

# Clan MacEwen Society Bulletin



**Reviresco**

**Contacts**

[www.clanmacewen.com](http://www.clanmacewen.com)

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MacEwen: Sir John McEwen.**

**Chair: Sean McCuin.**

**Vice Chair: Ross McEwen.**

**Acting Treasurer: Virginia  
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**Secretary: Vacant**

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**Membership Secretary: Carol  
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**Country Commissioners:**

**Oceania: Chris McEwan.**

**USA: Cpt' Robert Owens.**

**Canada: Maggie McEwan.**

**Lady Rachel McEwen**

**Herma Goosens. (NL)**

**Tanja McCuen (USA)**

**Sandra McCuin**

**Dina Lee McEwan (USA/UK)**

**Greg McEwan (AUS)**

**Ryan McEwan (USA)**

**Stephanie Mack (USA)**

**Jim McCune (USA)**

**Commander's Message**

**Sir John McEwen**

“It was a great honour recently to attend the inauguration of Dr Peter Carruthers of Holmains as Chief of the Carruthers Clan. Although a Borders Family, the Carruthers are happy to be called a Clan and are now of course, like Clan MacEwen, a worldwide organisation and all the richer for it. Their name derives from Old Welsh and recent DNA study has proved that they have been around the Annan area since 500 BC. The multi-cultural nature of Scotland is well demonstrated by the Clans and their respective origins, with the French Frasers, the Viking MacDonalds and the MacEwens from Ireland, for example. The Carruthers with their origins in the ancient Kingdom of Strathclyde might just be the oldest of the lot. They are certainly among the most fun and Rachel and I had a lovely time celebrating their momentous day, the re-establishment of their Chiefship after 200 years. It is exciting forging alliances with other Clans and we will continue to do this, and have as much fun as possible! We salute the Carruthers!”



**Chairman's Message**

**Sean McCuin**

Greetings from Kilfinan!

Hello to all!

As we wait for the response and decision from the Lyon Court on our Family Convention that took place in June of this year, we as a Clan and Society have been very busy attending Highland Games across the Globe. I want to thank all the Commissioners, Regional, and Individual Games Convenors for making this happen. We are truly showing our potential for growing the Clan and Society to a whole new level.

I look forward to the upcoming year as we continue to develop our programs for the greater good of Scottish Culture and Heritage as only MacEwens can do.



[www.instagram.com/](http://www.instagram.com/)



[www.Twitter.com/Clan\\_MacEwen](http://www.Twitter.com/Clan_MacEwen)

Reviresco!

Co'mhla!

GySgt. USMC Ret.

Chairman

## From The Editors

What a year for events! The sporting calendar has been enriched by the French bringing together, in spectacular fashion, athletes from around the world and so in this issue, we pay tribute to our amazing, successful McEwen Olympians.

Not quite on the same scale, but we too brought together a truly international gathering of Clan's men, women and children at Otter Ferry, also in spectacular fashion. Never before have so many MacEwens assembled in one place for one common purpose, to demonstrate support for Sir John to be the next chief of Clan McEwen. Also, through the marvel of technology the gathering was able to have been witnessed by those not able to attend the event. The message was loud and clear, "the MacEwens are back". Back on Scotland's 'map' of



recognised ancient clans. So much happened behind the scenes by a small but dedicated group of people, steered and sometimes cajoled by Sean the Society's Chairman. Never has the phrase, "from small acorns mighty oaks grow" been more apt, especially for the handful of people who were at the beginning of the journey back in the 70s. Eleanor Williamson, one of our oldest founder members of the society, remembers the challenges they faced back in the day. She is so proud at what has been achieved over the years and at ninety-one, she still takes a great interest in the Clan's activities, all be it from the side lines. Another original member of the early Society, Duncan McEwan attended the Convention and spoke fondly about those early days and was among others who supported Sir John to be the next Clan Chief.

Our Commissioners have also been very busy attending Highland Games in their regions doing a great job flying the MacEwen flag. Where ever one goes in the world you will find a piece of Scottish heritage and culture in some of the most unlikely places such as Italy.

Also the Lord Lyon has a 'hat trick' and there is a first from 'Down Under'.

With all our thoughts now focused on the decision of the Lord Lyon regarding Sir John's journey to Chiefship, we bring you, with the help of Lady Rachel, more letters from past members of Sir John's family. We hope these extracts will give us all an insight into this great MacEwen family and pave the way for, what we all hope will be, history in the making for our great MacEwen Clan!



## Inside This Issue

	Cover page
Commander's Message	
Chairman's Message	
	page
From The Editors	2
Canada Commission Report	4
USA Commission Report	5
Oceania Report	6
A look Back At The Family Convention	8
Eagle's Wing	18
Congratulations - Our Olympians	19
A Visit To Lord Lyon	20
John and Tanja's High Land Games Tour	23
A Short History of the Sporran	25
Barga - A Scottish Enclave in Tuscany	27
David and Robert McEwen Letters	28
An Autumnal Scottish Treat - Scottish Treacle Scones	47



## Canada Commissioner Report by Maggie McEwan



After the thrill and excitement of this year's Family Convention and AGM in Otter Ferry we returned to the final months of Canada's Highland Games.

In July we had a booth at Cambridge, Ontario, Highland Games and entertained several old and new friends of Clan MacEwen.

August saw the 3-day Fergus, Ontario, Highland Games. Clan MacEwen had a booth on Clan Alley. On Friday evening we followed the ancient Celtic tradition 'The Lighting of the Hearth' thus ensuring the household health and prosperity in the coming year. Saturday was the day of exhibitions and competition. It is also the busy day for the Clans with all-day visitors. Sunday is the calm after the storm with fewer visitors, but we have the opportunity to meet and talk to other Clans, thus increasing the pleasant community atmosphere. I also had the opportunity to meet and talk with Rupert Irving of Bonshaw, Chief of Clan Irving, visiting from Britain. On Sunday the weather did not co-operate and we had a mixture of extremely hot sun and torrential rain bursts.



Maggie with her son David Younger and Rupert Irving of Bonshaw, Chief of Clan Irving on his visit to Canada.



## USA Commissioner Report by Bob and Carol Owens



Greetings MacEwen family and friends! It has been a busy several months in the U.S., and it promises to be a brisk MacEwen Fall as well.

Following a fantastic international Annual General Meeting in June, the American contingent returned stateside to jump into the summer events schedule with both feet. June found Conveners Valerie Farschman and Stephanie Mack, respectively, hosting MacEwen heritage and hospitality tents at the Ohio Scottish Games & Celtic Festival in Berea, Ohio and the Festival at Fort Four & Highland Games in Charlestown, New Hampshire. Both had great displays of MacEwen history and culture, and that extra effort resulted in Valerie “bringing home the Blue” with first prize for her MacEwen presentation.



July and August found a large assortment of MacEwen Conveners, including Jim & Angela McEwen, Tanja & John McCuen, the Bing Ewen “gang” (Bing Ewen along with Jason, Stephanie (nee Ewen) Bridget, Ewen & Cara Fisher), Michelle McEwen, Rory McEwen, and Dina Lee-McEwan, battling the heat of the dog days of summer in the highlands of North Carolina, Maine, and Vermont at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (and Southeastern U.S. annual general meeting – NC), the Maine Highland Games (ME), the Quechee Scottish Games (VT) and, at the time of this writing, our newest Convenir Janel Bahr, at Clan MacEwen’s inaugural representation in the Wisconsin Scottish Games (WI). Our thanks to all who made these events a success. A special thank you to James (Jim) McEwen for his generous contribution and support of trophies for the Quechee Games and to MacEwen Convenir Dina Lee-McEwan for presenting those in the Scottish Fiddling category.

