



Clan MacEwen Special Edition Bulletin Kilfinan 2023

Reviresco

We will rise again

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Commander of Clan

MacEwen: Sir John McEwen

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Vice Chair: Ross McEwen

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Secretary: Carol Owens

**Editors: Ewan and Pauline
Rowland**

**Membership Secretary: Carol
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Country Commissioners:

**Oceania: Chris and Marilee
McEwan**

USA: Bob and Carol Owens

Canada: Maggie McEwan

James McEwan: Genealogists

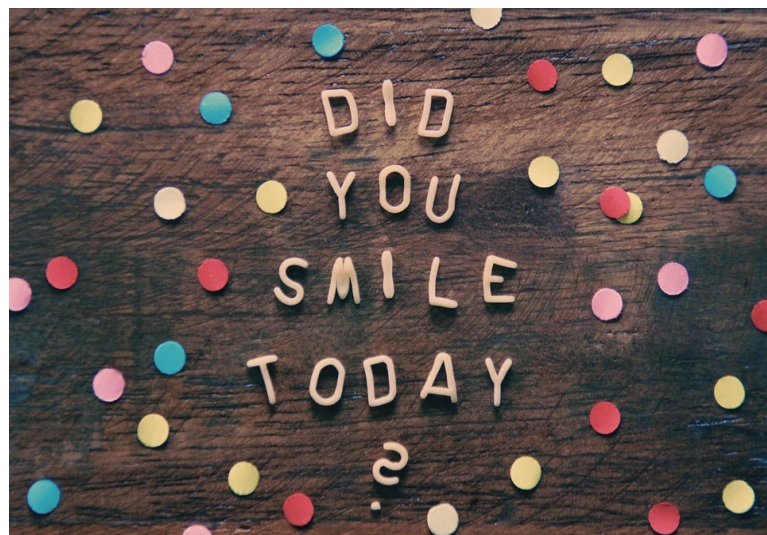
Committee Members:

Herma Goosens

Commander's Message

Once again we prepare to gather for our Annual General Meeting with hope and good fellowship in our hearts! At such a time as this, when war and pestilence and raging weather might make even the most reasonable among us feel that there is something biblical going on, it is more important than ever that those parts of life which are completely unconnected with suffering, such as the coming-together of a Clan, are cherished and valued. As Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, *'There is no duty we so much underrate as the duty of being happy. By being happy we sow anonymous benefits upon the world'.*

Go, us!"



Chairman's Message

Greetings from Kilfinan,

Hello to all the members of the Clan and Society. Our AGM is fast approaching and we are excited to be welcoming MacEwens from all over the world! This year we will be focusing on the family's history and heritage. We will be having workshops on Heraldry, MacEwen Migration, and what happened after they left the Cowal.

We as a society, are truly gaining traction with our presence at Highland Games globally and have had our first Clan Tent in California! I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all of our Commissioners and Conveners who make all of this possible. Great Job!

As we look forward to our ultimate goal of having a Chief of the Name Formally recognized by the Lyon Court, I would like to think of this as a beginning rather than an ending. Once the Clan is able to take its place amongst the other recognized Clans we, can truly bring the power of MacEwen to bring about positive change for all.

Reviresco!

Co'mhla!

Sean A. McCuin

GySgt. USMC Ret.

Chairman

Clan MacEwen Society



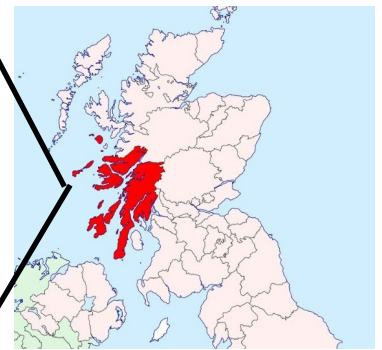
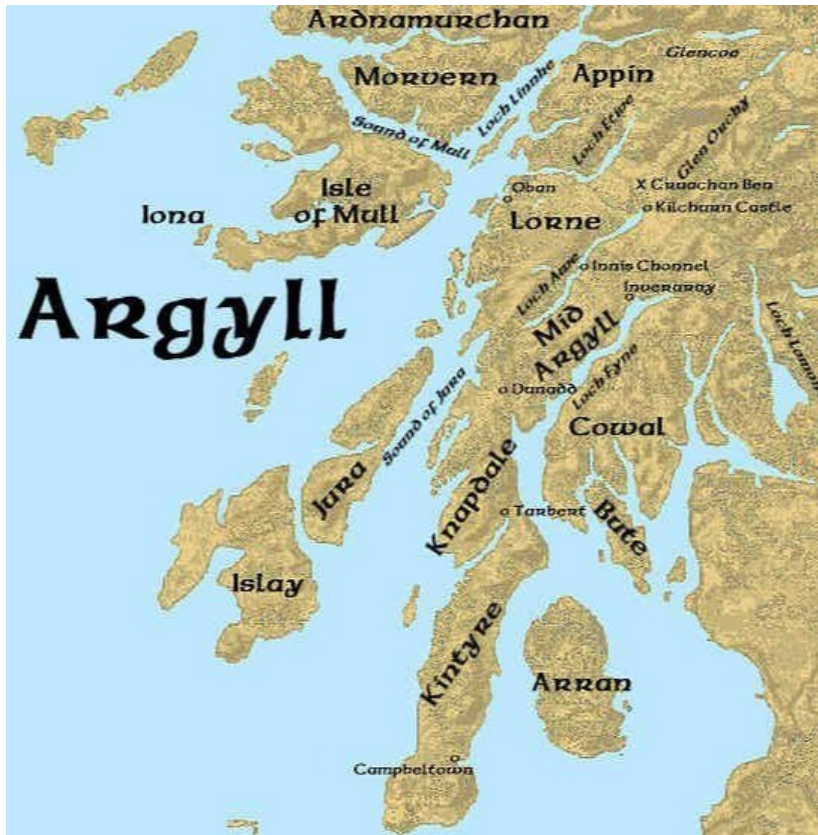
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Historic Argyllshire

