

CLAN EWEN SOCIETY



No. 44

Bulletin[©]

NOVEMBER, 2000

FAILTE

Our choice of a new venue for the A.G.M. in Dunoon seems to have been a good one.

The hotel, being on the outskirts of Dunoon, is much more accessible, and sufficiently near this "great metropolis", to allow our members, if they so wish, to visit the "Fleshpots". I believe that we had a very successful A.G.M., but I am bound to say so, being Chairman. We were most pleased to welcome so many visitors from overseas, again.

I am always amazed at the efforts and expense to which the World Wide McEwens are prepared to go in order to attend the A.G.M. Regrettably, we the committee, did let the side down on Sunday when, I understand, we did not have at least one committee member to lead the "convoy" to Kilfinan. As chairman, and chairman of the management committee, I must accept responsibility for this short-coming, and as a result offer my abject apologies to you all. This situation will not be repeated.

Nothing much has happened within the Society since the A.G.M., this being the main holiday period in the U.K. We have had a number of enquiries for membership but only one response in the affirmative, so far. Nothing has happened on the Chief front either. Regrettably the funds are not building up as rapidly as we had hoped (see financial statement) and we are still considerably short of the suggested level of £5,000 that we shall require, to pursue this matter through the Lyon Court. As a result, I should feel much more comfortable to start proceedings in earnest, if we had the required monetary backup.

I am sorry that this "Bulletin" is somewhat late. We have had problems, not the least of which was that Colin, your editor, had a nasty accident in his car. Apparently an articulated lorry tried to remove the side of his car whilst overtaking. Colin reports that he is unscathed, but his car is very much "scathed". No matter how uninjured Colin professes to be, these events can be somewhat traumatising. I'm sure you will wish to join me in wishing Colin a full mechanical and, to a lesser extent, medical recovery.

Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Alan Ewing.

A.G.M. and Gathering

The meeting was held on Saturday, 3rd June, 2000 in The Royal Marine Hotel, Hunter's Quay at 1.30 p.m. This was a new venue for the A.G.M. and a delightful welcome was given to all by the proprietor of the hotel.

Chairman Alan Ewing in his opening remarks greeted the members and friends and as usual gave a particular welcome to those from overseas and to Sir John McEwen and his wife Rachael.

A minute's silence was held in memory of Dr. Douglas McEwan, our late founder and Ella McEwan, widow of Archie, our first Treasurer and co-founder.

Apologies were received from Colin Davies, Editor; Joan McEwan; Douglas McEwan, Ipswich; Betty and Carol Brown, U.S.A.; Jack McEwan Joyce; Katherine Neimeyer; Bruce McEwan and family and W. M. Ewing, Australia.

Minutes of the previous A.G.M. were read, approved and signed.

Matters Arising - The resignation of Sidnie Sheriffs was made known to members and a new Membership Secretary, Malcolm McEwan, who is our Treasurer's son, was introduced and welcomed to the position where he has already proved to be a valuable and efficient member of the Society. Malcolm said a few words about his future plans for recording members and updating the membership list.

The Secretary reported on a fairly quiet year with less correspondence due to the fact that most enquiries now go to the Membership Secretary whose address is in the Scots Magazine. Three committee meetings had been held - two in the Piping Centre and one in St. Columba's Church Hall - both excellent venues in Glasgow and a good attendance by members. Business conducted at these meetings is in the minutes and latterly mostly involved the organisation of this A.G.M. The Secretary reminded everyone to sign the Red Visitor's book.

Treasurer's Report. Iain presented his financial statement. Postage costs had risen considerably as three Bulletins had been published and sent out - normally two. The Chief's account remains growing slowly,

but the Treasurer was pleased to say that he had just received a generous donation at this meeting. He regretfully had to say that a number of members will have to be reminded to pay their subscriptions.

Genealogist Murdo explained that he had put his genealogical research results on a data base and would be reporting shortly in the Bulletin.

Sales and Stock. Manager Jim said a few words about the new stock and good quality goods that he had. He could take orders for complete tartan outfits and there would be a discount for members. He hopes to put a type of catalogue on the net which would include jewellery, etc. The Sales Table was at the back of the meeting room and as usual there would be a raffle, tickets on sale now and he sincerely thanked all those who had so generously donated prizes.

The Meeting continued with the election of **Office Bearers**. The present committee stood down and the re-election took place as follows:- **Chairman Alan Ewing** proposed by Duncan and seconded by Jim; **Vice-Chairman and Secretary Eleanor** proposed by Donald and seconded by Malcolm. The other office bearers **Iain, Treasurer; Malcolm, Membership Secretary; Jim, Sales & Stock Manager; Murdo, Genealogist** and **Charles, Email**, were all re-elected by unanimous approval. Members of committee stay the same, i.e. **Colin, Duncan** and **Barbara**, but **Jenny McEwan** from Blackpool was elected as a younger member.

