

CLAN EWEN SOCIETY



No 52

December 2004

Bulletin

Dear Friends,

I hope that this bulletin finds you all well.

We had a lovely time at the gathering this year and are looking forward to our first international gathering next year with much excitement. The gathering takes place on the second Saturday of June at the Royal Marine Hotel in Dunoon. We have heard already that friends in the States are gearing up to make the journey and I for one am hoping to bring some of our family members. So spread the news amongst your families and friends and let's make this a gathering we will never forget - for all the right reasons! Please let us know if you are going to make the trip so that we can get an idea of numbers and arrange for food and entertainment.

The current committee is continuing the hard work to ensure that you all enjoy being a member of the society. Plans include putting together membership packs to welcome new members, ensuring that the genealogy which Betty and David are working so hard with, can be shared amongst all members, getting on with the election of a chief and ensuring that overseas members find it easier to communicate their views and wishes. On the last note, Lynn, our vice chairman has agreed to be the committee member responsible for ensuring that the communication channels with all our overseas members is open, loud and clear!

We were very sad to announce the death of Colonel Alan earlier this year. He was a loyal and devoted member, a great character who is sorely missed and we have included his obituary in this bulletin for you to read. On behalf of the society a great big thank you goes out to the following people for their hard work, whether as outgoing committee members or overseas correspondents:

Murdo McEwan - genealogist, 1987 - 2002 and committee member till this year.

Iain McEwan - treasurer, 1999 - 2004.

Malcolm McEwan - Membership Secretary, 2002 - 2003

Paul McEwan - USA correspondent

Never hesitate to get in touch to say hello, offer any ideas or views or submit articles to the bulletin.

Apart from asking you all to spread the news about the society and the clan gathering, it just leaves me to say that we are looking forward to seeing you next year!

Reviresco

Rachel McEwen

ALAN EWING, 1926-2004

The news of the death of Alan Ewing, "Colonel Alan", was received with considerable shock and sadness by all who knew him, in the Clan Society and beyond. He was our Chairman from 1990 until 2003 and had somehow come to embody the spirit of the society – an ever-curious investigator into matters genealogical, a proud Scot, a courteous gentleman, a humorous, un pompous, convivial, welcoming and kind man, Alan gave the Society just the example that perhaps it needed, through some interesting times. He is much missed.

Alan Ramsay Ewing was born in Glasgow on 16th May 1926. He was educated at Hutcheson Grammar School. The best friend he made there, John Brown, remained a good friend until the end.

After school, young Alan joined Hodson's Horse and the 13th Lancers, units of the Indian Army Corps. With them he fought in Java, taking charge at one point of a platoon of Gurkhas. He also managed to achieve a certain mastery of Urdu.

In 1948 Alan joined the Territorial Army as an officer in the Queen's Own Royal Glasgow Yeomanry (QORGY). During his time with QORGY his Pipe Major wrote a pipe tune for him – "Colonel Ewing" – which was later recorded by a piper called William McLetchie in Lenzie.

After the disbandment of QORGY, Alan remained in the TA, working on the recruitment side. Later on, he was made Honorary Colonel of "B" Squadron, a new Scottish Yeomanry based in East Kilbride. There, as always throughout his Army career, he showed a remarkable willingness to get stuck in.

His dedication to the military and concern for the welfare of others led naturally to his joining, in 1973, the Earl Haig Fund. Twelve years later, he became Chairman of Glasgow and South West Scotland, an arduous position that he retained until 2002. During his time with Haig House, Alan was also involved with Flanders House for ex-servicemen, organising and overseeing the running of the home, remaining involved until his final illness.

Because of his involvement with the TA and the Haig Fund, Alan was often to be found in attendance at Royal Garden Parties at Holyrood Palace, at ease on the lawns with wife and beautiful daughters by his side; but he didn't much mention these occasions, unless pressed.

He and Irene attended the first business meeting of the Clan Society in October 1978. Alan was elected to the committee and in 1984 to the position of vice-chairman. His election to the Chairmanship in 1990 coincided with the building of the Clan Ewen Memorial Cairn and Alan was proud to take his place at the unveiling ceremony that June.

His passions, apart from the Army and the Clan Ewen Society (most recently our search for a Chief), generally had some connection with his beloved homeland: they included Scottish history, tartans, Scottish music, especially Jimmy Shand, learning (he took night classes in Gaelic and Spanish), genealogy and heraldry; he also liked DIY, growing plants in garden and greenhouse, and the *Herald* crossword.

With his knowledge and expertise, Alan became the "father figure" of the Clan Society, the man to be consulted, and cannot ever be replaced. He was a serious man but he had a light heart. It is hard to think of him without smiling.

Alan married Irene on 14th February 1951. The date hints at the romantic heart which could be glimpsed beneath what was sometimes a crusty exterior. Irene was a lovely lady, quiet and efficient and often very funny, who was greatly mourned when she died on 7th December 2002. They are survived by their children, Margaret, Alan and Morag, and their grandchildren, Andrew, Claire, Emma and Aimee.



CLAN EWEN SOCIETY AGM

Held at Kilfinan Community Hall, Argyll on Saturday 12 June 2004 at 1.30pm.

The Chairman, Lynn Gehling, was unavoidably stranded in Chicago so Vice Chairman Rachel McEwen took the meeting. Rachel welcomed members and friends and said a few words about the loss of our previous Chairman Alan Ewing who died recently. The assembled company stood for a minute's silence in tribute to Alan. A full obituary will appear in the next Bulletin. Several members of the Clan Ewen attended Alan's funeral.

Apologies – Duncan McEwan, Joan McEwen, Donald Ewing, Sidnie Terry, Paul McEwan and Lynn Gehling and Jill Young.