September, October, and November temps may cool down, but the hot activity of MacEwen Conveners will continue strong! Joining those Conveners already mentioned above will be two new Conveners, Karen & Bill McEwen, along with long-time Conveners Kelly McCuin Givens and Justin & Susan MacEwen. Currently scheduled events include the Edinboro Highland Games & Scottish Festival (PA), the Middle Tennessee Highland Games & Celtic Festival (TN), the Ligonier Highland Games (PA), the New Hampshire Highland Games (NH), the Prescott Highland Games & Celtic Faire (AZ), the Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival (TN), the Rocket City Scottish Festival & Highland Games (AL), the Scotland Connecticut Highland Games & Festival (CT), the Stone Mountain Highland Games (GA), and the Charleston Highland Games (SC).

Watch our Clan MacEwen Society Facebook Page for details on these and other upcoming Clan MacEwen events! Remember...Reviresco! Co'mhla! “We grow strong again! Together!”

*\*If you are already convening an event of which I am not aware, please let me know so we can recognize and thank you publicly and offer any assistance you might need!*



# Oceania Commissioner Report by Chris McEwan.



I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of Australia and Aotearoa and their connection to the lands, waters, and sky on which and in which we are working to see the flourishing of our Clan and families. In particular I would like to acknowledge the Dharug and Gundungurra Peoples on whose land I am writing this update.



The Clan at Hawkes Bay Easter Highland Games

A lot has been happening since I last wrote an update for the bulletin. We have been having a pretty wonderful year down in Oceania as a Clan! We've been attending all our usual games and Celtic festivals as well as branching out into some exciting new opportunities! Most importantly we were able to make our first formal appearance as a Clan at a Games in New Zealand this year over the Easter long weekend. We had a great time at the Hawkes Bay Highland Games as well as making the most of a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our bonds of kinship with our clans folk across the ditch. We look forward to the next time we can head to New Zealand, hopefully to make an appearance on the South Island.



Chris McEwan

Additionally, as I write this, I have just finished packing the trailer for a new games that we are attending for the first time this weekend at the Saltire Estate Winery in New South Wales' Hunter Valley. We are hoping that this will become one of our regular appearances in future years.

Many of us also had the opportunity to attend our International Gathering at Otter Ferry and most importantly, play an active role in the historic Family Convention that formed the centrepiece of this year's event. What an absolute pleasure to spend so much time with so many of our fellow clansfolk from around the world, and what a privilege to be part of the proceedings that we hope will see our Chiefship reestablished! Here's to hoping that we receive word soon from Lord Lyon.

Gathering at Otter Ferry and most importantly,



A Couple of Highlanders Visit Bag End to Pass on the MacEwen Clan's Greetings to the Baggins Family. Unfortunately we were unable to complete our mission due to an upcoming party...



Commissioner for Oceania, Chris McEwan, speaks in support of Sir John as our Chief of the Name at the Family convention at Otter Ferry.



Having previously introduced some of the National Tartans found in Oceania, we now start to narrow the scope on different District Tartans, their history and symbolism. First up is the Tartan of my home state of New South Wales.

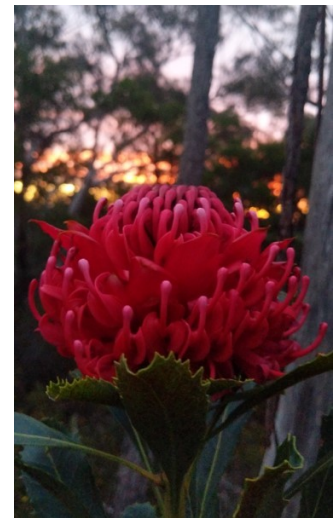
This Tartan was first registered in 1998. It was designed by Betty Johnston and launched as the Official State Tartan of New South Wales, in the town of Glen Innes, on 4th May 2000. Originally, its release was intended as a way of raising funds for the Cerebral Palsy Association of Australia and the Motor Neurone Association of Australia.

To understand the intended symbolism of the colours chosen for this tartan it is necessary to make reference to the NSW Coat of Arms, the NSW Floral Emblem, the NSW Gemstone Emblem, as well as the history of the state. To begin the green field is representative of the saw-toothed shaped leaves of the NSW Floral Emblem, the Waratah (*Telopea speciosissima*). The prominent red cross is representative of the Waratah's flower as well as being symbolic of the red St George's Cross found in the NSW Coat of Arms. The Golden lines, set within the red, are representative of the gold elements of the NSW Coat of Arms from the sheaves of wheat, and the golden fleece symbolic of NSW's agriculture, to the golden lion and four eight pointed stars set within the St George's Cross, symbolic of the Crux or Southern Cross Constellation, to the rising sun crest of the Coat of Arms. Finally the Black is symbolic of both the Black Opal, NSW's Gemstone Emblem, famously found in the Opal mines of NSW near Lightning Ridge, as well as New South Wales' origins as a penal Colony.



Oceania Tartans – New South Wales State Tartan

Waratah (*Telopea speciosissima*) the Floral Emblem of NSW.



New South Wales Coat of Arms



Waratah (*Telopea speciosissima*) the Floral Emblem of New South Wales

# A Look Back At The Family Convention

Pictures by Duncan McEwan



**161 Clan's men and women attended Otter Ferry 'Family Convention'. A truly memorable and remarkable event and the biggest gathering of Clan members so far! The challenge is now on to increase this figure for future events.**

This was truly an international family convention with Society members from Canada, USA, Australia, Netherlands, Germany, Scotland and other parts of the UK. The MacEwens can proudly boast that it was the biggest gathering for 600 years. The Clan is back!!



Some of the American contingent with eldest Bob Ewing (3rd from the left) to the youngest.



Chris, Marilee, Torin, Caeden, and Fearghas McEwan from Australia



*Off to a Flying Start!*





Members of the Spessart Pipe Band with Sir John and Sean McCuin. They provided the gathering with a fine collection of marching tunes and atmospheric music throughout the event along with a piping workshop and impromptu tunes in the Otter Ferry pub.



Achim receiving a well earned dram.



Piping in the Haggis.







Sir John carrying out the traditional cutting of the Haggis, whilst reciting Burns.

Maggie McEwan with whisky and followed by Lady Rachel.



A toast to Clan MacEwen.



Sir John with his daughter Georgia.





Let the games begin!

Lft. Robin in a commanding lead.

Below: Chris lending a helping hand to Fearghus with Caedan off to a flying start and Torin playing it



Torin leading the way.



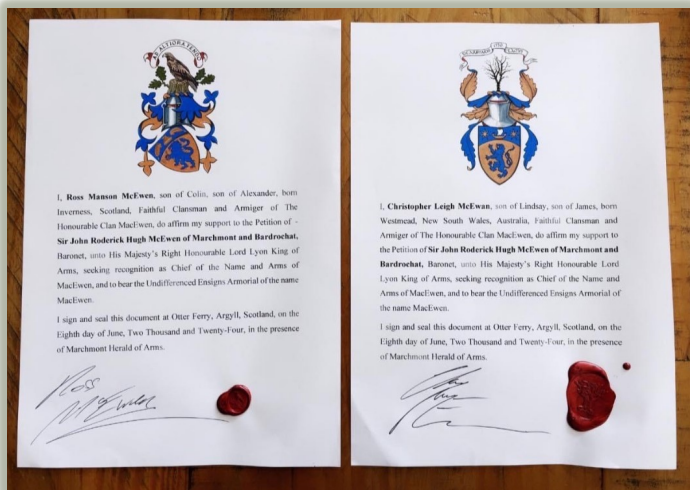
Chris got stuck into everything with the children, hoping the kite would fly in the strong winds, that blew throughout the weekend.





