



Ardchoille

Newsletter of the
American Clan Gregor Society

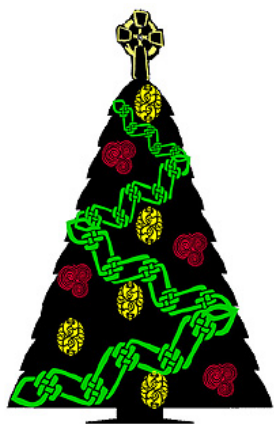


Volume XI, Issue 3

December 2005

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Across The Pond...a word from our Chieftain; Sir Malcolm MacGregor

Sir Malcolm: The Significance Of The MacGregor Arms To Clan Gregor

"This article has been written in response to a request at the AGM of 2004 that it would be useful to give my views and position on the subject of MacGregor Tartan and the significance of the MacGregor Arms to Clan Gregor. I am delighted to do this, because it is helpful for the society to know the Chief's opinions on these important matters. I am in possession of information and facts surrounding these two subjects that are not generally in the public domain."

The MacGregor Crest and Arms

What is known in Heraldic terminology as the 'full achievement' of MacGregor of MacGregor is shown in the illustration. It is made up of different elements; working from top to bottom: the crest mounted on a wreath coloured in my personal livery, the motto, the helmet with mantling also in livery, the shield, supporters (a unicorn and deer) on a compartment with the motto 'E'en do and spair nocht'. The whole achievement is unique to me and cannot be used by anyone else. All these 'devices' are highly symbolic for they represent the key distinguishing marks of men and women from the Middle Ages and the age of chivalry where the uniform of the day consisted of armour and coats of arms, by which a man or a woman could be recognized. For our purposes I will deal primarily with the crest and shield for they are the two items that affect members of Clan Gregor.

The MacGregor Crest is a lion's head with a crown mounted on a wreath. The symbolism of it being, along with the motto 'Royal is my Race', that we claim descent



from the ancient kings of Scotland. The crest is normally worn in the Balmoral or Glengarry bonnets. Clansmen wear it with a belt and buckle surrounding the crest and this is known as the MacGregor badge. It is the armorial badge of clanship and not to be taken lightly as to use it in Scotland without the strap and buckle involves a statutory offence!

I regard the crest as the main outward symbol of who we are and where we hail

(Continued on page 2)

Merry Christmas

Across The Pond...Cont.

(Continued from page 1)

from. Therefore it should not be misused or misrepresented in any way. The current fashion for displaying clan badges on every sort of garment imaginable and other pieces of merchandise must be treated with the utmost caution. The crest represents the embodiment of all MacGregors and the simple beauty of heraldry; two things that have existed for hundreds of years and should be respected.

The arms or armorials on the shield should be treated the same way. Tradition has it that Sir Malcolm MacGregor of Glenorchy slew a wild boar which was puffing and blowing in preparation to attack King David II on a hunting expedition. When Sir Malcolm requested permission from His Majesty to take immediate action to dispatch the animal, the King is reputed to have said 'E'en do and spair nocht', meaning do it and spare nothing. Whereupon the bold Sir Malcolm, being of great strength and courage ripped an oak tree from the ground, with which he killed the offending beast, which was causing such distress to the royal personage. Hence my arms consists of an oak tree with a sword lain across it supporting a crown. The arms are wonderfully simple reflecting the innate beauty of heraldry.

Unlike in England, in clannish Scotland the plain arms are the mark of a chief. There can only be one chief of any surname. Any organization or individual who bears that surname must have something of the Chief's arms within their arms. They are only granted arms which allude in some way to the chief. That suits organizations like American Clan Gregor because it is assumed and hoped (!) by dint of clanship that they want to be associated with the chief. But a coat of arms cannot be the property of more than one person. So how do we get round this? By using the heraldic term of 'differencing'. Hence the arms of the ACGS is differenced by using the motto, if you will, 'American Clan Gregor Society' in a circular fashion around my arms. Problem solved. It is quite incorrect for someone to use my 'undifferenced' arms in any shape or form claiming representation if I am not physically present. My banner and standard should not be flown unless I am in the locality.

It will be obvious that I have merely covered the bare essentials of arms, heraldry, and how it relates to Clan Gregor as a whole. Suffice it to say, that the Court of Lord Lyon, though a court of chivalry has powers that can be invoked if people get it wrong. Arms, chivalry, clans and their legends are all intertwined. This is not the case in

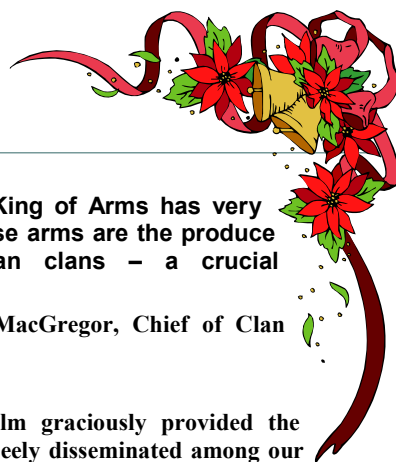
England where Garter King of Arms has very little power and of course arms are the produce of families rather than clans – a crucial difference.

Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Chief of Clan Gregor

[Editors Note: Sir Malcolm graciously provided the above information to be freely disseminated among our Society members and made available at our Clan tents. The first half of his "Views", the MacGregor tartans, was included in the August '05 issue of this newsletter.]

News from Scotland: (Submitted by Sir Malcolm MacGregor, Chief of Clan Gregor) First of all, I would like to thank all members of the American Clan Gregor Society for the fabulous silver salver complete with clan crests engraved upon it, which was given to Fiona and myself on the occasion of our marriage. It goes very well with other MacGregor possessions and ornaments that we have. Another 'MacGregor' present was a box of MacGregor oatcakes from the acclaimed makers of oatcakes in Dunoon, Argyll. They are extremely good and I would recommend them to anyone. To have oatcakes with the clan badge embossed on the packaging is unusual in the world of oatcakes!

The summer is now over and we have had a busy time of it. It was marvelous to be back at Lochearnhead as Chieftain of the Games, catching up not just with fellow MacGregors, but with many others who live in the local area who seem to know as much about our history as we do. It was also a pleasure to attend the 150th anniversary of the first service held at the kirk in Balquhider, conducted by John Lincoln. Many of you will know Balquhider and the surrounding countryside. My great grandfather, the 21st chief attended the first service there in 1855 and my father went to the school that is next to it. It is a great thing to be able to go to that church which is in such a wonderful setting and is so significant for MacGregors. Again, many of the people of Balquhider, although not MacGregors, feel a special attachment to us. I will do all that I can to foster such friendships with those who are not of Clan Gregor, not only because it is good a thing to do, but is very much in the tradition of our clan.