Minutes of last AGM read but were not approved and signed until an issue raised by Malcolm McEwan was resolved. This 'minute' regarding the name for advertising due to a misunderstanding has to be made comparable with the web site. After discussion, the name was agreed and further resolutions to be made at the next meeting. There being no further matters arising, the minute was approved.

Secretary's Report. Eleanor reported on good communication with Chairman and Office Bearers and two useful committee meetings. An extra large number of Bulletins were sent out in November 2003 in order to try to increase membership and hopefully this was a worthwhile exercise. A more realistic number were posted in May 2004. Thanks should be given to Charles and Matt, their family and others in this small group, who worked so hard to get the publications out on time.

The Secretary then reported on her contacts with overseas correspondents – Evelyn Mason (by telephone) and Cameron McEwing – both still willing to promote the Clan in their parts of the world – Australia and New Zealand. No word from Bill MacEwen, Nova Scotia.

Eleanor and Duncan collected and listed the Clan Merchandise which was in Alan Ewing's house and a list of some of the items is in the May Bulletin. We have a lot of Clan goods and must try to advertise and sell to re-coup some of the funds spent on their purchase.

Treasurer's Report. Iain (our retiring Treasurer) gave his financial report which was circulated. This was accepted and approved.

Genealogist. Betty related some of the interesting findings she had made on the web site 'The Glasgow Story' – in 1871 the number of McEwens, Ewens, Ewings etc she had discovered – also a Pat Ewen related to some of our members. Her research is fascinating and on-going.

Bulletin. Charles spoke briefly of the feed-back he is getting from readers of the Bulletin.

Election of New Committee. As is customary, the present Committee stood down and the election proceeded as follows

Chairperson	Rachel	proposed by David seconded by Bob
Vice-Chair	Lynn	proposed by Rachel seconded by Jo
Secretary	Eleanor	proposed by Betty seconded by Murdo
Treasurer	Colin	proposed by Charles seconded by Eleanor
Genealogists	David & Betty	proposed by Rachel seconded by Colin

Committee Members willing to continue serving – Duncan, Charles, David and Betty.

AOCB. Arrangements for the International Gathering in 2005 will have to be discussed in detail at the next Committee Meeting. It is hoped to hold this at the Royal Marine Hotel, Hunters Quay on 4th June*. The meeting was closed with thanks to the Chair and the Committee.

* now 12th June – see article in Bulletin.



CLAN EWEN SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure for Year Ending 31st May 2004

Income Subscription	£ 633.56
Sales	£ 436.98
US Subscription & Sales	£ 161.14
Bank Interest	£ 5.79 + £14.51* = £20.30
Total	£ 1237.47 + £14.51 = £1251.98 *Chief's Account

Expenditure

❖ printing and postage of bulletins (3 issues)	£ 1384.49
❖ advertising (Scots Magazine & others)	£ 177.19
❖ Society running costs (room hires, expenses etc)	£ 168.85
Total	£ 1730.53
❖ Deficit of income over expenditure	(£ 487.55)

Trading Account

Opening stock	£ 1776.73 (est)	Closing stock	£ 1339.75 (est)
Purchases	£ -	Sales	£ 436.98
Total	£ 1776.73	Total	£1776.73

Assets at 31.5.2004	Treasurers Account	£ 703.69
	Closing Stock	£ 1339.75 (est)
	Chiefs Account	£ 1554.29
		£3597.73

Assets at 9.5.2003	Treasurers Account	£ 1196.77
	Closing Stock	£ 1776.73 (est)
	Chiefs Account	£ 1539.78
		£ 4513.28

Assuming that the closing stock value is reasonable, the above statement represents a true and fair view of the accounts as at 31st May 2004. J A McEwan (Signed)



KILFINAN CHURCH

As per usual, Davy and I attended the AGM at Kilfinan on 12 June this year. For a change, the meeting was held in the village hall. As we walked to the hall, I was dismayed to see the windows of the Church were boarded up. My heart sank – one of the things I really enjoy about the AGM is the church service on the Sunday morning, in a beautiful old church with a very ancient history.

Unfortunately, on the Sunday morning, the only people from the Clan Society who were able to attend the service were Jimmy and Martha McEwan (Davy's uncle and aunt) and Davy and myself. I wandered up first, worrying about what I was going to see. As always I was given a lovely welcome at the church door, and as I walked in I gasped – the interior of the church had been stripped back to the bare stone and the floorboards had been lifted and put back in mint condition, the plasterwork had been redone and the wood on the panelling and the pews had all been cleaned. (It turned out the windows had been sent away to be releded and repaired.)

Mr Kellas, the minister, came over and was pointing out the work that had been carried out. He showed me the new heaters which had been fitted. He said "if you're cold, feel free to put a heater on, or if you're hungry, put a slice of bread on your head!" He was not exaggerating, the heaters fill the church with warmth in a very short time. One of the congregation, Margaret Sutherland, very kindly came over and showed me the 'secret panels' – the one on the south side covering the old south door, and the one on the north side concealing the 14th century stonework with 16th century infill of the Lamont Vault. When the recent work was being carried out, Margaret had come down to the church one day and the workmen told her that human bones had been discovered. The police had to be called in, and Margaret said it looked like the scene of a murder investigation. It came to light that, when the road was being constructed in 1750 – 1759, through the medieval part of the churchyard, the bones were relocated in the church.

I was interested to find out that the church's present day appearance is of 1881 redesign by the famous architect, John Honeyman of Glasgow. During the service I had a large black dog sitting on my feet, keeping my toes cosy and warm – not only are the Minister and the congregation welcoming and friendly, but their pets seem to like us too.

PS I have just been told that Mr Kellas has since retired and is now living in Glenelg. I am sure we all wish him a very happy retirement, and would like to thank him for his entertaining sermons (and for putting up with us).

