



CLAN EWEN SOCIETY

Bulletin

NO. 9 JUNE 1983

TO ALL MEMBERS OF CLAN EWEN

I send a warm greeting — wherever you are. Since the last letter went out, we are glad to report an increase in membership, and also to report that which gladdens all Scotsmen's hearts — an increase in subscriptions! We have recently been meeting in Aberfoyle in the lovely Trossach area.

Even if as I write it is raining hard and Ben Lomond is shrouded in mists, we send a breath of good Scottish air to you — and express a wish that someday we may meet you here and show you these places ourselves.

Keep in touch. If you come to Scotland there will be fellow MacEwens glad to meet you and give you a welcome.

Sincerely,

REV. PETER MacEWEN, Chairman

As the Chairman reports above, the Society held a meeting on 15th April, 1983 in the Covenanters' Inn at Aberfoyle. Many items of Society business and news were reported, and decisions taken about two other activities for 1983.

The first of these is to meet at *Bellahouston Park, Glasgow*, on Saturday, 13th August, where the World Piping Championships are to be held, organised by the Scottish Pipe Band Association. Other societies like ours are likely to be present — look out for our tent or stand if you can come along.

The second event — for which this is the official notice — is the Society's Annual General Meeting. This has been arranged for the *Tinto Hotel, Symington, Lanarkshire*, on Saturday, 8th October, 1983 at 3 p.m. Note that Symington is near Biggar in South Lanarkshire, and NOT the small Ayrshire village of the same name.

We hope to see many members at both events, and do encourage you to invite anyone interested in the Society to join us on either day.

DR. DOUGLAS M. C. MacEWAN

Douglas MacEwan, along with the late Archie McEwan of Mauchline, founded the Clan Society in January, 1977, when the first visit to the ancestral lands of Otter was organised for May 1977 and attended by some 40 people. Although living in Hythe, Kent, on the extreme south coast of England, with all the attendant problems of having to travel north for meetings, he was a guiding light from the beginning of the Society.

Douglas is a physicist of considerable distinction. Born in Edinburgh in 1917, he studied Mathematics, Natural Philosophy and Physics at Edinburgh University from where he graduated with First Class Honours in 1939. He went on to study Crystallography and received a Doctorate in that subject from the University in 1942.

For some 25 years, from 1942 to 1967, he was engaged in Research, Lecturing and Experimentation in his chosen subject in Aberdeen, in England and out in Spain, — in Madrid and Granada. He was also, for a time, senior lecturer in Physics at Queen's College, Dundee, part of the University of St. Andrews.

He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1960.

His interests did not end with Crystallography. He is fluent in three languages — Spanish, Swedish and French. His many articles, lectures and publications in these languages, and at home, led him into the field of literature and publishing. As a publisher he founded the Volturna Press in 1966, in which business he is involved to this day.

Up until recently when business problems decreed that he hand it over to others, he edited and printed the clan "Bulletin". He also issued beautifully bound copies of R.T.S. MacEwen's 'History of Clan Ewen'.

But there is another side to Douglas MacEwan. He is a very concerned man — concerned for the problems of the Conservation of the Earth's resources. He has an interest in aspects of 'Humanism' and in the wider approach to religion. He is concerned for the problems of Freedom and Organisation in the modern world. He is interested in Parapsychology in its relation to Science and for the preservation of languages of 'minor interest'.

All in all, this Joint Founder of the Clan Ewen Society is a man of many parts and of a busy, enquiring and restless intellect. He is typical of the many Scots who have gone out from their ancestral lands down the centuries and given freely of themselves to the bettering of the human lot and to the widening of the human horizon.

Douglas has been in touch with us again recently and is still able to act and advise for the Society in the South-East of England. We thank him sincerely for his work for the Clan.

We have in Scotland a very famous hospital, The Princess Louise Scottish Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers better known as "Erskine Hospital", at Bishopton, Renfrewshire. Erskine has in the past 65 years cared for more physically incapacitated members of the Armed Forces than any other comparable hospital in Britain, but how many know that Erskine's beginnings, in the dark days of World War I was possible due to: more than anyone else: the eminent surgeon — *Sir William Macewen*, who was the driving force that brought the hospital into being.

In 1915 the scale of casualties from the war made it obvious that a large modern military hospital was needed in Scotland and it was suggested that Sir William Macewen with his great influence and skill could render more effective help than anyone else. It was Sir William who led the deputation that put the scheme before the then Lord Provost of Glasgow.