News from our backyard...State Updates



News from Colorado: (Submitted by Ron McGregor, Deputy Chieftain for Colorado) There have been two noteworthy events involving our Colorado clansmen since the last newsletter. The first was Longs Peak Games held in Estes Park in early September. These games are now reported to be **"the largest Scottish/Irish festival in the United States"** and we had approximately 70,000 attendees this year. So we are truly proud of our accomplishments. One consistent note of Clan Gregor's participation in these games is that each year we try to do better than the year before. This year we had **forty-five** tartaned clansmen and ladies march in the Saturday morning parade including one stout young man carrying our Clan Crest banner on a flag pole and **eighteen** individuals carrying flags representing our various tartans. It should also be pointed out that this year we had **four** wee MacGregor lads, all eleven months and younger, wearing their tartans and being pushed in their strollers. We had the four of them and their parents bringing up the rear of our formation. Reason? Because, if they had been in the front, none of the tens of thousands of spectators would have paid any attention to the rest of the MacGregors. And, what better way to finish such a smart looking clan marching by than have such beautiful young lads waving to the crowds and swaying & bouncing to the music of the pipe band just ahead of us. It was also exciting for us to see these games featured on the Jay Leno Tonight Show on September 30th where we could identify two or three MacGregors in the background.

The second event was of course our Annual ACGS Gathering in Salt Lake City. What a tremendous job Lois Ann and her team did in organizing such a splendid event. Our hats off to them.

From all of our Clansmen and ladies here in Colorado, we wish you all a very sincere Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

News from Georgia: (Submitted by Thad Osborne for Donald Gregg, Deputy Chieftain for Georgia). The Stone Mountain Highland Games took place again on the weekend of 15 October 2005. Your Ranking Deputy Chieftain, Thad Osborne, accepted the invitation of Donald & Dianne Gregg to board with them and to assist them at the games tent.

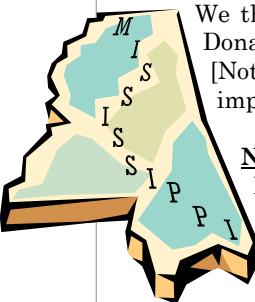


Thad arrived at the Gregg home about 1730 Friday evening, as Donald was leaving for his university. Donald expressed the hope that we would be able to visit when he finished, and that he was looking forward to the Games. Not long after Donald's leaving home, Dianne received an emergency telephone call from Donald. He had been involved in a multiple-vehicle accident not two miles from home. Of the vehicles' occupants, Donald was the only one who managed to extricate himself. A subsequent medical evaluation necessitated his admission to hospital on Friday evening. There would be no games for Donald this year. Dianne Gregg and Thad manned the tent at the Stone Mountain Games; the weather was perfect as only autumn in Georgia can be. The clan tents at Stone Mountain are in a wooded area, somewhat away from the competition fields. As in past years, we shared a tent with the Clan Gregor Society, Southeast Chapter; but the two groups were reduced to one table each, which severely restricted the display of merchandise. John And Ena McGregor of Edgewater, Florida, came and assisted at the tent; but many members who have come to these games in the past did not attend this year. After the games Saturday, Dianne and Thad returned to Piedmont Hospital to report to Donald. Needless to say, he wanted out, and was disappointed that he could not be at the Game. Dianne and Thad returned Sunday morning to Stone Mountain Park. Traffic was bit slower and we were able to visit with some of our acquaintances from the Clan Gregor Society. There was a splendid parade of Tartans with recognitions of the honored guests. Since there seemed to be few merchandise customers or potential members, we "broke camp" about 4:00 pm for the drive back into Atlanta. Donald was back at home, having been released but a few minutes before; unhappy at missing the games, but glad to back in his own "digs".

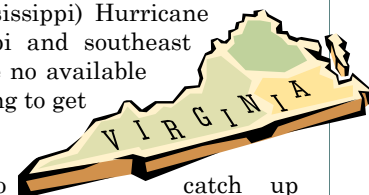
We thank Donald and Dianne for their faithful representation of our Society in Georgia these 22 years, and wish Donald a complete recovery from his injuries. Yours aye, Thad

[Note from Donald: It's almost a month now, and I'm still hurting. I guess a collapsed lung and internal bleeding imply reasonably extensive damage. I'm still only good for about a half-day of teaching, but I mend, I mend.]

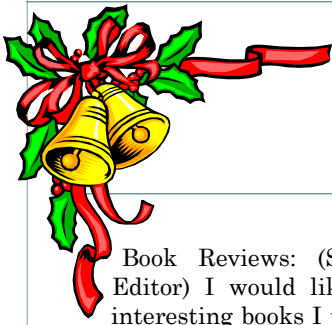
News from Mississippi: (Submitted by Dan Megehee, Deputy Chieftain for Mississippi) Hurricane Katrina has essentially stopped all Scottish Clan activities in south Mississippi and southeast Louisiana – the facilities that host the games are largely untouched, but there are no available hotel rooms and restaurants are few and far between, and all have a long line waiting to get in. We're looking for a better year in 2006. Dan Megehee."



News from Virginia: (Submitted by Scott MacGregor, Deputy Chieftain for Virginia) Trying to catch up on my society and scribe business, I am unable to submit an exclusive Virginia report for this issue. However, **I would like**



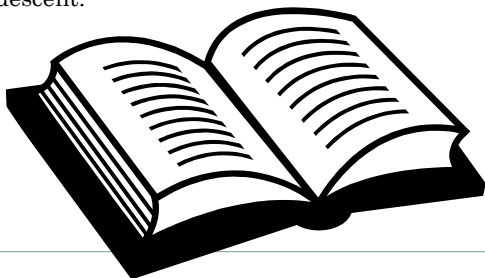
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Settling in for a Good Read...

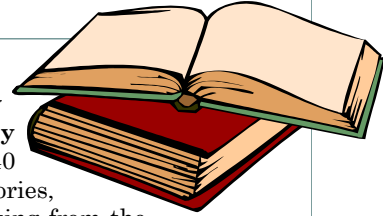
Book Reviews: (Submitted by Ron McGregor, Editor) I would like to provide reviews of three interesting books I purchased from Scotland earlier this year. The books were written by Mr. Paul McGinlay of Callander, Scotland and self published via Trossachs Publications [47 Vennacher Avenue, Callander, FK17 8JQ, Scotland]. McGinlay has written and published seven books, each for sale at the price of £4.99 plus £1.00 post and packing. However, Mr. McGinlay and I learned a rather interesting lesson. I first ordered just one book and sent a personal check to cover the cost of the book and postage at the current exchange rate. It turned out that the banks were charging an additional £ 5.00 for processing the check. Therefore Mr. McGinlay would be losing forty pence in the transaction. We agreed to a simpler, and less expensive, method. I simply purchased £ 6.00 UK sterling in currency and mailed it with my order for each book purchased. Within a few weeks I received the books in good order. I have been so impressed by these books that I will be ordering the remaining books to add to my collection