A.O.C.B. Due to increased cost of postage, Malcolm suggested an increase in the annual subscription. This was accepted by the members and a suggestion of £12.00 for Annual Single (\$20 U.S.A.) and £15.00 for Family was agreed and seconded unanimously. This increase to take place in 2001 and Membership to run from June to June. Information to be in the November Bulletin.

Jim McEwan advised people to book in advance for next year's A.G.M. as discounts can be obtained for hotel, ferries, etc.

The meeting was closed with thanks to the Chair and Committee. It was agreed that the Royal Marine Hotel was an excellent venue and thanks were conveyed to the Proprietor. A busy session followed at the Sales Table and Raffle and Refreshments were served.

Eleanor Williamson

Society Manager's Report

Dear Clanspeople - What a most enjoyable gathering we had earlier in the year. Our new venue has proved to be a great success due to the excellent co-operation we had from Mr. and Mrs. Greig, proprietors of the Royal Marine Hotel in Dunoon.

The first evening of the gathering was a quiet get-together for everyone to exchange news and stories and allow our far-travelled members the chance to relax.

Saturday saw us making an early start at the Tourist Board Office returning later to convene for our A.G.M. and election of Office Bearers and as you can see in the Bulletin, the same members have been returned. I made a suggestion to the Chair that we should encourage our young members to take a more active part in the running of our Clan and that a Youth Development Officer should be looked for. This Clan needs new young members and not always have to depend on its old.

Following the A.G.M. we had a short interlude which allowed us to prepare for a most wonderful array of traditional Scottish fare laid on by Shirley and all her catering and waiting staff.

Our formal evening started with a civic reception hosted by Argyll and Bute Council and our Clan Council Members were delighted to meet several of the Local Council led that evening by Councillor Elspeth McTaggart and we can only thank them for their generous hospitality. Our Chairman, Alan, was gifted the Shield of Argyll and Bute Council by Councillor McTaggart and is now held by the Clan in high esteem.

We launched our Ceilidh dance with an invitation to everyone to take to the floor and join in and enjoy themselves with the reels, jigs, strathspeys, etc.

The first event on the evening's programme was a film show of Argyll and surrounding area by Duncan McEwan, our Clan Council member and photographer extra-ordinaire. I personally could have spent all night listening to Duncan as he described the scenery, colours and seasons in which these photographs were taken.

We returned to the dancing till our half-time break, the band were getting dry by this time, and in need of refreshment. At this juncture we

held our first ever Miss Clan Ewen competition and what a fantastic event this turned out to be. Our judges that evening were: Sir John McEwan, Alan Ewing and Shirley Greig and what a difficult job they had. Our contestants for the evening put this year's Miss World to shame. The most pleasurable job of the evening was interviewing these young ladies and finding out about their lives and aspirations and after much deliberation the panel chose Agnes McEwan to be our first ever Miss Clan Ewen. Agnes had her photograph taken for the local paper and received a bottle of champagne and a sash as her prize. A competition for the men saw them all receive a small prize took us back to the dancing and up to the conclusion of the evening, and a good time was had by all.

Barbara and I did, however, run a small questionnaire during the evening where we asked people their views, ideas for change and other events we could include. Having correlated all these results I looked at the information supplied and can now tell you that next year's event will be longer, bigger and better so don't waste any time and book for next year's event through myself.

Barbara and I intend to offer you a most economical weekend. We will be responsible for your bookings and ferry travel, both at discounted prices. In order to benefit from this, all members must book through me no later than the end of April, 2001. This will enable me to book you into accommodation suitable, i.e. ground level, first floor, single or double room, any special diets, etc. Western Ferries also will offer us reductions around 50% of last year's prices.

The contents of the weekend activities will be disclosed in our Spring Bulletin and I am sure you will find it most enjoyable.

I cannot yet close without mentioning our American Clanspeople who would have, given that they had had their instruments, entertained us, so I ask all Clanspeople and friends who are coming to next year's gathering to bring their instruments with them, whatever they may be.

It would also do our gathering proud if we could have as many of you who play the bagpipes to come along and assist us over the weekend. Please contact me if you can help.