PPS The latest news from Margaret Sutherland – the windows are still not in but they're expected any day now, but then the north windows will be taken away for repair. The next phase is the stones in the Lamont Vault – they are to be repaired, labelled and displayed. She is still pushing for a floor in the upper part of the vault and hopes to use the old Lamont Aisle as a visitors' centre. At the moment the outside stone steps lead up to a door which opens into nothing but a drop into the Lamont Vault. They have electricity in the vault, but work is still on-going.

With very special thanks to Margaret Sutherland.

Submitted by Betty.



TEN CENTURIES OF TRADING HISTORY

From the Stirling Observer 24 March 2004

Stirling company D & J MacEwen celebrated 200 years in business this week. Shareholders and guests of the family firm gathered on Monday to celebrate two centuries of trade.

MacEwen currently trades as a property letting and investment company in Callander but for much of its history it was a purveyor of fine wines and groceries.

D & J MacEwen's headquarters were in Stirling for most of its history and at its peak the company operated 11 shops in Perthshire, Stirlingshire and also as far afield as Fort William and Inverness.

The company was established in 1804 by brothers Daniel and James MacEwen, who were originally of farming stock from the Drummond Estate near Crieff. The brothers established a basic trading operation in Broad Street in Stirling, providing an outlet to market for the farming communities in the area. The company grew and by its peak was exporting goods such as Scotch whisky to the outposts of the British Empire. The firm gained significant status amongst the Scottish merchant community to the extent that the lord provost of the then Glasgow Corporation hosted a dinner to celebrate D & J MacEwen's first centenary in 1904.

To mark the bicentenary, current managing director, Mrs Sheila MacEwen of Callander, has produced a booklet detailing the history of the company. Former staff, family members and other interested individuals can obtain copies from her for £4, including postage and packaging. The booklet will also be available at the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum.

Monday's celebratory lunch was held at the Park Lodge Hotel in Stirling, which was one of the family homes of the MacEwens at one point.

Mrs MacEwen said: "I am delighted that D & J's, as it is affectionately known, is still a successful commercial enterprise as we enter our third century". "The company was an important focal point in rural communities and farming towns throughout central and northern Scotland and I hope many people will remember our more visible presence in the past and share in our celebration of this anniversary."

The second Chairman of the Clan Ewen Society, the Rev Peter MacEwen, was one of the family who lived in Park Lodge, Stirling (where the celebration lunch was held) and whose father was also Daniel MacEwen. There is a young Daniel, aged 12, who is the grandson of Rev Peter MacEwen. Peter was a director of the firm of D & J's and his widow, Joan, is now a director.

D & J's blended their own whisky which was called "STERLINI". Recently, Graham MacEwen, son of Rev Peter and Joan, acquired a small bottle of Sterlini, still sealed, from the USA, by way of the internet. It arrived in good order, still sealed and with D & J's name, Stirling, on the bottle. Not many firms are 200 years old and still run by the same family.

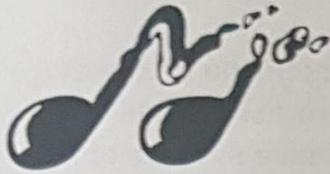
It would be interesting to hear of anyone in the USA, Canada or Australia, New Zealand who think they may be a branch of the family.

List of the 11 branches of the business of D & J's :-

STIRLING	ABERFOYLE
CALLANDER	DOUNE
CRIEFF	COMRIE
DUNBLANE	FORT WILLIAM
BRIDGE OF ALLAN	INVERNESS
KILLIN	

With acknowledgement to both Sheila MacEwen and Joan MacEwen for the above article and letter.





THE MUSIC CENTRAL TO RESOURCES

In November last year, the Scottish Music Centre was relaunched as a dynamic centre, a gateway to the complete national music resource and a supporter and promoter of all of Scotland's music. If that sounds like a challenging remit, then the Scottish Music Centre has the experience, expertise and enthusiasm to rise to that.

Scotland's music scene is exciting, dynamic and wide ranging, including folk, Celtic, jazz, classical, rock and pop and the centre aims to provide a music resource also accessible through its website at

www.scottishmusiccentre.com.

It has huge educational value and the resource nature of the archive collection and services should be used.

This relaunch also celebrates the 35 years this centre has been in existence, while looking forward to the next 35 years as it becomes ever more proactive and engages with the real world. To this end, its move next year to the City Halls in Glasgow's Merchant City will provide a shopfront to the organisation and maximise the accessibility to the centre's collections and services. The staff are clearly looking forward to working in a living concert hall complex with musicians, teachers and pupils and the public all having easy access to the centre. They will also be working with Glasgow City Council, BBC, SSO, Glasgow Education Services and other users of the venue such as the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Celtic Connections and the Glasgow Jazz Festival. The result will be a national music centre with the Scottish Music Centre playing a key part.

The ethos of the centre is to celebrate what is going on in the Scottish music scene and champion creativity at all levels, supporting composition and the dissemination of music through live events and recordings.

It will champion the value of music to support musical and cultural well-being and provide national resources, information services and advice to support the many composers, song writers, groups and promoters of all music in Scotland. It will also promote Scottish music making at home and abroad and, through its website, is already publishing information through the National Cultural Portal and international music gateways.

With the internet development, the aim is to provide a national portal facility for the nation's music which will include collections, events listings, contacts directory, information and advice services and shopping facilities.

The expansion of education services is particularly exciting and embraces the concept that creativity should be at the heart of education. The centre is setting up a focus group looking at what teachers and children want in terms of musical development, and they are looking at expanding education services by directing teachers and pupils to specific resources.

The development of education services such as news and information, access to scores, recordings, performance materials and an array of supporting information for physical and on-line access will contribute to the vision of the centre, providing a place for music which everyone can relate to and use. It will provide gateways to support music awareness and education in schools, higher education and further education colleges and for life-long learning. Over the coming months the development of an on-line composition chart for schools and young people is bound to grab the imagination.