Above: Ross giving his presentation on Heraldry and Armitage to an appreciative audience and a full house.

Right top and middle: Ross and Chris adding wax seal to their Armitage certificates.







The Handfasting ceremony at the MacEwen Cairn, for Jeremy Choate and Amanda Bain Choate . It was conducted by a Gaelic speaking Celebrant and witnessed by Clan members and the Pipe Band.







Cèilidh band and dancing.

Middle left: whisky and gin tasting.

Middle right: Sir John opening the AGM.

Left: A full house for the AGM with online participants from America, Canada ,UK and Oceania.





**Clan representatives declared support for Sir John.**

Left to Right: George McAusland-Banner Bearer to the Chief of Buchanan;

Margaret McAusland;

Tim Atkinson- Parade Marshall and Vice Chair, Clan Grant;

George MacFarlane- Scottish Representative to Clan MacFarlane;

Sir John McEwen- Commander of Clan McEwen;

Mary Lamb- President of Clan Lamont



Hon Adam Bruce, Marchmont Herald, an officer of Arms at the Court of the Lord Lyon, outlining the process for recognising a new clan chief. As an observer of the process, he then informs and makes recommendations to the Lord Lyon about how the process was conducted in its support of Sir John to become Chief of Clan MacEwen.

Bottom Left to Right: Commissioners declaring their support for Sir John.

Maggie McEwan-Canada; Chris McEwan-Oceania; Carol Owens- USA and Herma Goosens- Netherlands





## Signing the Register of Support



Lady Rachel



Georgia McEwen



Robin McEwen



Members lined up to sign the Register of Support, which was handed to Hon Adam Bruce to be presented to the Lord Lyon as evidence to confirm the overwhelming support for Sir John to become the next Chief of the Clan MacEwen.



A proud moment for Duncan McEwen who was one of the founder members of the McEwen Society.





A strong contingent from the USA



Thanks for your work James McEwen (Rt), bowing out from serving on the Executive Committee



Kirking the Tartan by Rev McKenzie with Piper Achim



Otter Ferry showing the marquees

### Thank You!

The success of the Family Convention was brought about by the hard work of the Executive Committee co-ordinated by Sandra and Sean McCuin who, as ever, went above and beyond their call of duty.

None of this would have been possible without all those members of the Society, some of whom travelled half way round the world to witness history in the making.



## Eagle's Wing

These are the words to a song by a very popular Scottish Folk Band called Skipinnish.. They stand alone as a poem but also as a song as it stirs the emotions about what it is to have links to Scotland, wherever you live. To get the full experience look up the band on Google and follow the link to listen to the song.

I have travelled far this Globe of beauty

Through time and tide of centuries and still the world I roam

But I always feel the pull of Caledonia

And the Eagle's wing will always guide me home.

I'm a soldier old, I gave my youth for others.

I'm a sailor on the cruel wave and brave the raging foam.

I'm a nurse on the bloody fields of Flanders.

I am all flowers of Scotland. Guide me home

Chorus

Guide me home on the Golden Eagle's wing

And I will sing as high above we soar.

Guide me home where the Golden eagles fly

And I will die with Caledonian Soul.

From the Carolinas, I can see the Cuillins.

I healed the world from London but for fields of Ayrshire dream.

From a Pittsburgh Steel mill, I still feel Dumfermline.

From the Belfast cranes, I long for Pittenweem.

On the world stage, I crave the streets of Glasgow.

A humble star of ancient game now guide me home but Oban's in my bones.

I'm a dying bard on a far Pacific Island.

May the glow of Skerryvore now guide me home.

I'm the sons and daughters all of Caledonia,

Of generations long gone by and a thousand still to go.

I am all who left and all who stayed forever

And all who came and made our land their own.

We'll see the rolling farmland of the borders.

The Castle stands in silhouette on Edinburgh sky;

The mighty Clyde, the rugged Island mountains,

Highland streams of moving dreams gone by.

Above our mortal burdens, feel the freedom.

High we soar with golden hope for all we see below.

May forgiveness, faith and love grace all horizons-

The tide will turn to guide our journey home.

Skipinnish – "Eagle's Wing" Lyrics



## Congratulations - Our Olympians

By Sir John McEwen

So ends another triumphant Olympic Games for Clan MacEwen!

Through the efforts of Kaylee McKeown, Emma McKeon, Tom McEwen and Shelby McEwen, our Clan accumulated four gold medals, three silver medals and three bronze medals.

Had we been a country rather than a Clan, we would have finished seventeenth in the medal table, below Sweden, ahead of Kenya.

Other less athletic Clans might want to point out that all of our medals, apart from Kaylee's two golds and Shelby's silver, were won by members of a team and therefore don't count as whole medals on the table – but let them quibble! We honour their achievements – the Canadian swimmer Summer McIntosh was a star in the pool, and we understand that a Campbell weightlifter did awfully well, for example – but we exult in ours.

Congratulations to Kaylee, Emma, Tom and Shelby! Congratulations to Clan McEwen!

And a particular mention to the only one of the four, Shelby, not to have been a medallist in Tokyo. Shelby McEwen is, of course, a high jumper and was only just beaten by a New Zealander with the Scottish sounding name, Hamish Kerr. We always knew that someone whose Clan motto is "Reviresco" would be back. It means, after all (according to some translations) ...

WE SHALL RISE AGAIN!

Go Shelby McEwen!



Left:

Kaylee  
McKeown

Right:

Emma McKeon



Left:

Tom McEwen

Right:

Shelby McEwen





## A Visit to the Lord Lyon

By Chris McEwan

“Quick! While he has the hat on, ask him to approve something.” Cried Ross to peals of laughter at the sight of Fearghus, my then almost two-year-old, wearing the Lord Lyon’s Ostrich Feather Hat. If only it were that simple! If it was, we would have had three opportunities, just that day in Edinburgh, to have a McEwan lad from Australia be the one to recognise Sir John as our Chief! But I’m getting ahead of myself, how did my sons end up wearing the Lord Lyon’s hat? How did our whole family end up in his office one (surprisingly) warm Thursday afternoon in May this year?

Well to answer that question we need to go back a couple of years in time to the depths of New South Wales’ COVID lockdowns in August 2021. Having recently found out from Ross that it was in fact quite easy to apply for a Coat of Arms providing you could meet a few specific criteria, and finding that I had more time on my hands than I knew what to do with, even being locked in a house with two kids under three, I decided to make it my COVID project to see if I could prove that I could meet one of those conditions and thereby petition the Lord Lyon for my very own Coat of Arms. The path that was open to me was to prove that I did in fact descend from Scottish Emigrants to Australia. If I could just prove this fact, and providing that I was found to be a person of “noble and upright character” it was highly likely that my petition would be granted and we would have another MacEwen Armiger, the first (as far as we are aware) MacEwen Armiger in Australia.



Chris and Family with Lord Lyon

So I undertook the project, I had a great starting point in a family tree created by my Dad’s cousin, Paul Gibson, a McEwan on his mother’s side, who had managed to figure out a line back to the mid 1800’s; but I needed to prove this line, with full documentation, for it to be admissible as evidence as well as needing to prove that my ancestors were, in fact, living in Scotland at that time. And so the search began, I tackled it simultaneously from two directions, working backwards from my own generation to my Dad’s and so on, while also utilising the excellent resource that is Scotland’s People to try to find some of my earliest known ancestors and work forwards from them.