"History of Lanrick Castle (Castle Gregor)." By Paul McGinlay. Published by Trossachs Publications, 2004. 48 pages. This book provides the history of Lanrick Castle back to the 12th century. For centuries it was the seat of a branch of the Haldanes. In 1872, Sir John Murray purchased the estate. The house at that time was a mansion of considerable size over five floors. Sir John spent considerable amounts on the house and estate. Following Sir Evan's succession as Chief of Clan Gregor in 1821, the house became known as Castle Gregor. Sir Evan had considerable debts and began to sell parts of the estate and finally in 1840, Lanrick itself was sold to William Jardine of the far-east trading company of Jardine-Matheson. Sections of the book deals with the Earldom of Mentieth, the Haldanes of Lanrick, the MacGregors and the Jardines. A final page describes how the house began to decay after 1964 and was finally demolished in 2002. It is a useful book in that the final days of the castle provides useful information on the failure of Scotland's government in protecting historical sites from destruction and illustrates the need for Clan Gregor to develop the funds and methods of preserving the lands and artifacts of our heritage. I recommend this book be included in the libraries of all families of Clan Gregor descent.



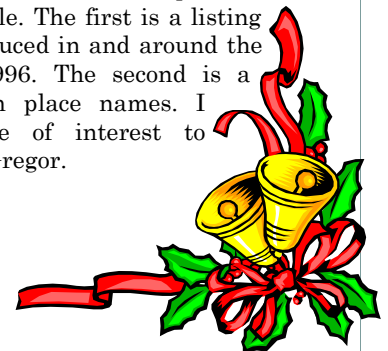
"Tales From The Trossachs." By Paul McGinlay. Published by Trossachs Publications, 2004. 40

pages. This is a collection of stories, anecdotes and legends, all originating from the Trossachs and surrounding area. It includes a number of tales about Rob Roy, '... mostly little known, as well as recent discoveries about his business dealings.' Other fascinating tales included in this book include those about - ghouls, ghosts, graves, heads, horses, Jacobites, meals, murder, Saints, a sneeze, whisky, and witches and many more. One in particular pertains to a horse that was tried, found guilty and hanged for kidnapping a man that all witnesses accused of horse theft. Light and interesting reading for those with an interest in the Scottish Highlands, but of particular interest to those with a MacGregor connection.

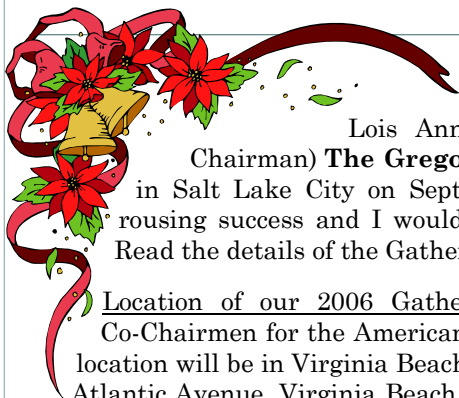


"The Trossachs: Facts, Fiction, Fantasy." By Paul McGinlay. Published by Trossachs Publications 2002.

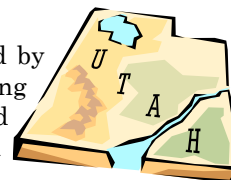
44 pages. Publisher's comments: "Everything you've always wanted to know about the Trossachs, including - the Stone Tree of the MacGregors, Samson's Putting Stone - The Legend, The Water Demon of Loch Venachar, the Mountain of God, the Lochan of the Dead Bodies, the Iron Eating Tree, the Sinking of the Gypsy, The Iron Coffins, The Grand Curling Match, the Birthplace of Football and much much more." My review: An informative book about the region of Scotland that saw the birth of our great clan and naturally includes information about MacGregors. But it contains bits and pieces of information that I personally have not seen in print before - and I have been an avid reader of related material for years. Of particular interest to me was the claim on page 30 that the American anthem used to announce the arrival of the President, "Hail to the Chief" was originally used in a performance of 'The Lady of the Lake' to announce "the arrival of a MacGregor chieftain being rowed down Loch Katrine." I subsequently confirmed this with our government. This then explains why it is titled "Hail to the Chief" rather than "Hail to the President" or "Commander-in-Chief". Therefore, it was for a **REAL Chief, a MACGREGOR CHIEF**. Keep this in mind each time you hear it in the future. It also includes two other pieces of information that I found notable. The first is a listing of films and TV programs produced in and around the Trossachs from 1911 thru 1996. The second is a translation of many Trossach place names. I believe this book should be of interest to dedicated researchers of Clan Gregor.



News of the National Gatherings; 2005 & 2006



From Our Chairman for the "2005 Gathering": (Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz, Deputy Chieftain for Utah and 2005 Gathering Chairman) **The Gregorach Gathering** - MacGregors from across America gathered in Salt Lake City on Sept. 22-24. From all indications, this year's Gathering was a rousing success and I would like to thank every one for their support and attendance. Read the details of the Gathering in our next issue of the ACGS Yearbook.



Location of our 2006 Gathering: (Submitted by Scott MacGregor, Deputy Chieftain for Virginia) The Co-Chairmen for the American Clan Gregor Society's 2006 Gathering (AGM) are pleased to announce that the location will be in Virginia Beach, Virginia on 02-05 November. The host hotel will be: Sheraton Oceanfront, 3501 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Phone: 757-425-9000. Email: www.vabeach.com/sheraton. As usual, you will make your own reservations with the hotel, and more information will be forth coming about that in the spring ACGS letter to members. In the meantime, you can set aside those dates in your vacation and work schedules, and make plans to attend this coming year's events. This hotel is located directly on the beaches of the Atlantic ocean where the first colonist landed in the new world. Rooms will be \$94 per night, plus tax. Virginia Beach is easily accessible by car at the eastern terminus of Interstate 64 or by air via the Norfolk International Airport (ORF) and the major airlines: American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, Southwest, United, and U.S. Air. I suggest you take a look at the following web sites for ideas of what to do with your free time while you are here: <http://www.vbfun.com/visitors/default.asp?flash=yes>. Please feel free to contact us for more information. If you are not yet a member, but wish to receive updates regarding this event, please contact me directly: Scott MacGregor, 440 Willoughby Bay, Norfolk, Virginia 23505. Phone: 757-587-7877, e-mail: mcgregr@verizon.net. Yours aye, Scott MacGregor and Sandy MacGregor, 2006 Gathering Committee Co-Chairman.