EDITOR'S LETTER

This Autumn's Bulletin comes to you rather late this year. There are a myriad of reasons why this has occurred, some are more obvious than others. But my apologies to all late receivers and I can only endeavour to do my utmost to complete earlier.

The services of the Committee in collating and typing up, then the transfer to printers and return for posting have been quick and efficient as usual. Many thanks and gratitude to all involved.

As the Christmas season is upon us and Hogmanay approaches I wish nothing but good health and long life to all members and their families.

I mention good will separately because at this time of year it is also a time of stress and for many, loneliness. This year and always, think of the Society as a Clan but also a family. We may be far apart in distance, but very close in hearts and minds. So if there are any members on their own at this time of year, or any other time of year for that matter, you are not alone now, you belong to a family and the blood is strong.

Slainte'

Editor.



clan ewen gathering 2005

**Royal Marine Hotel
Hunter's Quay
Dunoon
Argyll
PA23 8HJ**

**01369705810
email: rmhotel@sol.co.uk
www.rmhotel.co.uk**

Rates for the Royal Marine Hotel

Friday 10th and Saturday 11th June 2005 Special Rate per person for a two night stay

sharing double/twin Standard room	£99.00
sharing double/twin sea view room	£109.00
sharing double premier sea view room	£119.00
single room	£119.00

above rates include 4 course dinner plus coffee and full Scottish Breakfast each day

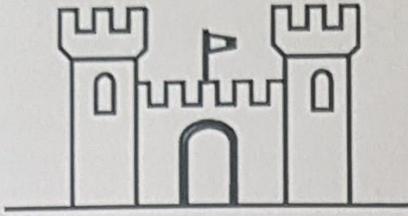
Saturday night rate only - 11th June Special rate per person for a one night stay only

sharing double/twin Standard room	£59.00
sharing double/twin sea view room	£64.00
sharing double premier sea view room	£69.00
single room	£69.00

above rates include 4 course dinner plus coffee and full Scottish Breakfast

Saturday dinner only per person £19.95

in all cases, a £20 deposit required per person when booking



A HISTORY OF DUMBARTON CASTLE

Dumbarton, *dun Breatann*, means 'the fortress of the Britons'. In the Dark Ages, it was also called Alcluith, Alt Clut or Ailcluaithe, 'Clyde Rock'. When the rock was first occupied as a British stronghold is unknown. But the British kingdom of Strathclyde seems to have emerged as the political unit controlling the west of Scotland in the fourth century AD, the last century of Roman Britain. The available evidence suggests that Strathclyde, though lying outside the area of direct Roman rule, owed something to the heritage of the Empire, and was proud of the debt. The earliest dated artefacts found in the excavations carried out in 1974-75 were fragments from several wine vessels (*amphorae*) imported from the Mediterranean, perhaps as early as the late fifth century.

According to a seventh century tradition, about AD 450, St Patrick wrote to the soldiers of Ceretic (or Coroticus) of Alcluith, King of Strathclyde, reprimanding them for a piratical raid on some of his Irish convents. This is the earliest mention of the Rock. Later documents contain many scattered references to the political history of Strathclyde, to its stronghold of Alcluith and the kings who resided there. One of the latter, Rhydderych Hael (a contemporary of St Columba), became a saga hero of the north. Legend says that Merlin, recommended by St Mungo, stayed for some time at his court.

Later in the Dark Ages, the fortunes of the Britons ('great sturdy men') of Strathclyde, were precarious, surrounded as they were by the powerful kingdoms of the Northumbrians to the south, the Picts to the east and the Scots of Dalriada to the north and west; and more is recorded of the bad times than the good. In 756, an allied force of Picts and Northumbrians is reported to have besieged and taken Alcluith, only to be wiped out themselves days later. In January 780, there is mention of "the burning of Clyde Rock", whether by accident, or in a hostile attack, is not made clear.

Perhaps the most significant event came in 870. In that year, a combined Viking force, led by Olaf the White of Dublin and Ivar Beinlaus ('cripple' or 'one-legged'), fresh from his capture of York, laid siege to the Rock for four long months. They cut off the water supply and "wasted the people who were in it by hunger and thirst". Having taken the Rock the Vikings plundered and destroyed it and then "carried off all the riches that were within and afterwards a great host of prisoners were brought into captivity". Two hundred longships carried the booty and slaves back to Dublin. The British kingdom of Strathclyde was destroyed.

After eclipse the military power of Strathclyde re-emerged in the tenth century. The territory of the Britons was extended south of the Solway Firth; in 971, a king of Scotland fell in battle against them. But in 1018, Malcolm II was able to set his grandson Duncan – Macbeth's predecessor – on the throne of Strathclyde. Duncan governed Dumbarton until he succeeded his grandfather in 1034, when Strathclyde was finally integrated into the Scottish kingdom.

A Medieval Royal Castle.

After 1034, Dumbarton Rock ceased to be the centre of independent political power, but it gained a new value as a stronghold and port of entry in the west of a united Scotland. The 'new castle' mentioned in the burgh of Dumbarton's foundation charter of 1222 stood on the western fringe of the country. At that time, much of the western seaboard, including the island of Arran, was under the King of Norway's control. Dumbarton was of major strategic importance. But after the defeat of the Norsemen at the Battle of Largs in 1263 and the signing of the Treaty of Perth in 1266, which brought the lands in the west of Scotland under Scottish control, the castle's importance as a frontier post declined.

Like the castles at Edinburgh and Stirling, Dumbarton was a royal castle from earliest times; it is reserved as such in a charter of 1238 to the third Earl of Lennox, the local magnate. Subsequent holders of this title were intimately associated with the history of the castle.