Scotland’s People was really an invaluable resource in the process. It was very easy to search out likely candidates for my ancestors and once I had hit the nail on the head once, it became easier and easier to find people as the connections became clearer. One resource I found particularly helpful and insightful was looking up the old census records. Not only did this paint a picture of who was living in our McEwan household at given points, and thereby which children moved out roughly when, it also gave this really vivid picture of the changes occurring in Scotland in this time period that tangibly impacted on our family. I saw my ancestors’ professions change from the more agrarian carters, to coal miners in the County of Lanark as the Industrial Revolution set in and took its toll on the family. I saw children listed as scholars, or students progress into their working lives as miners, never to change profession. I saw brothers living literally side by side or with their families in one house. In fact, it was this skilled labour as miners, which eventually provided them with the ticket to emigrate to Australia, as they originally arrived and went straight to a small Mining Community called Joadja in the NSW Southern Highlands. Working from the Australian side of things was actually a little bit trickier. Because I was dealing with records less than 100 years old at times, I needed to source those records via my Dad as the direct descendant of the person who I was trying to research, an exceptionally inconvenient restriction given the COVID lockdown we were living in. Even then I found some fascinating stories. From the mentions in dispatches that one of my ancestors received during WW1, to the fact that my maternal ancestor, who emigrated to Australia, remarried after her McEwan husband’s death and was eventually buried under the name Donaldson in the early 1900s. Each document I found helped paint the picture of lives lived, people falling in love, families raised, loved ones farewelled before eventually departing this life themselves.



The Ellora, prior to having its engine removed in 1876 to become a purely sailing vessel. My McEwan Ancestors travelled to Sydney in this ship in 1879.



Perhaps my most exciting find, from the Australian side of things, was the original shipping records that recorded my Ancestors' arrival in Sydney. It turns out that two McEwan brothers decided to emigrate together with their families at the same time on the same ship, the Ellora, and move to the same unknown mining town on the far side of the world. What a depth of brotherly love, and bravery, to go on that adventure together with their families into the unknown.



My ancestors Andrew & Martha McEwan with their family outside their bark hut at Joadja in the NSW Southern Highlands. We are descended from their son James on the far right.

This is what I loved about digging into my genealogy for this project. The more I dug and the more records I found, the less were my ancestors just names on a page and the more I realised that I and my life are just the next sequel in a long line of fascinating stories, which stretch far back beyond the records I was able to uncover. Eventually I ended up hitting roadblocks wherever I turned and it became apparent that my project was at its completion. Despite the hurdles, I had managed to achieve what I set out to do and was able to provide documented evidence tracing my family line back to Scotland and thereby putting me within the jurisdiction of the Lord Lyon King of Arms.

With my formal petition written and accompanied by certified copies of thirty-five different pieces of supporting evidence, on 27th October 2021 I submitted my petition to the Lord Lyon Court for consideration. I had done what I could, now it was up to the Lord Lyon to determine the nobility and uprightness of my character and decide whether he would grant me my petition. Thankfully he did and on 11th January 2022 I received my signed warrant granting me my own coat of arms as follows:

For a detailed account of the symbolism included in my Coat of Arms please feel free to read the article that was published in the September 2022 Issue of this very bulletin.

Or, a lion rampant tail nowed Azure armed and langued Gules, on a chief enarched Azure a lymphad sail unfurled reversed Or, pennants Gules, sail Argent between two mullets of seven points Or. Above the Shield is placed an Helm befitting his degree with a Mantling Azure doubled Or, and on a Wreath of the Liveries is set for Crest a blasted Eucalypt burnt Sable, sprouting in a phyllotactic spiral Vert, and in an Escrol over the same this Motto "DEARBHAIDH MO LÀMH".

With this signed warrant I officially became an armiger permitted to display my Coat of Arms and wear a single eagle feather in my bonnet. It also marked the start of an extended waiting period as my Letters Patent were placed at the end of the long queue of others awaiting attention from one of the Lyon Courts professional heraldic artists. Finally, at the start of this year I received notice that my Letters Patent had made their way to the top of the queue and as it turned out they would be ready pretty much within a month of when we were already planning of being in Scotland for this years MacEwen Gathering and Family Convention. Graciously, the Lord Lyon agreed to present me with my Letters Patent in person at the Lyon office in Edinburgh.





And so, that is how on 30th May 2024, dressed to the nines and proudly wearing our MacEwen Tartan this Australian branch of the MacEwen Clan ended up in the office of the Lord Lyon King of Arms. It was my great pleasure to have Ross McEwen also in attendance to witness the presentation, as Ross has walked with me from the very start of this journey. His advice at all stages has always been gratefully received and sound, and I would not have made it to this point without his assistance. The Lord Lyon himself was amazingly generous with his time and welcomed us all very warmly into his day. It was wonderful to be able to introduce my wife to him and discuss some of the features of my Letters Patent. He engaged with our boys brilliantly and apart from each getting to try on his hat they can also lay claim to having shared in a chocolate pizza with the Lord Lyon. He certainly left a lasting impression on them and we hope that they may have left a slight impression on him as well. At the very least the next day when we saw him performing his formal duties on the royal mile, upon spotting our boys the Lord Lyon broke form for a moment and gave them a little wave. It absolutely made their day.



Chris with Lord Lyon

The staff at the Lyon court were all lovely and really worked hard to involve the whole family in everything we did, from looking at the crests in the hall to looking at the register for other MacEwen Coats of Arms. They are clearly passionate about their work and want to pass that passion on to the next generation. We sincerely appreciated it.

If you will allow me I would like to point out one feature of my letters patent, which I spoke to the Lord Lyon about and I believe is quite important. As far as anyone is aware, my letters patent and their subsequent entry into the Public Register of all Arms and Bearings in Scotland, will be the first that acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which I reside, the Dharug and Gundungurra People. I hope that this may be the first of many that acknowledges First Nations people in this way.

The whole process that led to that one day was an amazing journey of discovery, genealogy, story, art, and law, to name just a few of the interrelated fields that make up heraldry. Its not always an easy journey but there is always something new to learn just around the corner. For anyone who might be considering embarking on that Journey let me strongly encourage you to do so! It is well worth the time and effort.

## Hat Tricks!



Torin McEwan



Caedan McEwan



Fearghas McEwan



## John & Tanja's Highland Games Tour

By John and Tanya McCuen

This year started out with a March visit to my parents in Arizona. It was the first time Clan MacEwen has hosted a tent at the Phoenix, Arizona games. We had a fantastic time. We met both Chiefs Buchanan and McBain of McBain. We also met Karen and Bill McEwen, who will be our new Arizona Conveners!



Chief McBanin of McBain and partner, Tanja, Bill and son at Paul McEwen at Phoenix Games.



Allison, Bobby and their children at Tullahom Games, Tennessee.



Lorelai and John at Loch Norman, N Carolina.

Next up in April we attended the Tullahoma, Tennessee Pipers on the Green event. This was the first year they included clans. We had the pleasure of meeting Allison and Bobby Stubblefield, new clan members and Bobby will begin competing in the Athletics this year.

In April we also attended the Loch Norman Highland Games, in North Carolina, convened by Jim and Angela McEwen. This time, however, we acted as dance parents to our oldest granddaughter Lorelai, who earned her first two Gold Medals.

We also attended the Savannah Games, convened by Wip McCuen and family, but due to the rain we, unfortunately, did not get any photos.



We then convened the Smoky Mountain Highland Games in Townsend, Tennessee. John was joined by our oldest daughter, Rebekah, and our granddaughters, Lorelai and Charlie, in the Parade of Tartans.