The huge "Erskine Mansion" was generously offered free from its present owner for the duration of the war and option of becoming a permanent institution on payment of the agricultural value of the ground. The owner's offer was accepted, the owner being *Mr. Aikman*, and work was started after many Committee meetings.

The choice of Patron was H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll who readily consented.

In 1915 Macewen was Regius Professor of Surgery at the University of Glasgow and universally acclaimed as one of the greatest surgeons of his time. He was *Chief* to every aspiring young surgeon in Glasgow and according to his contemporaries 50 years ahead of his time. A formidable figure, certainly a man of great compassion, as many of Erskine's war shattered patients came to know.

He was largely instrumental in the formation of what was practically a new industry in the country — namely the making of artificial limbs and their fitting for comfort.

When Sir William Macewen was called upon to head this great Erskine venture, he was a Fellow of every College of Surgery across the world — St. Petersburg, Rome, America, Germany, Ireland, Liverpool, Oxford and Glasgow. Surgeon General to the Royal Navy in Scotland and to His Majesty King George V.

It was said — it will be a long time before Glasgow knows another of the calibre of Sir William Macewen. Great men are remembered by the fruits of their work, more than by monuments. Macewen's great humanitarian achievements place him among the "Giants of the Century".

'ERSKINE' (continued)

As this hospital is not state owned and is kept by voluntary donations, all purchases of the book "The Vanishing Willows" by John Calder published by Erskine Hospital, price £2, would be welcome; so of course would be any other donation any of our readers may send.

As Vice Chairman of the Glasgow and South West Scotland Committee of the Earl Haig Fund, I heartily endorse the remarks in the previous paragraphs and readily commend to you the need for donations — this Hospital requires all the support it can get.

Perhaps our Clan Society can help to continue the good work of our illustrious name-sake by showing as much benevolence as possible.

Alan Ewing

Some members and friends recently enjoyed a Scottish Night in the College of Building and Printing in Glasgow.

David McEwan, Principal of the College, as a committee member, offered us this splendid opportunity to meet socially — and on a much wider scale than we could have managed on our own.

However, this evening was not restricted to Scotland: it took on an international flavour with the presence of overseas students at the College who represented a variety of cultures. Nor was 'the tartan' the only mode of national dress in evidence. Many of the overseas students wore their own national costumes too.

This was a most enjoyable evening, and we sincerely thank David and the members of his staff who helped make it so.

B. McEwan

TO FRIENDS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Let us not lightly cast aside anything that belongs to the past, for only with the past can we rear the fabric of the future.

Anatole France

(from Martha Ewen)

LINK-UP

Dear Friends,

In an effort to encourage members and their families to keep in closer touch with each other, we are publishing names and addresses of those interested in corresponding. We hope this exercise may encourage more young folk into the Clan and, who knows, we may find lots of interesting links popping up here and there. Do drop us a line if you would like your name etc. published -- you never know, you may get a letter from a long lost relative, anywhere in the world.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Liliias Ewen (Chas. 33 yrs. Liliias 31 yrs.)
39 Culzean Crescent, Newton-Mearns,
Renfrewshire, Scotland.

Mrs. Jean Ewen Reid (39 yrs.)
10 Glen Farrar, St. Leonards,
East Kilbride, Glasgow, Scotland

Happy Linking

Martha Ewen

SEANNACHIE'S SCRIBBLES

Your Seannachie (historian) returned from a holiday abroad to find a fine bag of mail waiting for him.

Michael McQuown of Philadelphia writes a most entertaining letter anent the spelling of his family name and mentions that he used to use the name "Ian McEwan" when engaged in his hobby of reconstruction of Colonial Regiments till he discovered there was an Ian McEwan, a novelist. I have news for you, Michael, as Ian McEwan's name appeared recently in a list of the twenty most promising newer writers so, at least, you picked a winner!

Like myself, Dorothy Fulhage of Kansas has been jaunting but she is still chasing her Ewing ancestry and my thanks are due to Luella Black also of Kansas who has been kind enough to send me her family tree, also Ewing. The Ewing North America connection warrants a study by itself with the general picture being that of a movement from the Lennox/Dunbartonshire area to Ulster when James I set up his settlements and then from Ulster to North America. There seems to have been a good deal of research done in this field already and the sorting out of this with the help of family histories such as I am now getting will, I am sure, in time give us a much more coherent picture.