Hosting Future ACGS Gatherings: (Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz, Deputy Chieftain for Utah) Tired of traveling a goodly distance to attend a yearly MacGregor Gathering? Not to mention the travel expense? Then propose to host one in your area. The 2006 location has now been announced, but all the years after that (except 2009 - the 100th anniversary) are open. Hosting one is not unlike planning a reunion near your home for your own extended family. People need a purpose to get together (the Gathering itself and the business meetings provide that), a place to stay (a hotel with a banquet and meeting rooms), food to eat (either in or near the hotel), entertainment (the ceilidh, the banquet, the tour of local area, the pipe band concert), plus unstructured times to be able to get away from the hotel to see the local sights. They want time to be with old friends and get caught up - more unstructured time, or maybe at meals. MacGregors gathering with their own extended cousins, a place they belong and feel welcome. Give a boost to participation by the MacGregors in your own area by inviting them to help you with the planning and hosting fun. Joe Tichy has provided much leadership for Gatherings in the past thirty years or more and has a wonderfully thoughtful list of Preparations for a Gathering. As a Gathering Chairman, there is a goodly amount of help and advise available to you. An updated version, more in outline form, similar to a "wedding planner check list" is being prepared. If you would like to see the list, contact Scott F. MacGregor, the Society's Scribe or Sandy McGregor, the Chieftain, for a copy of the list. (email for Scott is: mcgregr@verizon.net and for Sandy is sandymac001@verizon.net).



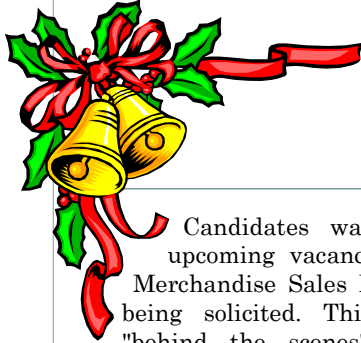
Seasons Greetings...

Greetings from our Chief and Lady Fiona

Fiona and I send best wishes to everyone in the society and their friends for Christmas 2005 and wish you all good fortune for 2006. Sir Malcolm MacGregor

Greetings from the Council

As we all bask in the seasonal warmth and love surrounded by families and friends our thoughts and contributions go out to those suffering great hardships, both at home and abroad. Your Council members wish one and all of our members, 'Best Wishes for the Season and Happiness and Prosperity in 2006'. John C. McGregor, Assistant Chieftain



Merchandise Sales Manager

*Help
Wanted*

Candidates wanted to fill upcoming vacancy for ACGS Merchandise Sales Manager are being solicited. This somewhat "behind the scenes", but very important position is becoming available as our current Sales Manager Thaddeus Osborne prepares to assume his new duties as the Chieftain of the ACGS effective with next year's Gathering. The position is filled by the appointment of the Assistant Chieftain for an undetermined period. Hopefully for several years. Qualifications: An "AAAAAW" rating. Ability and space to store approximately 96 cubic feet of Society's merchandise inventory. Ability to communicate with customers and vendors via telephone, mail, and electronic mail. Ability to assemble, pack, and ship orders reliably and promptly. Ability to attend annual gatherings or delegate gathering sales to responsible designee. Access to parcel shipping or mailing services. Willingness and reliability to handle and account for Society funds.

Job Description:

The Society sells a variety of gift and souvenir merchandise, presently consisting of t-shirts, sweat shirts, books, glassware, handbags, tartan yardage, and musical and video recordings. Sales are made at annual gatherings and at various Scottish games and festivals across the country. These sales are an important source of revenue to the Society, and repeat business is very valuable.

In addition to cash and carry sales at games and gatherings, orders are also received by mail. It is important that these orders be filled accurately and promptly. It has been our policy to include ground shipping, such as Parcel Post or UPS, in the sales prices of all merchandise except glassware, due to the special packaging needs of glass. The merchandise manager will also ship by expedited methods provided the customer pays the shipping.

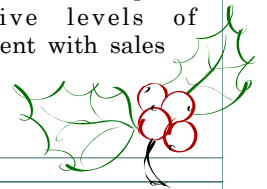
An accurate record of all sales should be maintained. After each major sales event, such as a gathering or large

games, such as Grandfather Mountain, all monies received and an accounting thereof by item should be promptly forwarded to the treasurer for proper credit. Revenue from mail orders should be forwarded to the treasurer promptly.

The treasurer will reimburse the merchandise manager for normal, out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the sales or shipping of merchandise: these include postage, freight, cost of goods when purchased by the manager, shipping supplies, etc.

The merchandise sales manager should make an accurate inventory of merchandise on hand, at least annually or when requested by the treasurer.

The merchandise manager will be provided the names and addresses of sources for merchandise presently on hand. He should maintain adequate, but not excessive levels of merchandise consistent with sales made.



From Our Ranking Deputy Chieftain – "Passing the State Deputy Chieftain Torch"

(Submitted by Thaddeus Osborne, Ranking Deputy Chieftain) After serving for twenty years as the ACGS State Deputy Chieftain for Minnesota, **David Gatewood** stepped down for health reasons. David's new address for those that wish to contact him: David Gatewood, 4644 Cedar Avenue (Apt 201), Minneapolis, MN 55407 Phone: 612-721-6599.

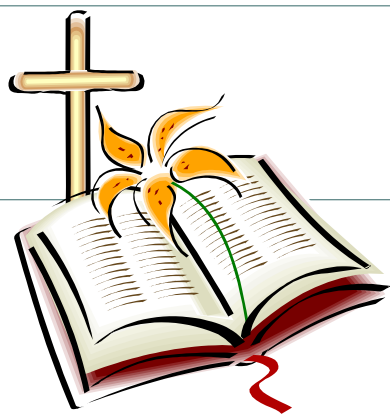
David's position was filled with the appointment of **Lori Connery**. Lori assumed the duties in full power mode. In the few months since becoming SDC, Lori has: joined the Minnesota Coalition of Scottish Clans, inquired

about joining the Scottish Tartan Authority, and has been introduced to the local Scottish community as the ACGS Deputy Chieftain for Minnesota. She also coordinated the ACGS representation at the July Minnesota Scottish Fair in Lakeville, MN resulting in 15 inquires in the ACGS. That same month she hosted an informal gathering at a local restaurant. In August she represented the ACGS at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival in Shakopee, MN where she received approximately 10 new inquires. In October Lori hosted another informal gathering at a local Irish Pub. A short

agenda was presented with a focus on future events and membership to the ACGS. Also, at that function it was agreed to begin having a Monthly "Pub Night".

She has already begun interfacing with other SDC's. We are proud to see this new member so willing to take such an active role in our Society.





"Crossing Over"

From Our Chaplain : Passing of Mason Magruder Lummis

(Submitted by Thad Osborne)

Although Mason was not able to be active in the Society for the last few years, we remember and appreciate his years of service as a councilor and as our librarian. We mourn the passing of Mason and extend to his family the condolences and appreciation of our Society. Mason, and other members deceased prior to the next gathering, will be remembered at our memorial service next year.

