name Ewen and its range of name associates. All the office-bearers of Clan Ewen Society work tirelessly in continuing the development and growth of the Society. But to continue as we should, we must receive new blood, and that means YOU!

The computer and techno age is well and truly upon us, as the use of the e-mail and internet shows.

New members are contacting us through the service and it is becoming a font of new information and source detail to reach out for new Society members.

Lastly, I'm making a request, which was also made by the Treasurer in the last Bulletin. For all members whose subscriptions are outstanding could you send them as soon as possible please. It is another detail, but an important one. The revenue from the subscriptions goes towards the Bulletin and the Gathering in June and to maintaining links with you all. Each one of you is a link in the chain, lose a link and you must replace it, or the combined strength of all of you is lost. If you have any points to raise, or anything in addition to add, please contact me or any of the other office bearers. I hope you have found this edition enjoyable.

Colin Davies (McEwan, Kerry)

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HERITAGE FUND

THE COMMITTEE wish to thank once again Paul McEwan and Claudette of Mississippi for another donation to the Heritage Fund.

Dear Readers

Unfortunately we have been unable, in this issue, to produce some of the pictures and artwork submitted for publication due to their poor quality.

We would ask all contributors to kindly send Original Photographs or Artwork if possible as this will print much better. All such material will be promptly returned to contributors after use.

Thank You

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