I conclude my report with these last few requests to you all:

1. Please remember that "Sir John's Chieftain Fund" still requires much more money and that by buying items through the Clan helps bring in this much needed revenue. Please encourage all your friends with Scottish connections to buy their own products (i.e. McLeod, McDonald, Lamont, etc., etc., etc.), as we can now supply any item or tartan at discounted prices.
2. Please also remember to book for next year's gathering as soon as possible, remembering it is the second weekend in June, 2001.
3. We still need our Youth Development Officer so please let us look at our young members and encourage them to nominate one of their own.

On behalf of Barbara and myself we would like to wish all of our members a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New year and look forward to seeing you at next year's gathering. Yours aye,

J. G. McEwen

Genealogy Queries

A family of McEwans from Errol, Perthshire

Anthony McEwan is a grandson of Andrew McEwan. It was a query from Anthony to Murdo our Genealogist which prompted the article by Murdo.

Andrew McEwan was born on 10th March, 1878 at Errol in the county of Perth. Andrew's father and mother were Peter and Euphemia McEwan. Andrew was apparently one of 13 brothers and sisters. There must be quite a large number of descendants from these 13 brothers and sisters scattered around the world.

Anthony, the grandson, wonders if anyone may have knowledge of any other descendants. Andrew McEwan was in the army for 25 years in the Horseguards, he died in London in 1952.

If anyone thinks they may have any connection with or information relat-

ing to Andrew or his brothers and sisters, please write to Murdo, or contact the Society.

Secondly, a member has sent an "official" copy of a birth certificate, which turned out to have no relevance to his own researches. If there is someone out there who is indeed descended from the said George McEwan, Murdo will be happy to send them the certificate free of charge (self addressed envelope would be appreciated).

The certificate relates to George McEwan, born 18th March, 1879, his father William McEwan, a shoemaker journeyman. Mother was Mary McEwan and her maiden name was McKee. They were married on 3rd September, 1866 in Glasgow. The certificate is entry number 524 from the Register of Births for the District Parish of St. Rollox, Glasgow, in the County of Lanark.

Murdo McEwan, Genealogist

Genealogy and the Internet

I am by no means an expert on the Internet, so it was with considerable interest (and some trepidation) that I attended a talk given under the above title. The talk had been organised as one of a series of meetings run by The Scottish Genealogy Society (15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL, Tel. 0131 220 3677; Email: subs@scotsgenealogy.com. Listening to the talk - although I was not able to follow all the "technicalities" - it very soon became very apparent that there is an unbelievable amount of information available to anyone, and about anyone, at a few clicks of the mouse. When I say anyone, I mean anyone - dead or alive; anywhere in the world - and this includes YOU. The speaker used his own family researches as examples, and demonstrated how he had located a "lost" cousin. The cousin had left Scotland bound for New Zealand in the early 1970s with no forwarding details at all. The only information at this end was some records of the cousin having worked for a Health Authority (from which he would have accrued pension entitlements) prior to leaving; and his National Insurance number. For reasons of "confidentiality" these possible sources of information would provide no assistance whatsoever. However, with judicious use of his

"mouse", it did not take long for the speaker to track down his cousin - still very much alive and well - to Perth, Australia. A happy (fortunately) reunion followed.

This led to questions from the floor about peoples' (so called) "rights to privacy". What if the cousin had not wanted to be traced? The re-emergence of his old life could have seriously embarrassed his new life of the past 25 years or so. His old life coming back to haunt him, etc. Whilst it was appreciated that "in the wrong hands" this availability of information could be seriously misused, for the genealogist (and in the right hands, hopefully) the availability of the Internet opens up almost unlimited avenues for research. The information might otherwise only be available through hiring expensive enquiry agents / professional genealogists on the other side of the world, with communications by letter ("snail mail") being very long drawn out.

The speaker went on to illustrate his own family researches which included leads in the U.S.A., Ireland, Yorkshire, Eastern Europe and - closer to home - the small hamlet of Arnbrae (in Kilsyth, about 15 miles north east of Glasgow). Apparently Oliver Cromwell had reputedly stayed in the forebears' farmhouse at Arnbrae - so this was leading to yet more lines of possible enquiry/research. It soon became clear that six avenues of enquiry could rapidly become 36, and so on; with information coming in / going out via the internet / Email worldwide on a round the clock basis. One very big word of caution is that if information has been incorrectly transcribed from the original sources to the web site, you will get the incorrect version when you search the web site. So, be warned that it is not infallible. Also, new sites are becoming available all the time, and existing sites are dropping out - so any list of sites is only accurate at the time of compilation, and cannot hope to be exhaustive. Some sites are free of charge; some are free initially or to "small users", others require a subscription. The usual way to subscribe is to pay by credit card via the Internet; but many people (certainly in the U.K. at least) are not convinced that this is "safe and secure".