SEANNACHIE'S SCRIBBLES (continued)

Dorothy is visiting Scotland this summer and I only hope that the weather behaves when I meet up with her in Argyll. But for Dorothy, and indeed any others who are visiting Scotland, perhaps I should repeat the old story we tell ourselves of the visitor to Scotland who, disgusted with our weather, is reported to have asked a local Scot, "Does it always rain here?", only to receive the answer, "No, No, sometimes it snows".

Gavin McEwin and his sister Airlie of South Australia have sent some fascinating tales of their Great Grandfather's early days in Glen Ewin and I particularly like the one of him receiving some apple seeds (remember this is in 1839). The seeds, for safe keeping I assume, are up on the McEwin mantelpiece when one of the McEwin hens nips up and swallows them. Great Grandfather McEwin was a man of swift decisions. The guilty hen was quickly killed, the seeds retrieved, the first apple trees in South Australia planted and in Glen Ewin now stands a large jam factory.

Such stories are, to me, living history and I would be delighted to receive more from our overseas members.

Dr. Alex McEwen of Ottawa has also been in touch and has sent me a copy of his family history. Dr. Alec's forbears are from the Otter/Kilfinan area and, like the late Archie McEwan's ancestors, must be fairly certainly of the original McEwens of that area who stayed on after the Clan leadership faded out in the 15th century. This is a most intriguing area as it is hard to accept that a family can just disappear in the shades of history but, alas, in this part of Mid Argyll, it does happen, but, who knows, some scrap of information may be lying somewhere to give a clue.

FAMOUS SCOTS

Do you think Scots are dour, mean and inordinately patriotic? Have you heard that they live below decks on cargo ships drinking whisky and shouting, "Och aye", to everyone called Mac or Jock? Don't be embarrassed, most people have this idea.

We would like to suggest that this is not quite true. We're not claiming that the world wouldn't spin without the Scots people, only that it would spin a lot less smoothly. Dare we claim that Scots have

FAMOUS SCOTS (continued)

been quietly shaping the destiny of more than one great nation for quite some time? Would the Australians mind us mentioning that seven of their Prime Ministers in recent history have been Scots and incidentally it was a Scot, John MacArthur who introduced sheep to that country. And would it be too insensitive to remind the English that their first Prime Minister, John Stewart, 3rd Earl of Bute, was a Scot followed of course by George Hamilton Gordon 4th Earl of Aberdeen in 1852, Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman 1905-1908, A. Bonar Law 1922, James Ramsay MacDonald 1924, Harold MacMillan 1957, and Sir Alex Douglas Home 1963. Not forgetting that it was a 'canny' Scot, William Paterson who founded the Bank of England!

While Scottish statesmen were running countries around the world, other Scots were busy discovering new ones. David Livingstone opening up Africa; Sir Alexander MacKenzie from the Hebrides putting his name to the MacKenzie river in North West Canada and young midshipman Robert Pitcairn using his keen eyes to sight the Pitcairn Islands, Australia.

Perhaps we should temper the adjective, 'dour', so often prefixing Scot to 'stern level-headedness' and then couple it with 'vision' for it is the ability to see the finished article in the raw material, whether a bridge over a chasm or a railway through the mountains, that makes the Scot a natural engineer and inventive planner; Sir William Arrol, builder of the famous London Tower Bridge, the Forth Railway Bridge and the Tay Bridge, and Sir Thomas Telford are just two examples of Scottish engineering flair.

Engineers of a different kind were Lord Dowding, Chief of Fighter Command, who masterminded the critical Battle of Britain, and John Paul Jones, who in the middle of the 18th century founded the American Navy. A little less laudable in retrospect were the efforts of another Scot, Sir Samuel Greig, who played a prominent part in establishing the Russian Navy!

With wild water and rugged cliffs skirting mainland Scotland it is not surprising that the sea has played an important part in shaping the character of the Scot. We no longer have gentlemen like Andrew Barton who in 1506 sent three barrels of Flemish pirates' heads to his sovereign to underline his various skills, but we do have men like Chay Blyth from Hawick demonstrating modern day courage and seamanship. He was the first man to sail round the world solo from East to West.

While our intrepid Scots were making their marks in far flung

FAMOUS SCOTS (continued)

corners of the globe, things were also happening on the domestic front, Edinburgh born Alexander Graham Bell came up with a natty little gadget called the telephone. Then there was television, the most influential piece of furniture in anyone's room today: John Logie Baird's gift to mankind in 1925. And radar, an idea coming from Sir Robert Alexander Watson-Watt, a Scot from Brechin. On the highway a lot of bumps were being taken out by two Ayrshiremen, Mr. John Boyd Dunlop, a many faceted vet, who came up with the pneumatic tyre and Mr. John Loudon MacAdam, who gave us tarmac to run it on.