After his invasion of Scotland in March 1296, Edward I took pains to secure Dumbarton for England by installing trustworthy governors. The best known of these, Sir John Stewart of Menteith, was instrumental in the capture of William Wallace, the Scottish patriot, in 1305. It was following Wallace's victory at Stirling Bridge in 1297 that Dumbarton Castle is recorded as receiving its first prisoners, an enduring function for the rocky fortress over the ensuing centuries. Three Englishmen, William Fitzwarin, Sir Marmaduke Tweng and William de Ros, were brought to the castle, where they lay for months, in irons and half-starved. It is improbable, however, that Wallace himself was detained in the castle.

After the Scottish defeat at Halidon Hill in 1333, which disturbed the security of the kingdom, the young King David II and his consort Joan, were brought for their safety to the castle, one of only five then holding out for the Scottish King. (The others were Urquhart, Kildrummy, Lochleven and Loch Doon.) Dumbarton's secluded position in the land communications of Scotland was an advantage for such a purpose. The following spring the royal couple crossed over to France. In later years, Dumbarton became something of a gateway to France.

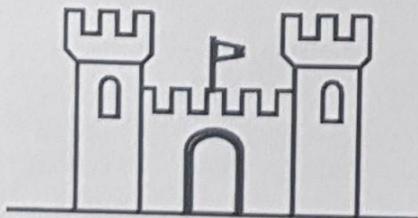
The Castle and the Early Stewart Kings.

In 1435, a small French fleet arrived at the castle. Its mission was to secure the marriage of James I's daughter, Margaret, to Louis, son of Charles VII of France. Despite attempts by the English to thwart the union, the eleven year old princess eventually sailed out of Dumbarton for France and marriage to the Dauphin. It proved an unhappy match. Neglected by her husband, the Scottish princess died nine years later pining for her native land.

When there were not troubles with foreign powers, there were problems at home. During the civil war which followed the murder of James III in 1488, James IV twice had to lay siege to the castle in 1489, then held by its rebellious governor Lord Darnley, son of the Earl of Lennox. The first attempt failed after the garrison had burnt the greater part of the burgh in a sally. The second siege, which probably involved the great gun Mons Meg (now in Edinburgh Castle), eventually succeeded. Soon afterwards, the burgh became shipbuilding and outfitting base for James IV's new navy. From here, the King sailed his expeditions to pacify the western parts of his kingdom.

In the disturbed times which followed the death of James IV at the Battle of Flodden in 1513, the castle once again came into the spotlight. Held by Lord Erskine for the Queen Mother after the battle, it was seized in 1514 by the Earl of Lennox and other adherents of the opposing faction of the Earl of Arran. In "ane mirk, wyndy nycht" in January, Lennox and his men burrowed under the gate at the North Entry and took the castle. In May 1515, John Stewart, Duke of Albany and first cousin of the late king, arrived at Dumbarton Castle from France to take up his duties as Governor of Scotland. Lennox was arrested and imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle and a French garrison was installed in the castle. Albany's subsequent journeys to and from France were usually by way of Dumbarton. When he arrived back at Dumbarton in September 1523, it was with a large force prepared to invade England. According to one eye-witness, Albany brought with him 87 ships, 600 horses, 4,000 foot soldiers, 500 men-at-arms and 1,000 arquebusiers (gunners) armed with 16 cannon and 1,000 small guns. The invasion never took place and Albany left Dumbarton and Scotland in May 1524, never to return. The French garrison was removed and the rival Scottish factions vied for control of the castle until James V was able to secure and employ it in 1531-40 for several expeditions to the west.

*With thanks to Historic Scotland
Submitted by Betty McEwan*





FINAL PUSH STARTS TO RID ISLANDS OF MINK MENACE

Alien species could wipe out ground-nesting birds.

A concerted drive to remove mink from the islands of Uist and Benbecula and help save threatened bird species will start.

All 14 trappers from the Hebridean Mink Project, plus an extra two staff from the Defra Central Science Laboratory at York, will descend on the islands to take part in a purge designed to push the voracious American mink towards final eradication.

It will be the most intensive effort ever mounted to tackle an alien species in the UK. The trappers, headed by Dr Sugoto Roy, project manager, will lay a total of 1000 cage traps around the coastline and on the shores of major lochs on North and South Uist and Benbecula.

Naturalists across the world faced with similar disasters, caused by the introduction of predatory species into unspoiled ecosystems, are watching to see if the blitz is effective. The project which will protect the native ground nesting bird populations, is costing £1.65m of EU and UK cash.

Eradicating the mink in the Outer Hebrides has been attacked by the anti-conservation movement in Scotland on cost grounds, but both the UK government and the Scottish Executive back the scheme.

Animal rights organisations that enlisted public support to oppose the culling of hedgehogs on the islands earlier this year are less likely to win backing to save the mink.

The mink are semi-aquatic predators that escaped or were released from farms in Lewis in the 1950s. Since then, because of their Arctic habit of mass killing to store food, they effectively extinguished ground nesters such as the little grebe, black-headed gull and moorhen from Lewis and Harris.

Other colonial birds, such as eider ducks, cormorants, shags and Arctic terns, have been eliminated from the islands or cling on in desolate corners of outlying skerries. The mink have been implicated in the disastrous collapse of the corn bunting and corncrake and have made the traditional keeping of free-range poultry on Lewis, Harris and the Uists a thing of the past.

The doomsday fear was that the mink would island-hop to the Uists, establish successfully and start eating their way through what are the most dense concentrations of nesting waders left in Europe.

Mink were detected on Uist in 1999, said David Maclellan, manager for Scottish Natural Heritage in Stornoway, and although estimates of numbers have been scaled down radically since early scare stories, their effect could be devastating on bird numbers if left unchecked.

Both the Scottish Executive and the UK government have tough EU legal obligations to meet for protecting the birds.

From today, the traps will be baited with fish, a favourite food of the mink, and with parts of the scent glands taken from the hindquarters of mink already trapped and destroyed.

Dr Roy, who built his reputation on eradicating the introduced mongoose from Mauritius, says that because mink are territorial, they are naturally curious when faced with an unfamiliar scent. They are cornered in the trap and dispatched with a single airgun shot.