From the Search Engines, and Web Sites, etc. listed below, the following are suggested as possible starting points:

Cyndi's List Scotland
Cyndi's Home Page Construction Kit

RootsWeb Surname List Ancestry.com (This one is by subscription).

From there, the world opens out.

It would be very interesting to hear how YOU progress through this labyrinthine maze. Stories of progress made, or lack of it, tips on useful websites, websites to avoid, etc. could be very usefully shared through the Bulletin. Please provide your contributions to the Editor.

Finally, I'm well aware that whilst the contents of this article may well be of use, and of particular interest to our more computer literate members, there are many other members who do not (yet?) share this commitment to new technology. Genealogy should be fun and interesting for everyone, so, in the next issue of the Bulletin, I intend doing an article on "Back to Basics - a complete beginners guide to genealogy and family research". This, I hope, will be as uncomplicated and untechnical as possible!

Meanwhile, here are some possible leads for the "techies" to get stuck into:

SEARCH ENGINES

There are many ways now to search for information. You can find genealogy sites, Email addresses of people, telephone numbers, lists of gravestones, births and marriages. Be aware that changes are taking place all the time.

192.com	http://www.192.com/
AltaVista	http://altavista.digital.com/cgi-bin/query?pg=aq
Australian White Pages	http://www.whitepages.com.au/
Canada White Pages	http://www.555-1212.com/whte_ca.htm
Find People - Find E-mail	http://www.anywho.com/
Four11 Directory Service	http://www.four11.com/
Hotbot	http://www.hotbot.com/
LocateMe	http://dbserver.anybirthday.com
Lycos	http://www.lycos.com/
New Zealand tel directory	http://www.whitepages.co.nz/

People Search	http://people.yahoo.com/
Surnames	http://searches.rootsweb.com/sgsurnames.html
Yahoo	http://www.yahoo.com/
Yell	http://www.yell.co.uk/
Web Finder	http://www.internic.net/ds/webfinder/WebFinder.html

USEFUL GENEALOGY WEB SITES

Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS	http://www.anesfhs.org.uk
Ancestry.com (\$59.95)	http://www.ancestry.com/main.htm
Archives of Australia	http://www.aa.gov.au/
Brother's Keeper	http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brothers_Keeper/
Canadian Death Index	http://www2.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/cgi-bin/www2vsd
Cleland Family Genealogy Forum	http://genforum.genealogy.com/cleland/
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	http://www.cwgc.org/ http://yard.ccta.gov.uk/cwgc/register.nsf
Cyndi's List Scotland	http://www.cyndislist.com/scotland.htm
Cyndi's Home Page Construction Kit	http://www.CyndisList.com/construc.htm
Deciphering Old Handwriting	http://www.firstct.com/fv/oldhand.html
FamilySearch (IGI, etc.)	http://www.familysearch.org/
Family Tree Maker	http://www.familytreemaker.com

Free Births, Marriages and Deaths (England, Wales)	http:// FreeBMD.rootsweb.com/
FreeReg (England, Wales)	http://freereg.rootsweb.com/ search/searchform.htm
Frew Family Genealogy Forum	http:// genforum.genealogy.com/ frew/
GenConnect Surname Board	http://cgi.rootsweb.com/- genbbs/indx/FamAssoc.html
GenForum	http:// genforum.genealogy.com/
General Register Office for Scotland	http://wood.ccta.gov.uk/ grosweb/grosweb.nsf
GenServ (\$12 in 1999)	http://www.genserv.com/
GenUKI	http://www.genuki.org.uk/
Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS Gravestone Inscription Recording Instructions	http://www.gwsfhs.org.uk
Historical Manuscripts Commission	http:// www.neep.demon.co.uk/mis http://www.hmc.gov.uk/ archon/archon.htm
IAJGS International Jewish Cemetery Project	http://www.jewishgen.org/ cemetery/scotland.htm
Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild	http://istg.rootsweb.com/
International Genealogical Directory	http://www.chez.com/agi/ intro2.htm
Irish Genealogical Society	http://www.rootsweb.com/- irish/index.html
JewishGen	http://www.jewishgen.org/
JEWISH WEB INDEX	http://jewishwebindex.com/
Kilsyth Old Churchyard	http://members.tripod.com/- Caryl_Williams/Kilsyth- 7.html
National Archives of Canada	http://www/archives.ca/