A less surprising invention of the Scots is the mackintosh named after Charles MacIntosh who developed the water-proofing compound used for raincoats. In the field of medical sciences most people are aware that Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin in 1928, was a Scot, but did you know that Sir James Young Simpson, a Bathgate obstetrician, discovered chloroform in 1847 — confirming his findings by experimenting on himself: Robert Liston of Linlithgow actually performed the first operation under general anaesthetic though he had already established a reputation as a surgeon.

One of the more dubious records attributed to this colourful gentleman was the amputation, without anaesthetic, of a patient's leg, through the thigh in 33 seconds. Unhappily his zeal was such that he took off three of his assistant's fingers at the same time! Upholding tradition in medicine comes the recent discovery by Alick Isaacs, the Glasgow virologist, of the drug, Interferon, with its potential application for cancer treatment.

But we don't want to embarrass you by going on and on or give the impression that the Scots discovered or invented everything worthwhile that exists. In any case you will already know that most great writers and poets like Robert Louis Stevenson, John Buchan, Robert Ballantyne, Walter Scott, Robert Burns, Thomas Carlyle, etc., were all Scottish, and that possibly the most gracious and best loved lady in our land, Lady Elizabeth Angela Margaret Bowes-Lyon of Glamis Castle, is a Scot. You may know her better as the Queen Mother. And we don't really need to tell you that Francis Teresa Stewart, described by Pepys as 'the greatest beauty I ever saw', is Scottish. She appears with trident and shield on the back of every fifty pence coin of the realm. What might surprise you is that whisky is believed to have originated outside Scotland coming in with early Christian monks. But don't worry, both Canada Dry and soda water were Scottish inventions and so was marmalade dreamed up by a Dundee lady called Mrs. Keiller.

FAMOUS SCOTS (continued)

Oh yes, you might be interested to know that James Watt – the steam engine chappie – was a Scot and so was James Keir Hardie, founder of the British Labour party; and Andrew Carnegie, the iron and steel tycoon – a philanthropic Scot would you believe, who gave away £100,000,000.

And, of course, John Knox, the great churchman and Sir John Reith, father of the BBC. And have you been to the dentist recently? It might be reassuring to know that James Nasmyth of Edinburgh, invented the dentist's drill and the steam hammer but I'm boring you C. E.

HOW SHOULD I SPELL MY NAME? (continued)

I have only one remaining bee in my bonnet about spelling names and that is the use of a small letter at the beginning of the family name, e.g. Macewan. I don't see how one can justify this custom when the name, being originally a Christian name, demands the capital letter. However, in this connection, I am influenced as well by a tale my father used to tell of his youth when as a young man, he moved from a small fishing village in Argyll to pursue his studies at the Normal Teachers Training College in the great city of Glasgow. It had been impressed on him by some relative who had more experience of the Great Outside World that the correct spelling of his name was Macewan. This advice he listened to and duly enrolled himself at the College as Macewan. Came his first class and first roll call given, as it happened, by an English lecturer. He did not hear his name called among the others and, having paid his fees, felt he had better point out to the lecturer that he was in fact a Bona Fide duly registered student. The lecturer politely informed him that he had noticed that one student had not answered to his name – someone called "May Swan". That was sufficient, and Father reverted to the "McEwan" which he handed on to us.

OVERSEAS NEWS

It is with great pleasure and interest that we have had our Clan name and history appearing in the December 1982 issue of the Scottish Banner of Toronto, Canada. This paper was sent to us by a Clan member, Barry Ewen, who lives in Toronto, and is the son of our Treasurer.

OVERSEAS NEWS (continued)

Barry is a piper with the 78th Fraser Highlanders who last year took the Championship Supreme Award at the Fergus Highland Games in Ontario. This year the band are looking forward to visiting Scotland and competing in the World Pipe Band Championships at Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, on the 13th August and at Cowal Highland Gathering on the 27th August.

The Clan hope their visit will be a 'piping' success.

THE SCOTTISH TARTANS SOCIETY, COMRIE, Perthshire, Scotland

RESEARCH REPORT

NOTE: Considerable research is currently taking place in the field of Scottish Tartans and, while the information given hereunder is true to the best of our knowledge and belief, it is subject to amendment in the light of any subsequent discoveries made in the course of research.