By October, 171 mink had been caught in the Uists and dogs were being used to locate individual dens. The numbers caught from July to September were down by 46% on the same period last year, a clear indication of success to date.

In trapping areas, the monthly counts of lapwings, a key ground-nesting species, were consistently high compared with non-trapped areas. A study is underway on the economic impact of mink on salmon and sea trout stocks.

Mr Maclellan said: "We want to reach a situation where we have to work harder to catch fewer and fewer mink. As that happens, the capture of each animal will cost more and more, but the alternative for these great bird populations is unthinkable."

With full acknowledgement to James Freeman.



FROM KNAPDALE TO MOSA

Janis McCahill, writing from Ontario in Canada, describes her research into a family's new life in Canada, and its old life in Mid Argyll.

I started to research my husband's family a couple of years ago. My husband's father knew very little about his family and thought he may have some cousins in Middlesex County, in or around the town of Alvinston. Their family name is "McCahill". As it turned out there was a family in Mosa Township in Middlesex County near the villages of Kilmartin and Knapdale. The family emigrated in 1848 and resided on two lots originally set aside as clergy reserve. The crown deed was not granted until 1864. The family at that time spelt their name "McCall". Many settlers came to this area and were given Crown or Clergy Reserves and after agreeing to clear and maintain the property for a set number of years, the families were either granted or could pay for this property. These types of arrangements were very common across Ontario. The "McCalls" were not the first of their family to arrive in the area. An aunt, Isabella McCaill Walker and her family had arrived several years previous. Some settlers were part of a relocation scheme that was devised by British agents and some surveyors who were paid in land for their services. For the most part, these land grants were small parcels and after a few years some of these original settlers moved to the Crown or Clergy reserves which were larger in area. Almost every settler had his own story and arrangement for procuring property. There are some areas in Ontario where a whole settlement was settled and inhabited by emigrants who were sponsored by one individual. These were generally not widely successful.

As I mentioned, the "McCalls" emigrated in 1848. Their place of residence, prior to coming to Canada, was South Ardbeg in North Knapdale. The McCall surname was more commonly spelled "McCail" and "McCaul" is also seen. In 1819 the family signed an agreement with the landowner, Duncan Campbell of Inverneill, to live in South Ardbeg, part of the lands and estates of Taynish, Ulva and Danna. In fact, the six page agreement outlines the conditions that the family had to adhere to in order to live at South Ardbeg. The agreement specifies the amount of eggs, grain etc that had to be delivered to the main house at Taynish. Labour and services to the manor are also outlined.

I know little about the family in Scotland. I know that Alexander McCail married Annie McArthur in 1792 in Kilmartin. He was a resident of North Knapdale at the time. We believe that Alexander was born in 1758 in Kilmichael Glassary. I don't have the baptism information but I have been through the Knapdale and Kilmartin parish records and cannot find their baptism there. The births of his children are in these records. From family information we believe he worked most of his life as a fisherman. I know from different records of the parish he lived in Firmach, Danna, Mid Danna, Old Ulva and South Ardbeg. In the 1841 census the family still resided at South Ardbeg

but Alexander was not listed. His wife, two children and their spouses and families were listed.

The McCahill family, coming from Argyll, settled near other Highlanders from the same area. There were also other family members that had come to Mosa either prior to their arrival or just following their journey.

The McCahills, most likely left Knapdale for Lochgilphead. They would have travelled by ship to their new country. They would have reached Grosse Isle in anywhere from six to eleven weeks. Once they were deemed healthy they were allowed to disembark in Montreal. Passage on a steamship was booked and the family would arrive in Kingston. From Kingston the family took a schooner to Kettle Creek, Port Stanley or Port Glasgow. Once the family reached Port Stanley they would travel to Mosa by foot. If they had the resources they could procure oxen and a cart for their journey. There was a well-blazed trail that would take them right to the far reaches of Mosa. The land that the McCahills settled was clergy reserve property. It had initially been set aside by the government for the use of by the Church of England in Upper Canada. By the 1840s, many of these reserve lots were being sold off by the government.

The township of Mosa is in the far south west area of Middlesex. Settlement around Wardsville took place in the early 1810s and by the late 1820s there were Highlanders moving into the backwoods of Mosa. Some settlers stayed in Aldboro for a few years but the McCahills were one of the families that came directly to their land in Mosa. The McCahill family had old Argyll neighbours and family in the Mosa Woods. We could assume that these neighbours would have assisted the family when they built their log home. It was the usual practice that raising bees were attended by the able bodied men of the area. They each helped each other to place the logs in position, while corner men dovetailed the logs into each other at the corners. Openings were left for the doors and windows. The openings between the logs were closed with chinks and clay. The first floors were usually made of logs that had been split into slabs and laid together. The covering for the roof was usually made of oak, split thin.

If no nails were available, the boards would be held in place by an arrangement of poles placed parallel to the ridge. Furnishings were made from the ample abundance of wood from the forest. Open fireplaces were placed at one end of the cabin. They were made of sticks laid cross-wise that had been well plastered. Livestock would be gradually acquired. A log barn would be constructed for the animals.

The land was cleared next. First the underbrush and small trees were cut and piled into large brush piles that would be burned later. The large trees were felled next. They were cut up and eventually the logs not needed for building or fencing were also burned. There were no mills to saw the logs, so this burning was the only way to get rid of the vast quantities of timber. This left a

very rough and stump filled piece of property. Eventually the stumps would rot or could be burned out and the land would be fit to plant.