A few weeks later we had the privilege to attend the Clan McEwen AGM & Family Convention in Scotland. We were met there by our youngest daughter, Mariah McCuen from Savannah, GA.



Lorelai, Charlie, John and Rebekah Stone at Smoky Mountain Highland Games

In July we helped convene the largest gathering in the US, the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina.

The last weekend in July, John and I set up a tent at the annual Irish Picnic here in McEwen, TN. We did not meet any MacEwens, but the townsfolk were interested in learning about our clan.



John and Mariah signing the book of support for Sir John to be the next chief of Clan McEwen



Grand Father Mountain HG with John, Jim McEwen, Bob Owens, Bing Ewen and Jason Fisher.

The rest of the year for us will be:-

Middle Tennessee Games - 7-8 September

New Hampshire Games, 20-22 September where we will join Bob and Carol Owens, Jim and Angela McEwen, Ross McEwen and a host of other MacEwens for a mini regional AGM.

Dandridge, Tennessee - 28 September (my birthday)  
*Happy Birthday Tanja!*

Rocket City, Alabama - 5th October.

Stone Mountain Highland Games in Georgia 19-20 October.

Concluding our year, we have been invited to march in the Humphries County (home to McEwen, Tennessee) Veteran's Day Parade on Monday, 11 November.

We would love to have as many as possible, join us!  
If you are interested in marching with us, please contact us at:

[mccuensofmcewen@gmail.com](mailto:mccuensofmcewen@gmail.com)



## A Short History of the Sporrans

By Ewan Rowland

No kilt is complete without its sporran which is Gaelic for purse. They come in a range of designs but its main purpose today is to act as a pocket or purse/wallet. Traditionally they were made from sealskin, deer skin or calf skin.

Sporrans are thought to date back to the 12th century and were commonly found amongst Highlanders' dress. "*Bare legged, with shaggy cloaks and a small bag*", was one description of a Highland warrior (Mackenzie & Gordon Nicolson—History of the Sporrans). Originally, according to the Artisans of Scotland website, the sporran came from the Scottish Islands or maybe Ireland. Ostensibly it was a bag for storing food,



17th century Scottish Sporrans

probably oats, when away from home on long journeys, to keep hunger at bay. The purpose of the tassels was to keep the flies away from the food inside. It is thought to be a remnant of the common European medieval belt pouch, secured with leather draw strings. However, as fashion developed and pockets were added to trousers and jackets, the humble pouch became discontinued, but not in the Highlands of Scotland where such accessories did not catch on in traditional dress. The early sporrans would have been hung from the belt or slung over the shoulder.



Medieval leather pouch



Animal head on the flap of the sporran.

As with all traditional dress there is a protocol for how it should be worn. The sporran should be 2 to 3 inches below the belt buckle. Too close or too far from the buckle is to be avoided. No self respecting tartan kilt wearer is without a day sporran, a semi-dress sporran and the full dress sporran—more protocol. A full mask sporran would have either a badger, otter or fox head on the flap and the pelt to form the body of the sporran. Then there is the horse hair sporran, which is commonly associated with drummers, pipers and the military.

During the 18th century a metal clip was added and known as the cantle. Later in the 19th century, animal skins, hairs and heads were added. Fashion today sees the introduction of 5th and 6th century Celtic symbols added to the leather. Sporrans hold, according to 'Fred the classic Gentleman', a special significance in Scottish culture and are considered a symbol of pride and heritage. They represent the history and traditions of Scotland and are often passed down through families as heirlooms. However, sporrans hold a deeper meaning in Scottish tradition- as a symbol of masculinity, representing a man's status and clan affiliation.



Metal cantle or clip

It's the military where we see the most flamboyant sporran designs. Horse hair is the preferred choice of embellishment.



# Military Sporrans



Scots Guards



Argyll and Southern Highlanders



Black Watch



Officer Uniform



Regimental Piper



## Barga - A Scottish Enclave in Tuscany

By Ewan Rowland

The Scottish diaspora has been well documented over the years and even featured in previous Clan Bulletins. However, this account doesn't quite fit with the mass migration of Scots embarking on life changing journeys to far off shores. This is in fact the reverse of that process.

Barga, a small medieval town in Tuscany, is about 80 miles northeast of Florence has been labelled "Little Scotland" because 80% of its population have Scottish heritage. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century several Italians from Barga emigrated to Scotland looking for a better future. Immigrant families set up fish and chip shops, ice cream parlours, while others worked in mines, docks and textile factories. Many returnees to Barga, over the years, have built a sizeable population of residents that have Scottish relatives. Those Barga 'natives' are proud of their roots but equally have a strong bond with Scotland and Scottish culture and the latter has become firmly embedded back in Barga. Two hundred and twenty residents claim to be direct descendants of Highland mercenaries, who having lost at the Battle of Pavia in 1525, hid in the village and stayed there. A recent study by a Swiss University found that the local dialect contains around 800 Gaelic words.

The town is described as one of the most beautiful in Italy, with its iconic red British telephone box in the town centre. The box is used as a book exchange and is said to be the smallest library in Tuscany. Each year the town's population hold a festival called "Sagra", where communal meals for several hundred people are eaten in the open air (unfortunately Glasgow's weather doesn't permit this.) The food festival only found in Barga is the "Sagra del pesce e patate" or fish and chip festival (it sounds better in Italian), in celebration of the Scottish connection. It takes place (sorry, no pun intended) in August. Scottish flags are to be seen hanging from balconies and windows and kilts, bagpipes and Scottish food feature strongly. There can't be many places outside Italy that can boast restaurant menus offering steak pies, mashed potatoes, haggis, Scottish tea, porridge and Shepherd's pie. As part of the celebration of Scottish cuisine, Scottish whisky and beers are on tap. All of this is accompanied with traditional Scottish dancing and parades and Saltires are flown around the town. Definitely a place to visit if you are of Scottish heritage !



References:

The Scotsman

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The i  
(Newspaper)





## David and Robert McEwen Letters

Lady Rachel McEwen has unearthed more letters from the McEwen archives. This set of letters covers the period from 1825 to 1833 between David and Robert. Robert moved away from the family home in southwest Scotland to work in Glasgow, before moving sometime later, to work in Manchester. The letters are a snapshot of the brothers' lives and thankfully for the reader they were painstakingly typed some time ago by a family member.

Reading the letters gives the reader a sense of what is important in David's and Robert's lives, the gossip, and their views of what is appropriate and inappropriate behaviour amongst people they know.

To help with some of the colloquial style and meaning of the time, brief explanatory notes have been inserted.

The letters relate to seasonal events spanning Spring through to Winter, not unlike those we experience today. Apart from gossip, reference is made to strange goings on with royalty in the 16th century, as well as comments about chivalry, people and marriage, strange medical practice, witches and frivolity.

In future Bulletins we will follow David's correspondence with Robert, spanning four more years, up until 1837.

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Clochranhill 7 June 1825.

My dear Robert,

AS I understand Mr. Bryden's people are sending a bundle into Glasgow, I shall embrace the opportunity of scrawling you a few lines, not that I have anything particular to say, but merely as a commencement to that correspondence, which I hope shall continue, amid all the fluctuations and changes of this life and last till death shall break the tie that binds us to this world: - and be assured that ever and anon I shall pester you with letters.

My Mother went to town one day last week and called upon Miss Hamilton in expectation of seeing Mr. Hamilton there, but he did not come in when she was there: however it was of little consequence for Miss Hamilton informed my Mother that Sir David had got a Tutor to his family who was recommended by Dr. Brunton; so this place which we had looked to is filled;



however I must say that I am not much mortified at the disappointment, though the prospect some time hence would have been better, yet he is much happier than what he could be at Sir Davids: we have not got any word from John since the letter was sent him respecting the place but I think that it will soon come.