by

Ewan Rowland



Facing west to the Atlantic, Argyllshire is a magic, beautiful and historic place. Its archipelago of islands include Bute, Inchmarnock, Mull, Iona, Aran, Islay, Jura, and many more smaller islands. Together they make up the Inner Hebrides. Its coastline is rugged with deep sea and freshwater lochs. Kilfinan, on the west coast of the Cowal peninsula, faces Loch Fyne. But it's the eastern side where the most lochs are found. One notable loch is Holy Loch the onetime US, WW2 to 1992 submarine base. The loch got its name because it was seen in Medieval times as the centre of Christianity. The nearby Dunoon Castle became the powerful Clan Campbell's spiritual home.

Argyllshire is rich in history dating back at least 3000 years BC, as evidenced by the numerous standing stones. The region is also the historic home of Clan Ewen or MacEwen of Otter.

- ◆ The year 503 is believed to mark the reign of the first King in Argyllshire sprung from the Dalriada Scots.
- ◆ The foundation of the Scottish Monarchy is thought to be from the middle of the 9th century.
- ◆ St Columba established the monastery on Iona in 563AD
- ◆ Somerled, Regulus of Argyll was the leader of the Scots in the middle of the 12th century.
- ◆ Up to 1222, Argyll maintained semi-independence of the Scottish Crown.
- ◆ In 1266, during the reign of Alexander III, the Hebrides and Western Isles were annexed to the Kingdom.
- ◆ Up until 13th century Scots were divided into a few great tribes/clans.

Historic Argyllshire

In the “Table of the Descent of the Highland Clans”, it is said that the second greatest clans listed are those of Clans Neill, Lachlan, *Lamonds and Ewen. In the 12th century these clans were in possession of the greatest part of the Cowal, from Toward Point to Strachur. The Lamonds were separated from the MacLachlands by the stream which divides the parish of Kilfinan and Strath Lachlan.

**Lamond is spelt this way in ‘Clan Ewen: Some Records of its History by The Late R.S.T MacEwen’*

The MacEwens possessed a tract of land about 25 miles square and could probably bring out about 299 fighting men.

When Alexander III conquered the Argyll in 1222, the MacEwens suffered severely. A small group survived under their own chief at Otter, on the shores of Loch Fyne. MacEwen I of Otter was chief in 1200 and succeeded by Severa II of Otter until 1222. Unfortunately, the names of the 3rd and 4th chiefs were lost. Gillespie V of Otter assured the chiefship in about 1315. From then on 4 chiefs were listed; Ewen VI, JohnVII, WalterVIII and Sufree of Swene IX.

In 1431-32 Swene MacEwen IX of Otter granted a charter of certain lands of Otter to Duncan, son of Alexander Campbell. In 1432 Swene MacEwen resigned the barony of Otter to King James I. Upon Swene’s death in 1493 King James confirmed the grant of Archibold as the Earl of Argyll. From 1602 the MacEwens along with the MacGregors, MacLachlans and MacNeills were to be known as the “men of Argyll”.

Clan Ewen was broken up and wiped out as a territorial clan in the middle 15th century during one of the darkest ages in clan history.

As a broken clan, without a chief and lands, the survivors needed the protection of a powerful chief. Some became fighting auxiliaries and a few found more peaceful occupations. A position seen to be honourable was that of bard and seanachie (a Gaelic storyteller). This was an important position in the Celtic system and those who held such a position were seen as the most learned men in the clan. They also acted as aides-de-camp to the chief, passing on the chief’s orders to members of the clan. Another important element of the seanachie was to act as the clan’s genealogist.

The Bard had a stipend paid out of every plough land and the chief was called ‘King of the Bards.’