National Archives of Scotland	http://www.nas.gov.uk/
National Register of Archives	http://www.hmc.gov.uk/nra/nra2.htm
Obituary Daily Times	http://www.rootsweb.com/-obituary/
Occupations	http://cpcug.org/user/jlacombe/terms.html
Perthshire GenUKI	http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct/PER/
Presidents of the U.S.A.	http://www.rootsweb.com/-rwguide/presidents
Researching Your Roots	http://www.familychronical.com/internet.html
Ron Taylor's UK Census Finding Aids and Index (\$2 charge)	http://rontay.digiweb.com/
Rootsweb Surname List	http://rsl.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/rslsq1.cgi
Royal Air Force Fighter Pilots	http://www.battleofbritain.net/section-7/pilot_index.html
Rutherford Family Genealogy Forum	http://genforum.genealogy.com/rutherford/
Scottish Association of Family History Societies	http://www.safhs.org.uk/
Scots Origins (30 pages for £6)	http://www.origins.net/GRO/ http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk
Scottish Genealogy Society	www.scotsgenealogy.com/
Shetland FHS	http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/shetland-fhs
Social Security Death Index (U.S.A.)	http://ssdi.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/ssdi.cgi
St. Catherine's Marriage Index	http://www.cs.ncl.ac.uk/

StreetMap

Tay Valley FHS

Turnbull Border Clan

U.S.A. Social Security Death Index

WorldGenWeb Project

genuki/

StCathsTranscriptions/

<http://www./streetmap.co.uk/>

<http://www.sol.co.uk/t/>

tayvalleyfhs

<http://www.turnbulls.org/>

[http://www.ancestry.com/](http://www.ancestry.com/ssdi/advanced.htm)

ssdi/advanced.htm

<http://>

www.worldgenweb.org/

FTP SOFTWARE

CuteFTP

WS FTP

sales@globalscape.com

<ftp://ftp.usma.edu/pub/>

msdos/winsock.files/

ws.ftp.zip

NEWSGROUPS

alt.genealogy

israel.jewishgen

soc.genealogy.australia+nz

soc.genealogy.britain

soc.genealogy.computing

soc.genealogy.ireland

soc.genealogy.jewish

soc.genealogy.methods

soc.genealogy.misc

soc.genealogy.surnames.britain

soc.genealogy.surnames.ireland

EMAIL GROUPS

BK5-L-REQUEST@GENEALOGY.ORG

GenBrit-D-request@rootsweb.com

GenIRE-D-request@rootsweb.com

GENMSC-d-request@rootsweb.com

GEN-OBIT-request@rootsweb.com
JEWISH-ROOTS-D-request@rootsweb.com
ROOTS-L-request@rootsweb.com
SCT-PERTHSHIRE-D-request@rootsweb.com
SCT-SHETLAND-D-request@rootsweb.com
SURNAMES-L-request@rootsweb.com

Note: to subscribe to Email groups put only the word subscribe in text.

Murdo McEwan
September 2000

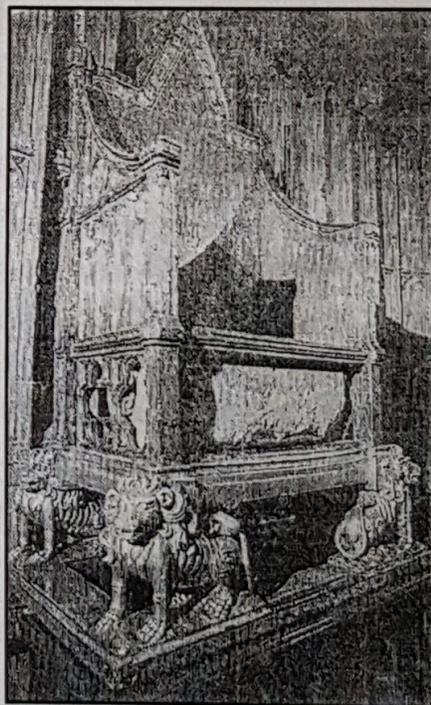
Stone of Destiny

The ancient and potent Stone of Scone (Skoon), a symbol of independence and democratic freedom, as well as an enthralling mystery, carried on over seven centuries of history.

The Coronation stone for Irish and Scots Kings alike, taken by Edward 1st in 1296 from Scotland back to London and Westminster, or was it?

There are at least four stones known in the public domain. The first one taken by Edward has been used in every British coronation of a monarch since 1308.

The 400 pound stone, was stolen by four Scots Nationalists in 1950. The four students apparently broke the stone into two pieces and placed a note in the centre, before sealing it together. So says one of the students involved, Kay Mathieson. She will not confirm, however, if this stone was the real one or not. Only that it will have to be cracked open to find out the message.



