

CLAN EWEN SOCIETY



BULLETIN

**No 60
2nd Qtr. 2014**

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1. Letter from the Chairman

Greetings to the Clan Ewen Society,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you this exciting year. As you know we held our Derbhfine this past June, we are now an officially led clan, which means we are no longer “Children in the Mist”! I would like to thank all those who came from far and near to make our event a great success and also thank those who accepted roles as country representatives.

Along with our new recognition from the Lord Lyon, Clan Ewing has been recognized with their own commander. I wish them all the luck in their endeavours.

This year we are going to focus on bringing the Clan MacEwen into the forefront of Scottish Society and Culture, by living up to our motto Reviresco! We will rise again! Our aim for the coming months is bolstering our rolls within the society and showing the world that a clan can rise from the ashes and become a

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productive and vibrant contributor to the collective.

We are going to be focusing on making a presence at Highland gatherings around the world and showing the powers that be we are organized and are a clan of importance. Ask friends and family members if they would like to be part and come out to one of the Highland Games where we will be hosting a clan hospitality tent. We would love to meet our fellow Clansfolk and share friendship and stories and have fun as a big happy family.

While Clan Ewing following the “Audaciter” motto has become their own clan, the Clan Ewen Society still remains open and welcome to all who have an interest in the name.

If all goes well over the next few years, in 2019 we will be able to hold another Derbhfine and have an official Chief recognized.

The next AGM will be held the first weekend in June 2015 at the Kilfinan

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Hotel in the village of Kilfinan on the
Cowal Peninsula close to Loch Fyne.

More information will be forthcoming as
to events scheduled and agendas.
All Clansfolk are most welcome!

I look forward to serving you in the
coming year.

Reviresco!



Sean A McCuin
Chairman
Clan Ewen Society UK

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2. We Have a Commander!

On June 6th 2014, the Clan Ewen Society organized a Derbhfine or Family Convention, which was also attended by the Ewing Family Association from the USA. The purpose of the event was to elect a commander. The out come of this event was two fold, first Clan MacEwen was separated from Clan Ewing which has a separate and distinct historical tradition, and second, Sir John McEwen was unanimously accepted by the members of the clans to lead Clan MacEwen into the future and John Thor Ewing was accepted to lead Clan Ewing. This was a great event and a lot of kinship was had by all!



The Attendees of the Clan Ewen Derbhfine- 6th June 2014

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Sir John Accepting the nomination
as Commander of Clan MacEwen



Sir John McEwen and Family



Sean McCuin nominates
Sir John McEwen as
Commander of Clan
MacEwen

We will be starting to organize a second Derbhfine to take place in 2019, where the position of Commander will hopefully be transitioned to that of Chief of the Name.

With luck and planning, this will be one of the greatest gatherings in Clan MacEwen history and we would love for Clansmen from around the world to come and be part of this historic event.



Our trip to the Cairn - 8th June 2014

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3. What is a MacEwen?

Greetings,

Although this has not been officially announced, the warrant has been signed by the Lord Lyon and Clan MacEwen has a Commander.

We are thus an organised Clan and, if we unite and thrive henceforth, in five years we shall have a Chief.

The question arises, what is Clan MacEwen?

Without making any claims regarding ancestry, we derive the core of our identity from Clan Ewen of Otter, that part of it which scattered far and wide before and after the Clan lost its lands at the end of the 15th century. Travelling here and there these (variously spelled) MacEwens formed alliances with other Clans, and others of the name, were described as bandits, children of the mist, a broken Clan. Throughout this time, it might be imagined, the longing remained to become organised, to regroup and elect a Chief once more.

Then, once the Act of Proscription had

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been repealed in 1782 and the Revival of the Clans, led by Sir Walter Scott, took hold, MacEwens sought to solidify their self-image. A crest and a motto were settled upon and a tartan recognised. No one knows whether these symbols of our identity relate to whatever such symbols were employed by Clan Ewen of Otter but we would like to think they do. There has been, at any rate, much scholarly attention paid to the importance of the oak tree to the people of Dalriada.

Whatever, our crest, motto and tartan are by now sufficiently time-honoured to be considered historical and entrenched.

Whatever our various origins (and no one, it seems, can be certain of his or her 15th-century forebears), we seek to bring together our several traditions, and are especially proud of the bardic element.

We are a Clan of song and poetry, of art and literature and, now, photography; we also seem unusually rich in legal minds, politicians, doctors and even bankers. It would be fine indeed if we could intertwine our various strands of MacEwen expertise and provide a coherent voice to speak loudly among the

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other Clans, in Scotland generally and to the diaspora; and to listen. The MacEwen Clan is a good thing and seeks to do good. We are of course aware that there are some in our beloved sister-Clan, the Ewing Clan (also sporting a newly-appointed Commander), who believe that the sept of Clan Ewen, referred to by RST MacEwen, which came to the Lennox country after the loss of Otter, gave rise to the Ewing family which established its arms in the 16th century - and that the heirs of the chiefly line are Ewings. There is plenty of room to accommodate this hypothesis and for both Clans to gaze through the mists in the direction of Kilfinan.