On the Saturday after you left us I went up to the far-famed Kirk-damdy fair. I breakfasted that morning at South Balloch and afterwards went down to the fair to which the people were flocking in all directions. The day was very fine and on that account the girls were all dressed in their gayest attire: some of them were seen walking upon their stumps, some moving at a slow jog on horseback, while others resorted to the fair in Dung-carts, shandry-dans, cars and gigs. Amongst the profanum vulgus was seen wee Jonny Girdwood repairing thither riding upon that bedeviled animal with which you were tormented one morning in your pilgrimage to Penvallie. I believe there was little bullying

**Information:**

*Stumps refers to someone walking heavily or clumsily. Shandry -dans is a rickety vehicle*

and fighting, everything went off pretty quietly. Glenhoise was at the fair and came up to Penvallie and stopped till Monday morning when both he and I took our respective roads homewards. I believe poor Ballingale has lost his case in



the Court of Session and is going to carry it before the house of Lords. Margaret's eyes are rather on the way of recovery. We all join best respects to you and I remain

Your's mo. sincerely

Da. McEwen.

P.S. You did not mention in your last at what hour you left the warehouse in the evening. Do you feel much inconvenience from the want of a watch.

Clochranhill 20 September 1825

My dear Robert

Your letter of the 1st current came duly to hand. We have had a glorious harvest; we had all our stuff snugged by the Tuesday of the race week, - indeed the harvest was all got finished this year by the time that I have seen it commence in former years, as the people here used to be just beginning about the time that we returned from Penvallie. The wheat crop was indifferent, though rather better than was anticipated: the corn crop was not good either. The potatoes are good and the turnips look well. We are just preparing the land for the wheat again and I think we shall have some sown this week. It was a rare time in Ayr during the race week and the week previous, owing to the dinner which was given to the Marquis of Hastings. The ticket to the dinner was only 4 guineas, exclusive of wines. 110 gentlemen sat down to dinner, amongst whom were Andrew Gemmel Esq., A. Murdoch - Eaton and some others, each having their footman or a waiter to attend them. And then

in the evening were splendid fireworks which cost upwards of 20 pounds. At Auchencruix for eight or ten days there were 30 Ladies and Gentlemen and the Halls were out there in attendance with their fiddles. Miss McFarlane was staying here at the time the dinner was given to the Marquis and we were all in at town seeing the fireworks in the evening. There was never seen before such a number of race horses as (there were) this year at Ayr, and the company both with respect to number and quality exceeded that of any former year. On Thursday the Judges come here which will cause a considerable bustle ... indeed the town has been a scene of great bustling and activity of late and has been for once aroused out of its dormancy. And many a white shilling and promissory note has exchanged owners. There are terrible variances betwixt the counsellors of the Gude <sup>Auld</sup> ~~Ald~~ town of Ayr as the election for the ensuing year draws near, and the poor provost Cowan, it is said, is going to be outwitted, alias blackballed. We had a letter from John yesterday,

which mentions that he goes to Edinburgh to attend Divinity hall and to make a regular session of it and then returns to Mr. Marshall's. Mr. Gray of the Academy has got ten boarders and is going to get 3 more, and Ridley has got 4 boarders at the rate of the small sum of £60 per annum.

We all join in best love to you

and I remain your's mo. truly

Da. McEwen.



Clochranhill 8 November 1825

Dear Robert

Of all my epistolary correspondents I think you are the laziest that I ever had any thing to do with; if you dont reform I suppose I must drop you: why dumfound you what are you about now? Is there no paper in Glasgow or no ink, or what is the reason that you have been so dilatory in answering my letters? William Hunter setts off for Edinburgh tomorrow to attend the college. By the carrier you will receive 4 stone of meal and a ham and cheese inside the meal. Write us what you paid for the carriage of the potatoes and how you like them, and be sure you look after your landlady how she disposes of your provisions. We all join in best respects to you, and I remain, your's mo. truly

Da. McEwen.

Clochranhill 14 December 1825.

Mr dear Robert

As in your last letter you say you are not owing me a letter and are therefore not in my debt I am determined once more to make you my debtor by sending you a page or two of blarney. I heartily approve of your plan of keeping

your distance from the fellows about Glasgow. Winter is now fairly commenced and the weather of late has been remarkable stormy. About a fortnight ago the Water of Doon was larger than what ever it was remembered to have been seen and did considerable damage to fields of Turnips, and in some houses it was 3 or 4 feet deep. The waters of Cree and Girvan too were scarcely ever seen so large, but no wonder there was such a commotion in the elements when a celebrated Witch and her daughter died in Galloway the night of the flood!!

We had a newspaper from John this week and on the margin he says that it is probable he will come our length during the Christmas Holidays if the weather be favourable, as it will not be in his power to come this way when he goes through to England. This intelligence was quite unexpected and Margaret is away at Penvallie at present, but it is likely she will come down when she is informed of John's intention. The frost has twice gone away when it was just about strong enough for curling, and has sadly disappointed the people who are fond of that game, especially those amateurs who have the pond on this side of the Town; - even I myself am going to try it and have ordered a stone from Dalmellington! It is just a fortnight since I went up to the Waterhead, from which place I went to Glenhoise and saw the Cattle Market, and between these places I spent a week very happily. The day I went up to Pen there was a hunting party at Aldinna, among whom were: A. Mitchell, D. Dick (each with a hound of Din-Murphy) eighteen souls .... and after dinner they had a round



at the cards. When at Church I saw Tom Young who had come up to make some visits in the Barr and it is likely M.- will have the pleasure of seeing him when she is up. We all join in best respects to you and I remain,

your's mo. truly

Da. McEwen.

Clochranhill 30 December 1825

Dear Robert

Your favour of 17 inst. came duly to hand. As to the society at Doonfoot I do not know whether it still continues in force or not as I have not heard any word of it this long time. The reason why Wallace's house and shop were (advertised) was, I understand, some difference between him and Mr. Gemmel J.P. respecting the rent, but he has too good a business to drop it. Adam Hunter intends I believe to make Ayr his home. There is going to be a ball at the Barr, but the Directors are not fixed, but D. Cunningham is very anxious to be one of them: and at Straiton likewise there is one fixed to be upon the 12 Jany. to which Margaret and I are asked. But Le petit Monsieur has not got an invitation, to his great mortification, although A. Mitchell and Q. McAdam are the directors. Colonel W. Hamilton has got another daughter! but whether he bore his disappointment with great philosophy or not I have not heard. It is the seventh daughter I think: she will be possessed of a remarkable share of knowledge.

We all join in best respects to you and I remain

Your's mo. sincerely

Da. McEwen.

P.S. Enclosed is the key of the box. Mention what is the difference of the porterage of your clothes when sent in the box. Write how H. McFarlane is.

Gleehranhill 17 March 1828.