"Dear ACGS All -

It is with much sadness that I have to pass on the news that longtime ACGS member Mason Magruder Lummis passed away suddenly on Monday, September 26th, at his home here in Alexandria. Though Mason's health

had been precarious for many years, he was not particularly ailing and his death was unexpected. His wife, Shirley, who found him dead, called me to inform me, and to ask that I pass the information on to others at the ACGS.

While she is of course distraught, Shirley is a strong woman and is holding up well under the circumstances. I know she'd appreciate hearing from those of you who knew Mason well. Their home phone number: (703) 960-6191. Home address is in the ACGS Directory.

There was a memorial service on October 3rd, in Alexandria, at the Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, followed by a private burial. In addition to his ACGS involvement, Mason was a member of the Sons of the Confederacy, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Society of the Cincinnati (descendants of Revolutionary War officers) and the Washington St. Andrew's Society. (I'm its current president.) The St. Andrew's Society provides a piper and kilted pall bearers upon request to the survivors of our deceased members. I

talked with Shirley about the family's wishes. She chose a piper.

Mason was cremated, but the memorial service was attended by his many friends. I attended, as did many of our WSAS members who knew Mason. The family asked me to speak, which I was honored to do; I stressed that Mason, who was proud of his career service in the U.S. Army (he retired as a lieutenant colonel) was a model for the old adage, "duty, honor, country." To which he would want us to add "family."

ACGS members Andy Gregg and Pete Toulmin were also present at the memorial service; we all accompanied the family to the graveside, where a contingent from the U.S. Army played taps and presented Shirley with the traditional folded flag that accompanies military funerals.

Aye, John King Bellassai,
ACGS Council Member At
Large"



State Updates Cont...

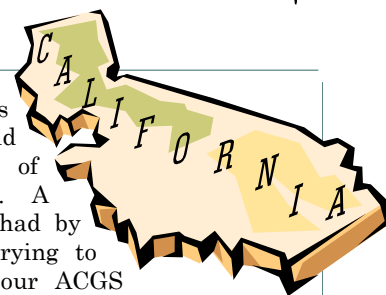


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to extend my warmest wishes to everyone in our extended MacGregor family for a wonderful and happy holiday season.

News from California: (Submitted by Carolyn McGregor-Long, Deputy Chieftain for California) Things here are currently going well. There does appear to be a wee decline in attendance this year at the Scottish Highland Games, not only by our Clan, but others as well. However, the recent Ventura Games were well attended by the Gregarach. Also, the CGS Western

USA Chapter's AGM was held on Saturday of that weekend. A fun time was had by all. I'm still trying to locate one of our ACGS members, Mr. Douglas K. Johnson. His last known address was 60 Amherst Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025. If anyone knows his current whereabouts please forward that information to me. Thank you.
May the upcoming Holidays find each of you in good health and looking forward to a prosperous 2006!





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"ARDCHOILLE"
THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER OF
303 Cherrywood Lane
Edgewater, Florida 32132



Tidbits & Reminders...

Support Our Assistant Chieftain and Society!

From Our Assistant Chieftain: As we attend highland games and Scottish festivals around the country I would encourage all of our State Deputy Chieftains, and indeed all of our members, to do three things to support our Chief and our societies: 1) increase our efforts to seek out our many kinsmen, 2) willingly share with them our fascinating heritage, and 3) warmly encourage them to join us and our Society.

"LOST in Scotland?"

Then you are about 40 miles west of Aberdeen Scotland. That is where the little village of Lost can be found. Please do not take the "Lost" road signs. They are having a terrible problem with tourist taking them home as a souvenir.



"Death Notices"

It is vitally important that the Society be informed of the deaths of members. Our historian places and maintains these and other significant life events of members in our records. I encourage our SDC's to periodically remind our ACGS members in their states of this need and to remind them that deceased members will be remembered at our memorial service during the next Gathering.

Thank you!



Ardchoille

Newsletter of the
American Clan Gregor Society



Volume XII, Issue 3

December 2006

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Across The Pond...a word from our Chief; Sir Malcolm MacGregor

This article comes with best wishes for Christmas and New Year 2007 to all members of the American Clan Gregor Society and their families from Fiona and I. Also in our thoughts are those who cannot be with their families for whatever reason particularly those who are serving in the military on overseas assignments in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

The Tartan bill is currently on its way through the Scottish Parliament. The proposal is to have an official Keeper of Tartan based in Edinburgh who will 'keep' an official register of all tartans that are produced. Presently all tartans whether clan, corporate or club are held on an 'ad hoc' basis by the Scottish Tartans Authority and other private collectors or registers. The idea is to formalise these arrangements so that tartan cannot be misappropriated or used illegally. The four MacGregor tartans; red and green, red and black, Cardney and Glengyle/Deeside, have been registered with the keeper's office on our behalf by the Scottish Tartans Authority. The Clan Gregor Society in Scotland have registered their support and therefore mine for this bill. The bill has been proposed and directed by Mr. Jamie McGrigor MSP (Member Scottish Parliament) whose ancestor was Sir James McGrigor, founder of the Royal Army Medical Corps of the British Army.

He was Chief Medical Officer in the Peninsular War of 1808 – 1812 under the Duke of Wellington. When Sir James requisitioned some supply wagons to evacuate casualties from the front line at Talavera, he was summoned by the great duke to his field headquarters, where he was heard to say: 'Dammit MacGregor, who commands this army – you or I?' which must go down as one of the all time great Macgregor quotes. He was one of the few people to stand up to the Duke of Wellington and persuaded him of the need for a proper recognised medical branch to deal with battlefield casualties which became the Royal Army Medical Corps. Another MacGregor first.

I was fortunate enough to stalk red deer stags this October in Glenstrae, one of the three glens held by the MacGregors in the 16th century. Glenstrae is a

remarkable glen, like a U shaped valley it stretches all the way from Rannoch Moor to Loch Awe, flanked to the north by the high tops of Black Mount and to the south by Glenorchy another Macgregor stronghold. Stalking is not like hunting deer in the States. We know roughly where the deer are, having 'spied' them through telescopes on the high ground where they live. The stalker has to move across open country using the folds of the ground and whatever sparse cover there may be to get to within

100 yards of a stag in order to shoot it. All this can take up to six hours and demands a good standard of physical fitness and ability to endure the cold and wet; as often one crawls through peat hags and bogs in order to get to a good firing position. But at the end of the day there is always a large glass of whisky to nullify the effects of the cold.

During a break in the stalk it was worth pondering on all the hills that surround the glen which would have been ascended by many highlanders not just Macgregors as they made their way north or south

as part of a raiding party or cattle droving. Ben Mhic Mhonaigh, hill of the son of the moor, Meall Copagach, hill of the plants, Ben Lurachan, the pretty hill, Ben Eunaich, fowling mountain, to name but a few. Where these names came from are lost in the mists of time and matters not, but knowing them gives a romantic sense of place whether one is in the hills for stalking or hill walking. Also from these hills one can see the dark remains of Kilchurn on Loch Awe with just a glimpse of Dalmally churchyard where the ancient chiefs of Clan Gregor are buried. To the north was Cruachan, stacky mountain, the highest mountain in Argyll; war cry and gathering ground of the Campbells and a reminder that the glens and hills of Scotland have had a place in the hearts and minds of all highlanders over the centuries wherever they came from and wherever they are now.