Even if the hypothesis were correct it would not claim that Clan Ewen of Otter in its entirety settled in Lennox under the "Audaciter" banner. Clan MacEwen is concerned with the remnants, the scattered element, those who wandered, bereft, chiefless and recognizing no Chief. Also, the Ewing name has long had a strong presence elsewhere than Argyll and, as prospective "Chief of the Arms

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and Name", the new Ewing Commander will doubtless be seeking to bring together all expressions of the vigorous Ewing identity. God bless the Ewings!

Clan MacEwen meanwhile must look to thrive in 2014 and onward. The Clan Ewen Society (under its vibrant new Chairman, Sean McCuin) is doing all it can to promote the Clan and it would be grand if everyone could encourage other Clansfolk, and those sympathetic to the Clan, to become members of the society. Wear the tartan, proclaim your identity, be proud of your Clan! We have done quite well so far fulfilling our ancestors' command - to rise again - but there is a road yet to travel.

REVIRESCO!

all best wishes,

Sir. John R.H. McEwen, Bnt.
5th Baronet of Marchmont and
Bardrochat
Commander Clan MacEwen



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4. Events and Happenings

As a focus for the coming year the society will be focusing on making a presence at Highland Gatherings around the world.

We will be sponsoring a clan tent at the Cowal Highland Gathering on the 30th of August 2013 in Dunoon.

We will also be sponsoring other tents throughout the world and as soon as we have more information, we will be posting it in our news letter and also on our Society Facebook page.

If any member would like to sponsor a Clan MacEwen tent at their local Highland Gatherings, please contact the Society as soon as possible so that we may see how we can help.

We are always looking for information to include in our newsletter and on our website, if you have something that might be of interest to the rest of the clan, forward it to the Society for inclusion in up coming bulletins.

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5. Membership

We are, as always, continually updating our membership database and we are asking all members of the society to make sure that their contact information is up to date and that their dues are current. We have put a PayPal link on the website, www.clanewen.org , to make paying your dues simple and easy.

Please fill out the Membership Information Form located at the end of the newsletter and send it via email to: clanewenuk@live.co.uk, or by regular post to:

Clan Ewen Society UK
34 Croft Avenue
Burscough, Ormskirk
Lancashire
L40 5TB

The monies that are received from the membership help to offset the fees associated with the establishment of the Clan Commander/Chief, publishing the newsletters, maintenance of the website, as well as being able to sponsor clan tents around the world.

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6. Contributions from Society Members

a. Recognition of Murray McEwen



Murray McEwen appointed to Order of Canada

MURRAY McEWEN

photo by Katia Taylor Photography

by Mike Robinson

Ospringe resident Murray McEwen is one of the nation's most recent appointments to the Order of Canada, recognizing his contributions to the food industry and his commitment to the community.

In 1993, McEwen retired as president and CEO of Redpath Industries and managing director for the North American operations of its parent company Tate & Lyle.

It was a long way from what he called the start of his career: growing up on a dairy farm in Quebec, and as a student working for the Green Giant Company for 35 cents per hour.

In 1953 McEwen graduated from McGill University with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, and continued to work for Green Giant, before being offered a job in Prince Edward Island managing a frozen vegetable plant at Seabrook Farms.

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Opened in 1961, it was the province's largest food processing company and is now part of Irving's Cavendish Farms.

Eventually McEwen's career led him to Quebec and a management position, initially with St. Lawrence Sugar.

In 1975, he became president at Redpath, a major Canadian firm with sugar refineries in Montreal and Toronto. This was at a time the company was involved in the search for a new sweetener.

McEwen said Tate & Lyle, the global company that owned Redpath, discovered the sugar-based no-calorie sweetener sucralose in 1976, and worked in a joint venture with Johnson and Johnson to create Splenda.

McEwen was involved in getting approval for that product from regulatory agencies in Canada and the United States. He explained there was high interest in the product, "because it is made of sugar, but has no calories."

McEwen noted the discovery though, "came completely by accident." He explained a researcher at a London hospital noticed a white powder on a table and decided to taste it and found it to be very sweet. The researcher contacted a friend who also saw the potential of something very unique.

McEwen added the discovery of sucralose opened the door for sweetened low-calorie foods.

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Since moving to the Ospringe area 30 years ago, McEwen has been involved in the community in a number of ways, including the Grand River Conservation Foundation, the University of Guelph Board of Governors and the Upper Credit Humane Society.

“After I was there for a while, particularly with the Grand River Conservation Foundation, you soon recognize the importance of water,” said McEwen. “In my various travels for business around the world, I’d seen many places where water was a real problem - either through scarcity or unsafe water.”

He added, “It wasn’t hard to recognize that more research needed to be done and the place to start, in my opinion, was with students.”