*The ancient Stone of Scone
beneath the Coronation Chair in
London's Westminster Abbey. The
stone was taken from Scotland in
1296*

The mystery deepens, when the stone was first reported as being found after the theft, on the altar of Arbroath Abbey in two pieces. Many people have stated that the stone that resided at Westminster after the theft was a fake. The Knights Templars have long been guardians of the stone. One being Rev. John MacKay Nimmo. He has stated that Baillie Robert Gray, a monument sculptor, repaired the stone and also made two copies. It is a copy that has sat in London since 1951. "Not so!" said the Scottish Secretary at the time, "the Government has secret file tests on the stone showing it to be authentic". But will not, however, reveal the tests.

It is also, according to Knight Commander of the Templars, totally irrelevant, as Neil Macleod has watched over and guarded the real stone. The Dull Stone, has been kept at Dull, near Aberfeldy since 1972. He states the real stone was transferred to his care then and the Westminster stone is a fake.

However, just to compound the issue, both or all of these stones are of sandstone. The original Stone of Destiny in early records is described as the blue stone because of its polished look and colour tone. It is not the description of a stone consistent with being taken from a block of sandstone.

In conclusion, there is one more piece to add to the jigsaw. A report on record, that the original stone! removed in 1296 was in fact itself a fake. The Stone of Destiny never crossed the border in the first place and was removed for safe keeping before Edward could take it.

It is interesting to note that the stone in Irish records is described as the Fealty Stone whereby the heir apparent is crowned by a Priest of the Celtic Church. King Ewan was crowned this way at Iona. So were the O'Neill Kings in Ireland and the "Bruce" in Scotland. The term described, i.e., one foot is placed on the stone in the King's footprint, the other leg is bent at the knee to kneel for coronation. This is the potent power of the stone as it was used down through the ages, by all Kings. It was not placed under a throne and sat on. I have no doubt the mystery will continue and be debated further.

Just on a personal note, I have always been a Monarchy supporter and the reigning British Monarch, the Queen presides at Westminster on official matters. However, when the two thrones joined as James VI of

Scotland and James I of England, the older line takes precedence. The Scots line is the older by legal standing. So the Queen could in fact hold parliament at Edinburgh and reside at Balmoral. Interesting thought though!

Secrets of Life in the Stone Age

It all began as just a passing look at a pile of crumbling debris being eroded by the sea on a remote headland. But it is turning into a grandstand view of the past - a treasure trove of artefacts that is likely to yield a wealth of secrets about how our ancestors lived 5,000 years ago.

When archeologist Graeme Wilson was sent north from Edinburgh to have a look at "interesting debris", the fragments suggested just another Bronze Age settlement of the type that covers the Orkneys.

As the team began their short dig to identify the mound at Knowe of Skea, it gradually dawned on them they were looking at the find of a lifetime, a Stone Age burial chamber. The most exciting archaeological discovery in 140 years, not since the unearthing of the famous Maeshowe on mainland Orkney in 1862, has such a treasure of artefacts been found, including pottery and bones (both animal and human).

The chamber at Maeshowe has an impressive stone structure, but very little remains of the human inhabitants. The Knowe of Skea chamber on the island of Westray has fragments of human bones from all parts of the body. Its roof is still intact, which has no doubt contributed to the remains in the chamber being preserved.

"At first we didn't know what it was", said Mr. Wilson, whose company (EASE Archaeology) had embarked on what they thought was just a routine dig. However, as they gradually removed the surface and the chamber revealed itself, Mr. Wilson states his reaction.

"We kept digging the turf back and back and still we never came to the other side of the chamber. It was two or three days before we knew what it was. We'd been expecting a house or something domestic - it was a huge surprise to find a tomb.

Up until now, Maeshowe has been out on its own. Now we have another, approaching the same scale. It is the find of a lifetime".

So little is known about the Stone Age that an undisturbed significant site such as Knowe of Skea has the potential to yield - a wealth of secrets, from the way an ancient Scottish community ordered its society to its spiritual beliefs and attitudes to life itself.

Mr. Wilson, his partner Hazel Moore and their team, all believe the fragments of human remains are the first evidence of "Excarnation".

Suggesting that the small Stone Age communities who lived on Orkney and surrounding islands, first laid the bodies of their loved ones to rest on top of the chamber, until only their skeletons remained. They then ritually placed the larger bones inside the chamber. The tomb is remarkably similar to a neolithic house. "Knowe of Skea", is a burial place, but Stone Age houses for the living such as "Knap of Howar" on neighbouring "Papa Westray", the oldest known house in North Western Europe at over 5000 years old has been built and structured in very much the same way.