Sir Malcolm & Lady Fiona

Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor



Keeping In Touch.....



California (Submitted by Carolyne J. McGregor Long, Deputy Chieftain) One trusts that everyone is doing well and enjoying the change of seasons. As for myself, the past three years have been most difficult ones. As most of you are aware, my beloved mother passed away in August 2003, and in the years following our wee family has experienced numerous health issues. My son, Michael Shawn McGregor Jordan (who is handicapped), came close to death in 2005 from a massive seizure.

He is now doing very well, for which we are extremely thankful. My brother, Bob D. McGregor, who participated in the MacGregor DNA Project for our family, passed away in August of this year from a long bout with lung cancer. He was hospitalized at the Livermore, CA VA Hospital. This was a terribly difficult time to go through, and I miss him still. However, the good news is that God is good, and even though one may travel through sad times, the world continues to turn. At this particular time, I feel stronger than ever about my heritage and Clan Gregor. Also, I plan to retire from my hectic job with County of Tulare and the Probation Department in 2007. Thereafter, if all goes well, I hope to devote more time to my passions, one of which (an important one) is my duties here in California for the ACGS. So, please, you members in California do not hesitate to call, write or email me regarding your thoughts and hopes for we Gregors here. Your communiqué will be most welcome and I will respond to you as soon as possible.

Some time back, CGS Member, Dr. Gregor Hutchinson, Scotland, provided his comments to assist Dr. Newton in his outstanding work/book, "Bho Chluaidh gu Calasraid from the Clyde to Callander".

Recently Dr. Newton contacted me and advised that he has now authored another fine work, "Calum and Catriona's Welcome to the Highlands". He wishes to share with all Clan Gregor this new children's book. He indicates this is the first activity book about Scottish heritage for children. Please check out his website: <http://www.calumandcatriona.com/>

From my hearth/home/family to yours - May you each experience a most blessed Christmas and Happy New Year. Importantly, remember to help carry the Clan Gregor "torch" into the New Year!!!

Carolyne J. McGregor Long, Deputy Chieftain, *Descendant of MacGregor of Ossian's Glen, Scotland*

Colorado (Submitted by Ron McGregor, Outgoing State Deputy Chieftain) By the time you receive this issue of the Ard Choille, I will no longer be the SDC for Colorado. For the past couple of years it was on my mind that I should step aside and allow someone else take over with new and fresh ideas. Since moving to the position of Ranking Deputy Chieftain, I realize now is the time to make the move. So after sixteen years Colorado will have a new SDC in the person of Scott Sanders McGregor. Our new Chieftain made the appointment last month. I can whole-heartily endorse Scott for the position since he has been my good right hand working

at the ACGS tent and representing Clan Gregor at the major Colorado celtic events for those same sixteen years, as well as attending several of our Gatherings and twice to Scotland. He and his wife Heather are valued assets to our Clan activities and I am proud to call them son and daughter-in-law.

September - The 30th Longs Peak Scottish Festival was held September 8 - 10th in Estes Park, Colorado. One consistent note of Clan Gregor's participation in these games is that each year we try to do better than the year before. Prior to the start of the parade, a representative of another clan approached me. She had talked to the judges and asked what changes their clan needed to incorporate to have a chance at winning the parade someday. She was told to observe Clan Gregor to find out. The rep said that since her clan always march well ahead of us (alphabetical), she had never seen us march. So I showed her our formation and she watched as we practiced our 'salute'. Her reply was a simple "thank you" and "very impressing". This year we had **thirty-eight** tartaned clansmen and ladies marched in the Saturday morning carrying our Clan Crest banner, our large Clan Gregor banner, and **eighteen** individuals carrying flags representing our various tartans. Again this year we had **four** wee MacGregor lads, all less than two years old, wearing their tartans and being pushed in their strollers. Our numbers were down from the forty-five we had marching with us last year, which I contribute to the heavy rainstorm that passed through the area the evening before. But the weather was perfect for the parade with an estimated 40,000 spectators lining the street. I was completely surprised by my being introduced as we passed each of the four reviewing stands along the way. That had never happened in the past and I only learned later that I was listed as one of the nine "Visiting Dignitaries". It was both exciting and embarrassing at the same time. Oh by the way, we won **"Best Clan in the Parade"** again.

Our 10 x 20-foot Clan Gregor tent drew a lot of visitors. Well over **seventy** MacGregors visited our clan tent over the weekend. One of the notables that visited our tent was **Loretta Thompson**, entertainer extraordinary. We are particularly indebted to the efforts and support of the following individuals:

Jake MacGregor, son of our ACGS Treasurer Howard Grossnickle, for transporting and erecting Howard's deluxe, commercial free-standing tent and helping to man the tent on Saturday and Sunday.

ACGS applicant James Petrie IV, was of great help on Sunday working at the tent

ACGS applicant Thomas Peter not only assisted in manning our Clan Gregor tent all day Saturday and Sunday; helped with the disassembling of the tent after the close of the games.

Clansman Jim Best and his daughter also were big help manning the tent.

Finally, I would be totally remiss if I did not recognize Scott Sanders McGregor that worked very hard all three days to make our appearance a success. Year after year he has been the principal supporter of the Clan Gregor at every one of the highland games we attended the Denver area, Estes Park and Grand Junction. He does the major effort of setting up and disassembling our tent, hauling and once delivered back to my home helps put everything away.

(Continued on page 4)

From The New Assistant Chieftain

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)

2007 Gathering Location- The site of next year's Gathering will be in Valley Forge, PA. The dates will be October 4th – 6th. So put it on your calendar.

“Why Stay At The Gathering Host Hotel “ - Having worked very closely with organizing this year's Gathering in *Virginia Beach, Virginia* it's come to my attention that a few brief word should be mentioned about why one should book their stay at the Gathering host hotel under the block of rooms reserved.

A strong reason for staying at the host hotel is to assist the society in acquiring the best available price for the meeting and banquet rooms. The more guest rooms occupied by society members over the *Gathering weekend means the more leverage we have for obtaining favorable rates. Keeping the costs for these rooms down lowers the overall event costs passed on to our members.*

When booking your hotel guest room under the society's block of rooms the hotel will attempt to keep all guest within a group together in the hotel. When you register individually outside of the society block, should the hotel become overbooked they first will move individuals to another hotel rather than those registered under the society block of rooms. Several of our members encountered this occurrence while attending the Virginia Beach Gathering. While this can be nerve racking on our members, remember the hotel staff are doing their best to accommodate everyone and make your stay an enjoyable one.