It is thought that McEwens had free lands in Lorn in Argyllshire in 1572, for acting as bards to Sir John



Clan MacEwen

Gathering and AGM

June 2nd 2023

Friday 02 June 2023

12:00-15:00	Welcome / Walk to the Cairn
16:00-18:00	Mini Highland Games / Social Time
18:00-19:30	Informal Dinner
19:30-20:30	Whisky / Gin Tasting Session



Saturday 03 June 2023

10:00-12:00	Discussion (MacEwen Migration)
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:00	Commander's Presentation
15:00-17:00	AGM
18:30-19:00	Drinks with the Commander
19:00-20:30	Formal Dinner
20:30-Till	Ceilidh



Sunday 04 June 2023

10:00-12:00	Workshop / Discussion (Family Tree)
12:00-13:00	Blessing of the Tartan (MacEwen Motte)
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00 Till	Highland Games / Social Time / Farewells



Clan MacEwen
The Oystercatcher - Packed Lunch
Friday 02 June

Homemade Quiche
or
Vegan Mushroom Quiche

Homemade Sausage Roll
or
Veggie Sausage Roll

Vegetable Sticks, Crisps, Fruit, Water, Bakery Item

Baps—Cheese & Pickle / Egg Mayo / Chicken & Avocado Sandwich

Crisps—Cheese & Onion / Salt & Vinegar / Salted

Clan MacEwen
Whisky / Gin Tasting 19:30-20:30
Friday 02 June

Tasting of local whisky and gin from the wonderful Isle of Bute

Clan MacEwen
The Oystercatcher - Informal Dinner at 6.30pm
Friday 02 June

Menu

Starter:

Soup of the Day—Veggie/Vegan
Homemade Black Pudding Croquettes
Loch Fyne Hake Goujons

Main:

Jarl Battered Fish and Hand Cut Chips
Steamed Beef Pudding and Local Greens
Chickpea, Spinach, Coconut & Cauliflower Dahl

Pudding

Apple Pie—Meringue, Passionfruit, Lemon Curd
Bread & Butter Pudding
Cheese Board -3 slices of local cheese £5.00 supplement

Clan MacEwen
The Oystercatcher-Soup and Sandwich 12:00-13:00
Saturday 03 June

Minestrone or Minted Pea Soup
Bap—Cheese Savoury (including onions) / BLT / Coronation Tofu
Tea / Coffee with Homemade Shortbread

Clan MacEwen Dinner Party
The Oystercatcher - Formal Dinner at 7:00pm
Saturday Evening 03 June

Menu

Starters

Cullen Skink

Or

Leek & Potato Soup

Main

Lepinchapel Lamb, Haggis, Neeps & Tatties with a rich Lamb Sauce

Veggie / Vegan Haggis, Neeps & Tatties & Swede Fondant

Pudding

Bramble & Apple Crumble, with Homemade Custard or Vegan Cream

Clan MacEwen

The Oystercatcher-Sunday Lunch 13:00-14:00

Sunday 04 June

Roasted Local Beef (medium rare), Roasties, Cauliflower Cheese, Yorkie , Greens

Veggie / Vegan Nut Roast, Cauliflower Cheese, Roasties, Greens

Come and join us on the shores of Loch Fyne!



We Will Rise Again!

Grow green again; grow strong!

Honour & Nobility

Rulers and Kings used oaks as emblems to symbolise authority & sovereignty throughout history.

Knowledge & Wisdom

Celts thought of oak trees as the cosmic source of wisdom.

Protection & Healing

Druids believed the oak had healing powers.

Love & Commitment

Symbolises the 80th wedding anniversary. Couples would marry underneath the oak so as to be granted long and happy partnerships.



Power, Strength & Stability

The oak's ability to withstand storms has earned it the title of the 'Mighty Oak'.

The Oak Tree

by Johnny Ray Ryder Jnr

It won't be a surprise to you to know that we are the clan that plants trees, since our emblem is a blasted oak with green shoots emerging from its trunk. Nor will its sentiment go unnoticed since our clan shares so much with this noblest of trees. *This poem was featured in a previous Special Bulletin and its words sum up the journey the Clan is on to fulfill its objective to have a new chief.*



The Oak Tree

by Johnny Ray Ryder Jnr

A mighty wind blew night and day,
It stole the Oak Tree's leaves away.

The wind stripped its boughs
And pulled its bark

Until the Oak was tired and stark.

But still the Oak Tree held its ground

While other trees fell all around.

The weary wind gave up and spoke.

How can you still be standing Oak?

The Oak Tree said, I know that you

Can break each branch of mine in two,

Carry every leaf away,

Shake my limbs and make me sway.

But I have roots stretched out in the earth,
growing stronger since my birth.

You'll never touch them, for you see

They are the deepest part of me.

Until today, I wasn't sure
of just how much I could endure.

But now I've found with thanks to you,

I'm stronger than I ever knew.