Mr. Wilson explains: "It's not like today; they built these massive structures to represent the houses they were living in - and would place their dead on benches and in nooks that resemble box beds.

"The tombs were revisited, again and again, to put in place their relatives next to their ancestors and to show a mark of respect. They would also have been very visible to the community as a constant reminder of affirming where their ancestors lived and a physical claim to the land they had settled on".

In some ways, Mr. Wilson believes these first Orcadians had a more natural attitude to life and death than modern man does.

The Stone Age Farmers that settled on Westray lived in small groups of around 25 to 30, bonded by a strong sense of family and community life. Their age expectancy was short - average age of those buried ranged from 19 with the oldest barely reaching 40.

Originally from mainland Scotland, they brought with them cattle, sheep, dogs and in some cases deer - none of which existed before on the islands. The Orkney climate 5000 years ago was slightly warmer than

now, allowing farmers to grow not only barley but also wheat, which is not possible in the isles today. The seas, too, were full of fish.

The food was contained in very large, flat-bottomed jars. The pottery was generally crude, but very highly decorated.

Archaeology and archaeologists like Mr. Wilson are very interested in revealing the information the chamber holds. In particular, regarding the human remains and how they are arranged within the chamber, suggesting ritual significance. Also, if they were from the same family group and how closely related they were. To find out whether the whole population was buried in the same way, or just a select group.

Fully exploring and preserving "Knowe of Skea" will have to be encompassed within a whole list of priorities on Orkney and elsewhere. The headland is eroding and important sites are threatened with imminent collapse into the sea.

Eventually the chamber could be protected by a sea wall and Mr. Wilson believes "Knowe of Skea", will prove a welcome tourism draw to Westray.

This is an edited article for the Bulletin. Full acknowledgement goes to Jeremy Hodges who wrote the original article in full and also thanks to Charles Ewen for sending it in.

A Rally Cry

I might ruffle the feathers of fellow Clansmen, but I believe harsh language is warranted to get a Chief again. Face the facts, we need the cash to get the ball rolling in that direction, there is no question about it.

If we sincerely want a Chief again we will have to dig deep in our pockets for the needed funds to get results. In my mind set, I have gone past making appeals for such. Frankly stated, ask yourself these questions - Do you want a Chief again or do you not? Will we get a Chief again with the fight of financial backing or will the just cause go down in a whimper?

I surely hope not for the sake of the Clan as a whole and its future. I

disliked delivering my message like this, but there was no escaping it.

Paul McEwan, your U.S. Correspondent

Editor's Report

I must send apologies to our Canadian Correspondent Bill McEwan and his close friend, Dr. Angus MacDonald. In the May Bulletin under the article "Your Canadian Correspondent", an error was made in the printing of a photograph. The description read as being a picture of Dr. Angus MacDonald. However, the photograph is actually of our correspondent Bill McEwan. I'm sure Bill and Dr. Angus will see the funny side as Bill is now registered in the Bulletin as a gold medal winning, world class piper.

Secondly, relating to a point raised by our U.S. Correspondent Paul McEwan. Due to a number of new members coming into the Society, he raised the point that none of these members will probably have seen the Society's full constitution. If that is the case, I have gladly placed in the Bulletin the constitution for everybody to study at their leisure. It is well worth reading again, even if you have received it before.

As you have seen in the Bulletin, the rally cry from Paul to all Clan members on the importance of contributing to the Chiefship's fund, if we are really serious about giving the Clan a Chief again!

Remember, we are not recognised by the Full Standing Council of Scottish Clan Chiefs until a new Chief is elected. If you believe in the Clan Society enough to join it, if you seek the same aims and have faith in the Constitution, then you must support the drive for funding a new Chief.

All of us, each and every member, has a responsibility to all our Clan members down through nearly 500 years of recorded history (including our own family ancestors), to preserve and maintain the Clan. There is also nearly 500 years of history yet to be traced. This Clan has a glorious and honourable past. At the very least, it deserves and requires the same commitment to the future.

A Profile on Earle McEwen

November of 1928 bore an ominous omen for the hogs which roamed Hawera's hillsides in the Taranaki district, and a son to the proud parents of Earle McEwen. Another potential pig sticker had just entered the world. From an early age Earle had a keen affinity with the outdoors. His love of ornithology (bird watching), birds nesting, catching koura from the local streams and goat hunting whenever he had a spare moment evolved into what was to become a life long passion, pig hunting.