The greatest reason for staying at the host hotel is all the *opportunities available to meet and socialize with our many wonderful members. Boy did we have a lot of breakfast parties at the Gathering in Virginia Beach. You're not being hurried to get from one place to another at specific times. By staying in the hotel you're able to relax and enjoy the weekend and all it's events. Who knows, maybe one of those young lads or lassies found around the halls or manning the hotel elevators will in future years actually be the bus captains on our Friday tours.*

Like everyone else, I'm a frugal Scot who always likes to save a penny or two. But at the same time I really enjoy meeting and greeting all my friends in the society and it's worth those extra pennies to conveniently do so. I encourage everyone to stay with us in the host hotel. *See you at the Gathering in Valley Forge, PA in October 2007.*

Society Membership Directory - The time has come again for us to produce a new society membership directory. We've identified that we are in need of some important contact information for many of our members. The additional contact information that we are requesting is member's phone numbers and e-mail addresses. And, if willing, we'd also appreciate knowing your birth date to for event planning purposes. *The requested information should be provided to Scott MacGregor at e-mail: mcgregor@verizon.net or phone: 757-587-7877 EST (evenings) or USPS mail: 440 Willoughby Bay, Norfolk, Virginia 23503-1243.* **Lost Souls** – If you know the whereabouts of the ACGS members listed below please notify me.

Mr. Geoffrey M. Lewie
5208 Englenook Court
Plano, LA 75023-5237

Ms. Lessie A. House
216 Southern Star
Slidell, LA 70458-9045

Mr. Frederick A. Grier IV
6597 Insignia Ct
Centreville, VA 20121-2319





Keeping In Touch.....continued



He, along with his lovely wife **Heather**, can be depended upon to make sure our hospitality table is always set up with refreshments, our tent attractively displayed, and they even stand in the long food lines so old codgers such as myself can remain at our tent tending clan business.

From all of your fellow clansmen and ladies of Colorado, we wish you a very *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year* and may God bless you and your loved ones.

Delaware (Editor) The new State Deputy Chieftain for Delaware is: Peter Gregg, 15 Coverly Court, Dover, DE 19904. Phone: 302-735-8904. Email: ARDCHOILLE1@aol.com.

Illinois (Submitted by Donald A. Gregg, ACGS # 2580) I recently picked up a book that treats both the life of King David I and the early history of Scotland that I should like to recommend to anyone who has an interest in the times and events that occurred about 1100-1150. David was the youngest son of King Mael Coluim III (Malcolm) and St Margaret and never expected to succeed to the throne. The author, Richard Oram, writes that he should be considered one of the greatest of Scotland's medieval kings; I would leave that judgment to reader and their feelings about his bringing the Bruces, Comyns and Stewarts into his kingdom as colonists.

At the time David's older brother, Alexander, died, he was Earl of Huntingdon and had carved out a career for himself as an Anglo-Norman nobleman at the court of his bother-in-law, Henry I of England. With Henry's backing and the support of his elder sister, Queen Matilda, David secured a good marriage and a rich inheritance, with estates spread from Normandy to northern Scotland, as well as a principality of his own in southern Scotland. David succeeded to the Scottish throne in 1124 and faced a long and bitter struggle against rivals for his crown, but ruthlessly imposed his authority on the kingdom and won the respect of his Gaelic lords. Neither David nor his mother before him, for example, destroyed either Gaelic culture or the native church in Scotland, or delivered an independent Christian tradition in their kingdom into the clutches of Rome.

In this book, David I, the King who made Scotland, he began the modernization of his kingdom along European lines. He also founded the monastic communities of Dunfermline, Kelso, Melrose and Holyrood. Reform at home was coupled with aggressive expansion abroad, with David extending his power across the whole of mainland Scotland, into the Western Isles, and finally into northern England. Skillfully playing off Stephen and Matilda, the two rivals for the English throne after 1135, David secured control of Northumberland, Cumbria and even large parts of Yorkshire and Lancaster, tipping the balance of power in Britain firmly in favor of the Scots. It was a rich legacy to pass on to his heirs, but stripped of David's leadership, Scotland's dominant position swiftly crumbled away. This book was first published in 2004 by Tempus Publishing Limited, Gloucestershire, England and is part of their revealing history series.

Mississippi (Submitted by Dan Megehee, State Deputy Chieftain) The Gulfport, MS, Highland Games and Celtic Music Festival resumed on November 11th and 12th. Although there were still obvious signs of the damage suffered from Hurricane Katrina, there was no lack of enthusiasm among the many visitors, and a good time was had for all.

New Jersey (Editor) The new State Deputy Chieftain for New Jersey is: Jerry B. Magruder Jr, 63 Conestoga Trail, Sparta, NJ 07871. Phone: 973-729-7417. Email:

Virginia (Submitted by Scott MacGregor, State Deputy Chieftain) Season's Greeting to all my fellow society members and clans folk. I hope everyone's enjoyed another good year and that the year to come provides many more fond memories.

It was wonderful having everyone join us in Virginia Beach, Virginia for this year's Gathering. It was all of you that made the weekend's events so memorable. I hope you're already planning to make next year's Gathering in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania over the first weekend in October as exciting by attending and sharing in the festivities.



Heritage Festival Tent
Jim MacGregor & Andy Greig

Sliante! Scott MacGregor

The Society in the area of the District of Columbia participated in the Potomac Celtic Heritage Festival in Leesburg and the Alexandria Scottish Heritage Festival. The Deputy Chieftain for the District of Columbia, Jim MacGregor, ACGS Councilman John Ballassai, and member Andy Greig, led our contingent at the Potomac Celtic Heritage Festival.



Peterson & Greig



ACGS Pipe Band
Serenade

This is the second year that the ACGS participated in the Alexandria Scottish Heritage Fair which started in late 1988. Jim MacGregor and Andy Greig represented the Society with help from the ACGS Pipe Band which performed a concert that attracted many visitors to the tent. "Friends of the ACGS", a mailing list of nonmembers and members who live in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area csamr by to visit. Carl Peterson, Scottish Folksinger and native of Greenock, Scotland, a longstanding supporter of the Society visited the tent where he attracted additional visitors. The Society in the DC area, joined mostly by members from Virginia, participated in the annual Alexandria Christmas Walk in December.



2006 Gathering Highlights!

(Submitted by Ron McGregor, Editor)

The 2006 Gathering held in Virginia Beach, Virginia is now history but will remain in the memories of those that attended as another very successful Clan Gregor event. It was a time to say good-bye at the memorial service to those members (read "friends") that passed away since the last Gathering, to once again enjoy the company of those that still "take the high road", meeting new friends, and take care of our Society business.