The McCahills had farmed in Scotland so their day to day life here was not much different, except that the land they worked was their own and what they grew did not have to be shared with the landlord. The first few years were difficult, but the family was working for themselves. They took great pride in the ownership of their farms. Some of the day to day necessities that they were used to were scarcer in the woods of Mosa. They had long distances to travel to have their wheat ground or to exchange it for household needs. Even the "black salts" or the potash, made by boiling the lye from the ashes of the burned timber, could be sold. Wheat could always be traded; two bushels for one length of cotton; three bushels for a pound of tea; ten bushels for a barrel of salt. Even the coals in the fireplace were saved by covering them with ashes at night. Using matches to light the fire or the tallow candles was not heard of. If the coals went out at night, you would get more from a neighbour.

Although there were hardships for the immigrant family, there were many compensations. When the McCahill family arrived in Mosa, there was already a school and a place to worship. Although their first language was Gaelic, they had come to an area where almost every family was from the Highlands and spoke their native language. There was an abundance of timber, certainly there was nothing like it in Knapdale. Mr McColl remarked that an enthusiastic Gael wrote home and said that there was a tree in Canada that gave him fuel, sugar and soap. He was certainly referring to the maple. The weather in winter was cold and snowy but the woods provided protection. The same woods, in other seasons provided game, wild fruit and a place for their cattle to roam. The workable acres on the farms grew each year and the conditions for the immigrants continued to improve. Within a few years there would be saw mills, grist mills, general stores and post offices in convenient locations. Horses, sheep, pigs and poultry and cattle were present on the farms.

There is just one final comment to make about this area of Mosa. Although the Gaelic is no longer spoken and memories of these Highland settlers grow faint, their presence will always be part of Mosa. We need only to look at the place names of their towns, villages, and post offices; Kilmartin, Knapdale, Napier, Glencoe, Strathburn, Appin, Heather, etc and the names on the mailboxes as you drive down these country roads; Campbell, McTavish, McVicar, Leitch, McKellar, McCallum, etc.

Acknowledgements

The information in this article is from many sources, including Hugh McColl's "Early Highland Pioneers of the County of Middlesex". McColl who was the postmaster in Strathroy from 1876 to 1920 had directly spoken to the original settlers or their children. McColl's book, however, dwells on the pioneering life in the New World, with scarcely a backward glance to the old.

LOWEST FORMS OF IMMORALITY.

A word from an official in Arrochar in a report of 1932 to the County Clerk, her concerns were clearly deeply felt.

"It has become a customary thing in Glencroe for numerous charabancs to find parking places between the Shire Bridge and the Rest and Be Thankful. We do not mind this but the occupants of these charabancs and various bands of cyclists are making themselves a public nuisance to the moral welfare of the children. The inhabitants of the district cannot walk along the public highway, but they get all manner of insolent remarks and filthy language shouted after them. Men and women in various stages of undress parade about on the roads and roadside. Men absolutely naked stand on the banks of the River Croe and do their utmost to attract the attention of passers by, whilst all the lowest forms of immorality are practised on the lower slopes of the hill-sides and in full view of the public and of young children...

Those incomers realise that once they cross the Shire Bridge and enter Argyllshire territory, the policeman in Arrochar can do nothing towards checking the unseemly behaviour....

The presence of a policeman in constant attendance on Saturday afternoons and from 11am to 6 pm on Sundays would go a long way in solving this serious problem.

Throughout my stay here, I have seen matters going from bad to worse till I and the other people of Glencroe have become thoroughly disgusted with the outrageous behaviour of these visitors.

I do hope, if only for the sake of the young children and their future outlook on life, that something will be done to prevent this lovely countryside from becoming a den of iniquity."

With full acknowledgement to Argyll and Bute Local History Magazine.





THE GIPPER

George Gipp was one heck of a football player. Knute Rockne described him as the best American Football player he ever coached. The Gipper went to Notre Dame college and played the game from 1916 to 1920. He was from Laurium, Michigan, a small town up in what we call the Copper County of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Laurium being just aside Calumet. He could run, pass and defend like no other. In his four years of college play, he scored 83 touchdowns, rushed for 2,341 yards (a mark unequalled until 1978) and led the team in rushing and passing for the last three years of his tenure. He drop kicked a field goal 62 yards which still stands as the second longest field goal in the history of the college game. During his career not one single pass was completed in his zone of defence. He led his team to a four year record of 27 wins, 3 ties and just 2 losses, at which time his team outscored the opponents 506 to 97. He still holds records at Notre Dame and was the college's first All American Football player.

Sadly George Gipp died of complications from a strep throat which turned into a serious lung infection – in those days there was no penicillin and one was left to go it on their own as far as illness was concerned within the hospitals, which could provide only the best they had at the time. Coach Rockne visited him just before he passed and Gipp told Knute this;

“I’ve got to go, Rock. It’s alright. I’m not afraid. Some time, Rock, when the team is up against it, when things are wrong and the breaks are beating the boys, tell them to go in there with all they’ve got and win just one for the Gipper. I don’t know where I’ll be then, Rock but I’ll know about it.”

So that is the origination of the nickname that Ronald Regan took after he played the part of George Gipp in “Knute Rockne – All American” in his 1940s film. Could it be that our 40th President could have got a tiny bit of his will and determination from playing such a part?

Many people who saw and played against George Gipp marvelled at how a man could have that much athletic ability. One being Grantland Rice, a sports writer who said this; *“I first saw Gipp play for Notre Dame against the Army, where both had great teams. In that game Gipp’s all around play, his passing, his kicking and ball carrying was about as fine as anything I have ever seen on a football field. He had a dash and a slash as I have seldom seen since, and never surpassed.”*

The then coach of the Army team said this to Rice when asked what he thought about Gipp as a football player; *“A football player? He’s no football player. He’s a runaway horse!”*

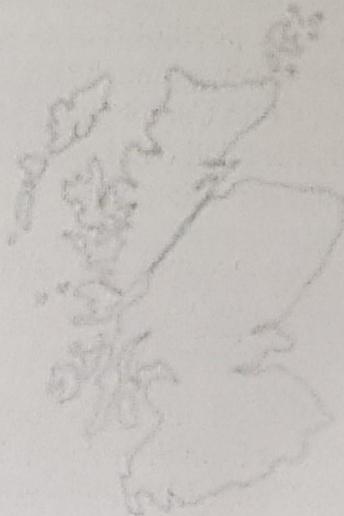
George Gipp must be always one of the greatest of all time.