McEwen explained he was interested in helping students get started in universities and colleges. “In so doing, you try to align your passions with what interest they may have. It turned out that water seemed to be one of those things which was very logical.”

McEwen helped set up six bursaries at the University of Guelph and three or four at McGill University (McEwen’s alma mater).

Additional bursaries were set up through the Grand River Conservation Foundation.

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These are to aid in getting students educated in worthwhile pursuits - things they can get jobs with when they graduate, he explained.

Locally, McEwen said his wife Eleanor was very interested in the work of the Upper Credit Humane Society.

“She and I were supporters of that organization right from the start. When she passed on a few years ago, she left some money we were able to use to rehabilitate the building and facility in Brisbane.”

As to his selection to the Order of Canada, McEwen responded modestly.

“I don’t exactly know how the researchers for the Order of Canada get their data, but someone makes a submission or recommendation and then researchers find out things about you which you didn’t even know about yourself.”

He added, “I am very humbled by this award. There are many people much more deserving than I am.

“I know I couldn’t have got this honour without the support from dozens and dozens of people in every part of life I’ve ever been in. There should be dozens of people who get these - the people who supported you to get there.”

Notification of the award came in late November, with the investiture to happen at Rideau Hall in Ottawa later this year.

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b. Poem by Ian R McEwen

Tamoshanta to Akubra

From Argyles Scottish mists to mallee
dusty plains
Where its hot as hell in summer and
hardly ever rains
And the dust storms in clouds and the
changes are all dry
One's mind begins to wander back to
the leaden Lake Fyne sky

And the green and verdant pasture
and the hairy mountain cattle
The bagpipes echoing round the glen,
`sounds that keeps us on the mettle
And a shiver runs all over as I feel the
icy wind and horizontal rain
That's when I thank God for the
freedom to move and stake a claim

This country might be dry mate, but
here the family's made a name
The menfolk of the Mallee have been
raised with tougher frame
They can mix it in the city, commerce,
university and sport
The boys from the bush can get a
place wherever quality is sought

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The women too can take their place on
the farm or in the town
There were nurses and teachers, fell in
love a and settled down
And raised the kids that are the future
for any property to grow
Taught the ethic of their fathers, work
and fallow, till and sow

Tamoshanter to Akubra, Tartan Kilt to
Drizabone
Tall ship journey, hopes on fire, half
the globe to make a home
From calico and hessian to a home
that's wide and cool
Water under pressure, lawns and
shrubs, a veranda and a pool

Where the trees stay green all winter
they do not drop their leaves
And the murmur of the Buloke in the
summer evening breeze
Sugargum and black box, Eucalyptus,
the smell of peppercorn
Give me an Aussie Autumn where the
days are bright and warm.

I would not swap it for a townhouse in
Glasgow's roaring rush
Our family has thrived on this
challenging, virgin block of bush

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Our towns are good and solid, sport
and schools, the educator
And the fellowship of churches teach
us not to forget our Maker

Lord God created Australia as well as
verdant Northern Spheres
Our forefathers tamed it albeit with
blood and, sweat and tears
Now the challenge is preserve it, share
the faith we've learnt
We are our brothers keeper and the
future of its, yours

The crest from West Scotland is
'Reviresco' 'We grow again'
The tenacity of a highland man
inspires us to play the game
Instils in us a new beginning with
Christ our cornerstone
And 'I serve God first' is our motto
wherever we may roam

Ian R. McEwen

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7. Society Officers

The Following Officers were elected at the AGM
on 07 June 2014.

HONORARY PRESIDENT

Eleanor Williamson

NON EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

Sir John McEwen Bnt.
jrhmcwen@btinternet.com

CHAIRMAN

Sean A. McCuin
sean.mccuin@hotmail.co.uk

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Jimmy McEwan
j.mcewan100@hotmail.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Sandra McCuin
clanewenuk@live.co.uk

TREASURER

Rachel McEwan
treasurer@clanewen.org

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Davey McEwan
mayaggi55@yahoo.co.uk

Duncan McEwan
mcewan@dunarden.fsnet.co.uk

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COUNTRY REPRESENTITIVES

USA

Robert Ewen
robertewen@frontier.com

CANADA

Arlette Ewen Carrier
agcarrie@lakeheadu.ca

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Ian R McEwen
amc12370@bigpond.net.au

If anyone would like to help promote the Clan MacEwen throughout the world, please let us know, we are always looking for volunteers to help spread the message.

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Membership Information Form

Personal Information

Full Name: _____

Last

First

M.I.

Address: _____

Street Address

Apartment/Unit #

City

State/County

ZIP/POST Code

Country

Home Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Email _____

Type of Membership **Single, Family or Life** _____

Additional Names
included on Family or
Life Membership:

Please Send to:

Clan Ewen Society UK
34 Croft Avenue
Burscough, Ormskirk
Lancashire
L40 5TB
United Kingdom

Or Email:
clanewenuk@live.co.uk

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