Where **THREAD-COUNTS** are given, these represent the ratio of threads of the warp, or the fringe that one would get if the cross threads were drawn away from the edge of the tartan cloth. The counts given represent half of a complete **SETT** (pattern) — the colours repeating in the order given from either **PIVOT**. The pivot is underlined in the thread-count and is the band or stripe on either side of which the sett or pattern mirrors itself. The thread-count for the pivot is the full count, it should be noted, and in the more unusual asymmetric tartans, there is **NO** pivot.

It may well be found to be of assistance to draw two parallel lines about 0, 5" apart and divide the space between these lines with vertical lines spaced in ratio as given in the thread-count. Now block in spaces, using colours as indicated in thread-count, with crayon, paint or coloured inks. This will give an excellent visual picture of the warp of the tartan as seen in the loom before the insertion of the weft.

SUBJECT: *MACEWAN/MACEWEN*

REPORT:

Red	Black	Green	Black	Blue	Black	Blue	Black	Blue	Black	Green	Black	Yellow
4	2	24	24	24	2	4	2	24	24	24	2	4

This sett resembles the Campbell of Loudoun sett, the latter having

THE SCOTTISH TARTANS SOCIETY (continued)

a white line as opposed to the red in the MacEwan. The above sett first appears in the two volume work of William Johnston, published in 1906. Both the McEwan and Campbell of Loudon setts would appear to be based on the Black Watch or Government tartan.

Frank Adam¹ p.329 says of MacEwan; An old clan now extinct as such, derived from the same tribe as the MacLachlans and the MacNeills, viz., the Siol Gillivray. The seat of the Chief of Clan Ewan was at Otter Lochfyne, in Cowal. In the twelfth century the Lamonts, MacEwans, and MacLachlans were in possession of the greater part of the district of Cowal, from Toward Point to Strachur. Lamonts were separated from MacEwans by the River Kilfinnan and MacEwans from MacLachlans by the stream which divides the parishes of Kilfinnan and Strath Lachlan.

In 1432, Swene, son of Ewan, resigned to King James I, the Barony of Ottirwerane in Cowal, which the King granted him anew with remainder to Celestine Cambel, the son and heir of Duncan Cambel of Lochaw. By an indenture the same year at the Ottir it was agreed that when Suffne M'Ewyn, Laird of Ottirweran, should have an heir he should pay to Gillaspy Cambel, the son and heir of Duncan Cambel, Lord of Lochaw, on the day or otherwise of Gillaspy's pleasure, sixty marks Scots and twenty-five sufficient marks at Ottirweran, Inchconnil, or Innerayra, or give him two Larragis and the lands of Killala in the Barony of Ottir for yearly payment of half a mark, and should his heir die before he should have another, that the agreement should remain valid, and Suffne should give Gillaspy the first offer of the land if leased. In this manner the heritage of the Clan Ewan passed into the rapacious grasp of the Campbells. After this as a clan the MacEwans of Cowal appear to have followed their kinsman MacLachlan of Clan Lachlan.

Some of the Clan Ewan, Ewing appear to have settled under the Earl of Lennox in Dunbartonshire during the fifteenth century.

A family of MacEwan were sennachies to the Campbells of Glenurchy.

¹ Frank Adam, *The Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands*. Published 1908 by Johnston and Bacon.

DUNCAN SNAPS UP A NATIONAL PICTURE PRIZE

So headed an article in a Scottish local newspaper a few months ago. The Duncan in fact was our committee member, Duncan McEwan, 73 Hazelwood Road, Bridge of Weir in Renfrewshire, son of the late Archie McEwan of Mauchline, who was one of the Joint Founders of our Clan Society.

A picture with the article shows Duncan with his prizewinning photograph of a Highland river, taken in Glen Spean in Inverness-shire, together with his prizes of £100 for camera equipment, plus a bottle of the sponsor's Linkwood malt whisky.

The competition attracted hundreds of entries and congratulations are therefore in order. Duncan is a principal teacher of Biology at a Clydebank school.



MR. McEWAN, right,
with George McCready,
regional sales manager
of A. and A. Crawford
and Associates who are
responsible for the sales
of Linkwood Malt.

The Society Committee asks all members or enquirers to write via the Secretary:

*Mrs. W. E. J. H. Williamson, Bellcairn Cottage,
C O V E, By Helensburgh G84 0NX,
Scotland*

Items for publication in future Bulletins would be most welcome.