My dear Robert,

As I have heard of an opportunity to Manchester I shall embrace it in sending you a few lines, and by the bye perhaps the bearer may become a customer of your's as he is one of the trade, and if he does I think I shall be entitled to - but I shall leave the reward of my services to yourself, as Englishmen are exceedingly generous, and as you are upon the same soil now I think I do not calculate without my host when I expect that your actions will be distinguished in a similar manner. Your letter to Margaret came safe to hand yesterday, but as the individual to whom it was addressed was, and is still, an absentee from home I took the liberty of breaking open the seal! and of examining the contents. In your next mention in what kind of goods Mr. McHaffie intends to traffic in and if the young men in the warehouse are Scotch or English. As you are a poacher in the fields of literature, and as it is likely a variety



of new Authors may cross your way, anything that strikes your fancy, that occurs to you in the course of your reading will be acceptably received in a corner of your letters. Chambers in Edin<sup>r</sup> has published another book in two volumes "A Picture of Scotland", done in the same style as the History of the Rebellion. All the different counties of Scotland, I believe, are brought under review, the different places that gave birth to the great men whom Scotland claims as her sons are mentioned, with sketches of their characters, and all those places that have been signalized as the scene of some bloody battle or of some heroic action interspersed with a great number of numerous anecdotes and traditions. Amongst the anecdotes relative to Auld Ayr take the following: (Here follows a lengthy quotation from the book) I would not have been so prolix in my quotations but I thought perhaps you might not have an opportunity of seeing the publication in England. My Mother joins me in best respects to you and

I remain yours mo. truly,

David McEwen.

P.S. I expected that Mr. Kinloch would have been the bearer of this, but I am disappointed; however he has promised to get it forwarded.

**Information:**

*Reference is made to Mary and Bothwell. Mary reigned from 1561—1567 and was married to the Earl of Bothwell in Edinburgh. Bothwell is often depicted as a brutal, ruthless and ambitious man. He is suspected of having murdered Mary's husband, Darnley. He is also accused of kidnapping Mary, raping her, and forcibly marrying her in order to be King of Scotland. Bothwell was unpopular amongst nobles and Mary's marriage to him led to her being accused of being a conspirator in the murder of her husband.*

(Clochranhill: July 1830)

My dear Robert

Your very esteemed favour of 1st June was duly recd on the 24th of the same month, and as an opportunity to your good town has presented itself through Wm. McCulloch, who proposes to accompany his sister to Liverpool and thence to proceed to Manchester to pay a visit to my worthy frère of dwarfish dimensions, I embrace it with pleasure. I perceive by your letter you view Mary's character in a different light from that in which I endeavoured to represent it, but ere quitting the field of combat I shall break a lance with you, as I am resolved to maintain that position which I formerly occupied. Not that I conceive it to be impregnable; it has several weak points and is assailable in many parts. Upon examining the mass of contradictory evidence which has been adduced by one party to prove Mary innocent and by the other to prove her guilt, and from those facts which stand admitted by both parties, I am led to think that she was guilty of indiscretions but that she was innocent of those heavier crimes which have been laid to her charge, viz her connection with the murder of her husband and her subsequent voluntary marriage with the individual who committed the regicide. No proof has ever been adduced, so far as I am aware, - at least in any way conclusive - of Mary's being privy to the murder of Darnley,



suspicious being only excited by posterior events. You state that Mary had long manifested an attachment for Bothwell. I admit at once that she showed a partiality for him, and perhaps deservedly so, for his services on several occasions; nay more, perhaps her intercourse with Bothwell exhibited an intimacy which the Scotch Court, proverbial for the coldness and repulsiveness of their manners, viewed in a suspicious if not in a criminal light but to which the gay Court of France, where she was brought up, would have given a different name. If it was a concerted plan between Bothwell and Mary regarding the seizure of her person, then of necessity we must admit her guilt, but I would ask where the evidence is to be obtained which proves the fact. If we consult history, one party maintains her innocence while the other is pertinacious in showing her guilt. The impression on my mind is quite the reverse from what you have stated on this point, and circumstances which I believe are admitted by all parties strengthen that belief. You must be aware that it is notorious the principal part of the nobility (Regent Murray is not included) signed a paper at a supper given by Bothwell in Edinburgh which contained in it a recommendation of the Nobleman alluded to as being the most suitable person for becoming the husband of the Queen. I therefore think that it must have been quite impossible for her to have foreseen that by acknowledging Bothwell as her husband she would incur the determined hos-

tility of her nobility. After being in the power of her ravisher for a week, when carried to Edinburgh, the acknowledgment of Bothwell as her husband seems to have been extorted from her on account of the disagreeable circumstances in which she was placed. It was not till after the event that her subjects began to manifest dissatisfaction with her conduct and collected an army to crush her power and to wrest the sceptre from the hand that swayed it. But she had subjects who were not wanting in loyalty and who rallied round her standard, determined to support the cause of royalty: and she was at the head of an army to say the least of it that was not one whit inferior to the one that opposed her. The two hostile forces were within a few hundred yards of each other and were on the eve of commencing a bloody fray. Where then was Mary's attachment for Bothwell, where the ardency of affection and her determination to stand by him when she thus situated, abandoned him for ever, went over to the opposite party and put herself in their power? Besides had there been anything at all tangible it would have been brought forward at Mary's trial to have proved her guilt when everything connected with the case was fresh; and it might have been expected at least that some facts would have been elicited which would have placed the matter in a clearer light and have put an end to these vague conjectures on this subject - but no; mystification and concealment were the order of the day and we are



left to draw deductions on some of the most important parts of Mary's character from other parts which are admitted. I have enlarged on this topic much longer than I had any idea of when I commenced, and I shall therefore (break off).

You complain of me for not giving you more news, but I leave that department to your worthy sister, who I thought executed the part well as Ladies are reputed to be acquainted with all the gossip of the country side .... I have got a few farrow cows and greys in the park at Hollybush. Mr. Green was to have ascended in a Balloon from Ayr yesterday amid a vast assemblage of people but did not venture up.... James will probably see you soon: we heard from him lately. Best respects to you both -

I am your's truly

Da: McEwen.

Mr. McEwen  
at Messrs. W<sup>m</sup> McHaffie & Co.  
62 Cannon Street  
Manchester.

Clochranhill 30 May 1832

My dear Brother

.... You complain, and not without good cause, of receiving a packet through the post office; - the way in which the mistake occurred is this: as I knew of no private opportunity to Liverpool I thought of sending the parcel by John Telfer's Liverpool packet with instructions to the Captain to send it to Manchester by the coach, but he seems to have been as stupid as his employer as John kept the letters lying beside him for four or five weeks and then his skipper put them into the post office.....

I understand you are intending to send my fair cousin Miss Martha a billet doux, but I must advise you to desist from your purpose in case you have the mortification of having your letter returned unopened. You must know besides that I take a particular charge of the young lady and would be extremely jealous of any such correspondence; and unless you are quite prepared to take the field and assert your right to her you will perhaps think it advisable to pursue a different course. I have no doubt but that you will think with Falstaff that prudence is the better part of valour and that you will give up your intention.

With best respects to you and Hugh I remain your's ever

Da. McEwen.



Ayr: 19 June 1832

My dear Robert

As Mr. Paterson, Aitkinbrae, has just now informed me that he intends setting off for Liverpool tomorrow morning per the coach and that he proposes visiting Manchester likewise I shall embrace the opportunity of writing a few lines. If you have any leisure I hope you will be able to shew him any part of the town worth seeing or anything that would stand inspection, so that he may bring a favourable report of your city so much famed for its calicoes. I presume he has no acquaintances in Manchester... Mr. Oswald is coming to Auchencruive just now, it is said, to canvass for being returned member for the County; perhaps he may call at Clochranhill to solicit my vote!! It is rumoured that Col. Blair proposes to contest the county with him and the Landed proprietors will use their interest with their tenantry on his behalf. I must conclude in haste, and I remain your's ever

Da. McEwen.

P.S. Heard from Sfinchar today; all well..

Clochranhill 10 July 1832

My dear Robert

As Mrs. Ronald intends leaving this quarter of the world in the beginning of the week and of setting out for Liverpool, where she has for the present fixed her habitation, I shall with pleasure embrace the opportunity, which are, like Angel visits, few and far between, of transmitting you a few ideas which are of the most brilliant order and which were partially displayed in my academical career, but from now, being ripened into maturity, are bursting forth in their full splendour.