The coach of the Army team?..... John McEwan

COVENANTER RING SAVED FOR NATION

A gold and garnet ring, removed from the finger of one of Scotland's most famous Covenanters just minutes before he was hanged, has been saved for the nation.

The Guthrie Ring, passed down through six generations of Church of Scotland ministers since its owner handed it to his niece as he climbed the scaffold at Edinburgh Cross in 1661, probably would have finished up overseas if it had gone to auction.



Now, however, an art gallery in the shadow of Stirling Castle, which has had it on loan for the past four years, is very close to raising the £5000 needed to buy it from a descendant of the Rev James Guthrie, whom Oliver Cromwell described as "the short little man who could not bow".

Elsbeth King, director of the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum which was founded in 1874 and which already holds a portrait of Guthrie and a chair belonging to him, said : "We would have lost out if the ring, a very desirable piece and valued by Sotheby's, had gone for auction."

Ms King said the gallery had succeeded in obtaining financial aid from the National Fund for Acquisitions and the National Art Collection Fund.

Meanwhile a chair designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh sold for £23,500. The wooden armchair was auctioned at Bonhams design sale at the Glasgow School of Art and was bought by an American collector.

In a separate development, a European Union plan which would have marked the end of famous Scottish hallmarks, has been shelved. The plan would have meant the closure of Edinburgh's historic assay office and had serious consequences for the jewellery and tourist trades.

With full acknowledgement to Raymond Duncan.



SIR NIALL CAMPBELL

Clan Chief who Extended Olive Branch over Old Ills

Sir Niall Campbell of Barcaldine and Glenure was the clan chieftain who extended an olive branch surrounding the controversial events when his ancestor, Colin Campbell of Glenure, a government agent, was shot by a Stewart. Sir Niall condemned the trial, the subsequent hanging and the "bloody spiral" of retribution which followed, as "totally despicable".

Sir Niall's peace move came last year as he inaugurated an interpretive project on the 250th anniversary of the Appin murder made famous by Robert Louis Stevenson in *Kidnapped*.

Colin Campbell, the "Red Fox", was conducting a programme of eviction of the Stewarts from their Appin lands, when he was shot dead on the afternoon of May 14, 1752, while riding through the Wood of Lettermore, not far from where the Ballachulish Bridge now stands. Two bullets had gone through his back, providing the plot for one of Scotland's most celebrated novels.

Everybody knew that James Stewart, James of the Glens, could not have pulled the trigger. But he was tried in the Campbell capital of Inveraray for being an accessory to a murder for which nobody had been arrested or charged, never mind convicted - a small point in a trial in which the dead man's family was effectively invited to nominate the jury, in which the presiding judge had a personal and political interest.

Stewart was hanged at Cnap a'Chaolais, knoll of the narrows, just above the southern end of Ballachulish Bridge on November 8, 1752. For more than four years his corpse was left on the gibbet, his bones dropping off one by one and collected by a kinsman, so that he could finally be laid to rest.

Clan life came late to Sir Niall. He left Argyll as a boy and returned late in life, having made his career in the south of England in hospital administration and the law.

As 15th chieftain of the Barcaldine Campbells, he cared greatly for the restored Barcaldine Castle, the sixteenth century fortalice overlooking Loch Creran in Argyll. He was interested in his personal genealogy, his line springing from Patrick Campbell, illegitimate sixteenth century son of Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy. In local life he was a member of the Argyllshire Gathering.

For some 17 years from 1953, Campbell served in leading hospital posts in the NHS and privately, including St Mary's, Paddington, the London Clinic, and latterly as chief executive at the Royal Hospital in Putney. He collated his experiences in a paper published in 1965 called *Making the Best Use of Bed Resources*.

Niall Campbell followed his father, Sir Ian, 7th Baronet, in being educated at Cheltenham and Oxford, where at Corpus Christi College, he read law. He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple, but war service interrupted plans for a legal career and he served in the Royal Marines, taking a background role in campaign planning for north-west Europe.

However, in 1970, he altered course to take up law again, becoming a senior clerk in the Inner London Magistrates Courts and then a coroner. Imbued with a love of Devon – he settled near Barnstaple – he resumed medical management in the county, with posts at North Devon Community Health Council and the North Devon Cheshire Homes and last year became governor of a local school.

Campbell lived life to his own drumbeat, constantly reflecting his motto, “*I am prepared*”. Possessed of an acerbic nature, he was a man of forthright views who rarely held back in expounding them, and who could at times prove not the easiest of company.

He energetically wrote dyspeptic contributions for the letters column of the Times, though with less success in having them published.

Sir Niall succeeded to the baronetcy in 1978 and title as ninth baronet now falls on his elder son Roddy. His first marriage in 1949 to Patricia Turner was dissolved in 1956 and the following year he married Norma Wiggin.

He was predeceased by his daughter Fiona and is survived by Lady Campbell and their children, Roderick, Lucy and Angus, and by grandchildren Kate, Anna, Louisa and Alastair

With full acknowledgement to The Herald.

LETTER FROM PAUL MCEWAN, USA

To my fellow Clansman,

In that I stepped down from my position of US Correspondent, I feel I owe an explanation. It is simply this – it is time for someone else in the US to take my place. I will forever be thankful to Charles Ewen who talked me into taking the role I held for over a decade. It was an extreme pleasure that was very fulfilling. For those in the US reading this in the Bulletin, take what I've said to heart. Farewell and God bless you all.

Paul McEwan

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