Taranaki staked claim to an abundance of pigs back in those days, so it was just a matter of time until he and his mates' interests naturally progressed to pursuing larger and more exciting game. Earle was fifteen with just one dog when he and his adventurous friends ventured into the hills and returned home with their first piece of pork. From that point on the die was cast, many pigs fell victim to his knife and literally hundreds of deer succumbed to his rifle, in particular down the West Coast of the South Island.

Up until recently Earle's run a solo hound, always a cattle header, so when he ventured off to Wellington to training college, Chum his faithful mutt was in tow. His weekends away from the books were spent chasing pigs in Whiteman's Valley, Upper Hutt and Petone where the hills were plastered in gorse. There weren't great numbers of animals and the ones that were around succumbed to a lot of pressure from local hunters. The gorse made for hard hunting and despite the low pig population it wasn't uncommon for hogs to roam right down to the houses. The move to Taupo in 1954 to work for the Internal Affairs department to study the Taupo fishery was a breath of fresh air after the gorse covered hills of Petone. The whole region was a pig hunter's paradise. When working and surveying fish he always had a dog with him, securing pork or shooting deer for meat.

Being his own man he found the confines of working with a government department stifling and left Internal Affairs to set up a trucking business. Pigs were so numerous that it wasn't uncommon to see animals quietly grazing on the road side late in the afternoon. The easiest pig he ever nailed was from behind the wheel of one of his fleet of trucks. The day was drawing to a close as he powered up Hatepe hill and skittled what he initially thought was someone's dog. The front wheels of his fully

laden six ton truck lifted off the ground as the vehicle bulldozed over the animal. Much to Earle's surprise and relief, a huge boar lay dead on the side of the road when he exited the cab. The only way he could lift it on to the tray of the truck was to pull a post out of the ground and lever the hog onto the back of the truck.

Every Sunday was and has been for many years religiously set aside for pig hunting. Many which due to one reason or another are firmly etched into Earle's memory banks. The most bizarre happening was when he and a few mates were at the top of the Hatepe River and following a big ridge which they were working up the side of. His mates and the dogs were up ahead. Earle stepped up onto a hump under the scrub to take another step forwards when the "hump" got up and took off with Earle balanced atop of its back. He had actually stepped onto a pig which was in a deep sleep under the vegetation. What seemed like a hell of a long time, but in reality was as long as it takes a terrified half awake pig to carry a pig hunter who's half out of his wits ten feet, before he falls off had his mates shaking their heads in disbelief at the commotion. They thought Earle belonged in tight fitting jacket in a padded room and had gone stark raving mad, as he appeared to be doing a highland fling, flailing his arms around and getting vocal as he danced down a steep bank. The dogs heard the fracas and flew off after the fleeting pig, but luck was on the hogs side and it was swallowed up by the sanctity of the thick scrub.

To be continued

New Member

The Chairman, on behalf of all members of the Society, welcomes the following new member who has joined since our last publication.

Mrs. Vera Carlisle 44 Bingham Road West, Milltimber, Aberdeen
AB13 0JB

Clan Ewing Society

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 23rd May 1999 TO 21st MAY 2000

Income

Subscriptions Life Single	£171.83	
Subscriptions	921.37	
Donations	58.59	
Bank Interest	34.06	
Raffle and Sale of Clan Merchandise	1125.21	
Cash in hand from Clan Merchandise	80.00	
		£2391.06

Expenditure

Printing of three Bulletins	£939.25	
Postage and carriage of same	500.44	
Purchase of Clan Merchandise	1173.29	
Scots Magazine adverts	293.61	
Clan Ceilidh Musicians	180.00	
Stationery	66.43	
Room Hire for Meeting	109.00	
Donations	60.00	
Excess of expenditure over income	930.96	
		£3322.02

Chief's Account - Opened 7th June, 1999

Donations received from U.K. (This includes one generous gift of £500)	£857.59	
Donations from Overseas (All these from U.S.A. except one)	468.00	
Bank Interest to 12/11/00	17.76	
		£1343.35

Trading Account

Opening Stock	£807.94	Closing Stock	£1290.30
Purchases	1173.29	Tartan for Book Cover	30.79
Profit	465.07	Sales includes Raffle	1125.21
	£2446.30		£2446.30

Assets at 21st May, 2000

Treasurer's Account	£1861.00
Cash, includes Sales	100.00
Closing Stock	1290.30
Clan Chief's Account	658.71
	£3910.01

Assets at 21st May, 1999

Treasurer's Account	£2823.53
Cash in Hand	67.00
Closing Stock	807.94
	£3698.47

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

Charles Ewen, Auditor

OFFICE BEARERS

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