I have no doubt you will prize the correspondence of an individual whose character will be held sacred by posterity and whose name will occupy one of the highest places in the niche of fame and - and, but egotism avaunt! I detest thee. I shall therefore leave this interesting subject to my Biographer, who will find ample materials for presenting the world with an instructive and valuable history of my life!! I must question Mrs. Ronald's good taste in leaving the

"Land of green hill and shaggy wood,  
Land of the mountain and the flood"

to sojourn south of the Tweed among a parcel of Southeron loons. I saw Robert Ronald here last week at Ayr Fair; he

is looking much healthier than the last time he was in Ayrshire; his spirits are considerably improved. John Ronald is very much altered from what he was at one time. He attends no parties almost, visits no where except professionally. I suppose it will be upwards of a year since he was here. I think his temper is somewhat soured from the disappointment he experienced on seeing Miss Aitken bestow her hand upon his rival. When subjected to raillery on this score at the period he laughed it off and pretended he felt quite cool on the subject while in reality his feelings smarted most intensely upon perceiving his sanguine hopes entirely destroyed, - at least this is my own opinion.....

I cannot help expressing my surprize that you would have dared to have written our fair cousin Miss Martha after the intimation which I gave you, but since you have had the



temerity you must either feel the effects of my wrath or make a proper apology for your conduct. Sir you must know that the age of Chivalry is not yet gone; there are spirits still animated with the feelings of the good olden times and who are courageous enough to stake their life on behalf of a fair Lady. It will now be seen whether by your residence in the South your feelings have been enervated, and that high and bold daring which distinguishes us Caledonians has been entirely eradicated from your veins. If you deem it beneath

you to make an apology, you can have no objections that a hostile meeting should take place on the banks of the Tweed there to decide our quarrel. Waiting with impatience to hear your answer I must now conclude with best respects to you and Hugh I remain your's sincerely

Da. McEwen.

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Clochranhill: 9 February 1833

My dear Robert

I have commenced a letter bearing your address, but alas! without knowing from what quarter matter is to be supplied to fill this sheet, my cranium being quite barren of ideas..... I can merely acknowledge receipt of your last

letter as I have mislaid it somewhere or other; but as I dislike the idea of being in debt to any individual I forthwith proceed to discharge the same as an opportunity, along with your shirts, has presented itself. As it is very seldom that any private conveyance occurs to Manchester my communications are necessarily less frequent than they otherwise would be, which is a circumstance that you will no doubt deeply deplore!!

His Reverence made a very short sojourn with us this season being not more than a fortnight in Ayrshire altogether. He preached one Sabbath in the Town Church and another in Dalrymple. In Ayr the good folks were very much pleased with him. What a pity that circumstances should have occurred to have prevented you from being a hearer, as I am sure you would have been gratified in the highest degree. Wallace, the jeweller, I met a day or two after John's appearance in the main

Church when he congratulated me upon the debut which he had made and said he would be a star some day. In Dalrymple I suppose he gave equal satisfaction, but being acquainted with almost no one there, I have not heard. We had nearly a fortnight's curling in this neighbourhood, but tho' the frost was pretty keen at night, it generally thawed through the day, and on that account the ice was generally damp and disagreeable .... Miss Robertson is to be married to John Rollo who has purchased a farm of about 100 acres in Denmark where he intends to carry his spouse..... We all join in best respects to you, and I remain

Your's sincerely

Da. McEwen.



Clochranhill 6 June 1833.

Dear Robert

..... With your usual good taste you remark that my last letter gave you satisfaction from being fancifully written. Well, it always struck me that anything in that way was strictly in accordance with your feelings, in fact that you had a particular fancy for that fanciful part of the creation vulgarly called Ladies; and not being altogether a Carpet Knight your feelings were enlisted in their cause and you were ready to take up the gauntlet of defiance and break a lance with any man in maintaining their rights..... Margaret has been confined with fever for the last fortnight. On Sabbath last Dr. Sym, who has been attending her, thought it necessary that her head should be shaved, which was got done. The fever hitherto, thank God, has never been very high and it is even less so than it was at first, and the symptoms as yet have been pretty favourable. From the confinement she has been somewhat reduced and I cannot yet say that she has got the turn tho' I fondly hope in the course of a few days she will; which event I trust I will soon have it in my power to communicate to you. We heard from James and John this week who are both well. We all join in best respects to you and Hugh, and I remain your's ever

Da. McEwen.

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# An Autumnal Scottish Treat- Scottish Treacle Scones

Compiled by Pauline Rowland

In the northern hemisphere Meteorological Autumn is upon us, but whichever hemisphere you live in, a traditional Scottish treacle scone is always a treat to enjoy!

Treacle scones are a simple traditional Scottish bake and a variation on the classic oven scone. Treacle scones have the slightly sweet, spicy flavours of gingerbread and are delicious served with butter and jam or with a slice of your favourite cheddar- Scottish Cheddar if you can get it!

Scones are a Scottish round or triangular quick bread, which is a bread made without yeast. Traditionally scones would be made with oats and baked on a stone or iron griddle over the fire. Now they are made with wheat flour and oven scones have become more popular than the original griddle scone.

Black treacle is a dark sticky syrup that is a byproduct of the sugar refining process. Treacle is best known as an ingredient in bakes like gingerbread. It is also used to make sweets like liquorice and treacle toffee. Molasses is similar but not the same as black treacle. It has a strong, bittersweet flavour and dark, almost opaque appearance. It is usually thicker than treacle. You could use molasses as a substitute for black treacle, however black treacle gives a better result.

## TIPS FOR MAKING GREAT SCONES

- Rub the butter or baking spread thoroughly into the flour, the result should look like fine breadcrumbs
- Do not overmix. Gently bring together the mixture and roll or pat it into a thick round before cutting out the scones.
- Do not twist your scone cutter, this seals the edges of the dough and stops the scones from rising. Press straight down and lift, if you dust the cutter with flour, it will lift off easily.

## Ingredients

- \* 450 grams (2  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups) self-raising flour
- \* 100 grams ( $\frac{1}{2}$  cups) butter or baking spread
- \* 2 teaspoon (2 teaspoon) baking powder
- \* 60 grams ( $\frac{1}{4}$  cups) soft brown sugar
- \* 1 teaspoon (1 teaspoon) ground ginger
- \* 1 teaspoon (1 teaspoon) mixed spice
- \* Pinch (Pinch) of salt
- \* 2 tablespoon (2 tablespoon) black treacle or molasses melted
- \* 1 (1) egg optional
- \* Milk to mix



## Method

1. Rub the butter or baking spread into the flour and stir in the remaining dry ingredients.
2. Measure the treacle into a bowl or jug and add a little milk. Heat in the microwave for 30 seconds or until the treacle has become more liquid.
3. Add the egg and beat together
4. Add the treacle egg mixture to the dry ingredients with enough milk to make a soft dough
5. Pat the dough out onto a floured surface to about 13 mm (1/2 in) thick. Cut into rounds with 63 mm (2 1/2 in) cutter.
6. Place the scones on a floured baking tray or line the tray with a non-stick baking mat.
7. Brush the tops of the scones with a little milk.
8. Bake at 180C (fan oven) 200 C, 400 F for 15-20 minutes

We hope you enjoy making these delicious scones and perhaps eating the fruits of your labours as you read this edition of the MacEwen Clan Bulletin!

Many thanks to The Farmers Girl Kitchen web site.