Several new officers were installed. Here is a list the officers of our Society along with their snail mail and email addresses, and phone numbers. Please remember that their personal information is restricted for use among ACGS members.

Chieftain: (New) Thaddeus G. Osborne, 1330 McCarty Road, Knoxville, TN 37914. Phone: 865-933-1330. Email: tgo1330@comcast.net.

Assistant Chieftain: (New) Scott F. MacGregor, 440 Willoughby Bay, Norfolk, VA 23503. Phone: 757-587-7877. Email: mcgregr@verizon.net.

Ranking Deputy Chieftain: (New) Ronald A. McGregor, 14505 E. Pacific Place, Aurora, CO, 80014. Phone: 303-752-4333. Email: ronmcgregor@earthlink.net.

Scribe: (New) Donald A. Gregg, 2403 S. Riverview Drive, Holiday Hills, IL 60051-9257. Cell phone: 815-341-4307. Email: GREDONA@AOL.COM.

Registrar: (New) Lois Ann Garlitz, 238 West 1220 North, American Fork, UT 84003. Phone: 801-763-0663. Email: loisann@burgoyne.com.

Historian: (New) Lillian Magruder, 704 Versailles Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157. Phone: 601-605-6561. Email: gannimac@bellsouth.net.

Treasurer: Howard R. Grossnickle, 245 Alpine Meadow Cir. Oregon, WI. 53575. Phone: 303-478-8654. Email: hgrossnickle@charter.net.

Chaplain: (New) Donald W. Gregg, 656 Channing Drive NW, Atlanta, GA 30318. Phone: 770-352-8455. Email: dongregg@usa.net.

Surgeon: Dr. Thomas M. McNish, 3103 Elm Gate, San Antonio, TX 78230. Phone: 210-493-4644. Email:

Chancellor: Diana Browne, 203 E. 72nd Street #9A, New York, NY 10021. Phone: 212-912-7456. Email: dbrowne@tpw.com.

Librarian: (New) Stephen C. Grier, 155 Forrest Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348. Phone: 610-444-0315. Email: SCG40@aol.com.

Yearbook Editor: (New) Lori Connery, 4610 Russell Avenue N., Minneapolis, MN 55412. Phone: 612-588-3397. Email: clan-Gregor-mn@comcast.net

Non-Officer Position:

Newsletter Editor: (New) Randal Zimmerman, 2169 Spanish Oak Drive, Lillian, AL 36549. Phone: 251-962-2449. Email: islandparty@earthlink.net





From The New Registrar

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)



Our lineage-based Scottish clan society has a long history of carefully documented membership applications detailing the pedigrees which demonstrate our eligibility to join this and not some other cultural group. We are about to embark on a major digitizing project to preserve those 97 years worth of paper documents, and then make those images and information available to members and others to use for genealogical research. Indexing of all those names will be a side-by-side project to assist in this process. More details of how all that will happen is under discussion and will be forthcoming at a later date.

In the meantime, if you or someone in your branch of MacGregors and/or other sept name families has been keeping track of all those folks in your line in genealogical software, I would love it if you would send

me a GEDCOM file version of your group. Do not send me a back-up file of whatever software application you are using; instead export your MacGregors into a GEDCOM file (the universal language of family history software programs), save it to a disk, and mail it to me – Lois Ann Garlitz, 238 West 1220 North, American Fork, UT 84003. Or you can email it to me at gregor@webcom.com. Tentative deadline is 1 March 2007. Why wait? You may add other detail later, as family events occur or further research extends your information.

I will make every effort to block information about living persons, as the multitude of names goes to a public arena. However, please include living persons in the file you send to me, to benefit those of your family who may wish to join under your name and/or sponsorship. Sources and

documentation are always welcome (and preferred), as well as adding a county designation for each city of each event you list.

Suggestions, concerns, and assistance are most welcome.



From The Treasurer & Historian

(Submitted by Howard Grossnickle)

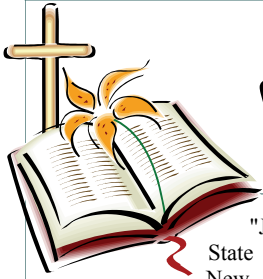


As treasurer, I would like to appeal those of you that have made pledges to the Antiquities projects, and The Stones at the Dalmally Kirk in particular. Many of you may have completed your pledges, or are about to, as we come into the final period of the original 5 year pledge effort. The project is nearly ready for the construction to begin, but we need to raise £15,000 in-order-to participate in a fund effort that would net £150,000 to complete the main construction. I now ask you to think once again of how much it would mean to all MacGregors to see this project finished, and to continue, renew, or start a pledge to see this project through to completion.

If you have interests that differ from our antiquities project, but have not decided just what direction that you want your charitable donations to go, I would like to suggest that you might consider directing a contribution toward our Scholarship efforts. As you know, the cost of a collage education is escalating, and I would like to see our scholarship award better represent the value

that MacGregors have long held in education. I ask that you consider making a contribution to our scholarship program through a tax deductible contribution to our Charity & Education fund, and help out some young MacGregors to head off to collage with fewer worries.

From The New Historian - Please send information of births, deaths and marriages to the new Historian as soon as they occur in order to be sure that they can be reported at the next Annual Gathering and be included in the next yearbook. The new Historian is Lillian Magruder, 704 Versailles Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157; telephone 601-605-6561; FAX 601-605-6562; e-mail gannimac@bellsouth.net.



"Crossing Over"

"James A. Allensworth, State Deputy Chieftain for New Mexico, ACGS # 1717LM. Jim was born April 19, 1923 and died Wednesday, October 11, 2006. Jim was born in Junction City, KS and served in the Army Air Force during W.W.II. After the war he graduated from K State and attended UNM. He worked as an Engineer and System Analyst, retiring from Sandia National Laboratories after 35 years of service. Jim spent his retirement years carrying on a vigorous study researching his Potawatomi (native American) and Clan Gregor ancestry. Memorial contributions may be made to Banderier National Monument, HCR 1, Box 1, Suite 15, Los Alamos, NM 87544 French Mortuary, Inc. 7121 Wyoming Blvd. NE (505) 823-9400

Jim and I exchanged phone calls several times over the years in what I sincerely came to appreciate as 'quality time' between friends. During one phone conversation back in 2003 Jim shared one of his treasured memories. In 1953, he returned to boyhood home in Junction City, Kansas on vacation. While walking down a gravel road around 7 p.m. a limo stopped next to him. The window rolled down and someone inside said "Hello Jimmy." It was General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Jim got into the limo and Ike took him home while they talked fondly of their younger days.

As a young man he was trying to be "white" – something he felt he was not. Around 1988, after his children were grown, Jim returned to

being a Native American. Jim was extremely proud of his Native American heritage and would talk at great lengths about certain common traits in the values of the Scottish highlanders and the Native Americans. He was accepted into the "Gourd Clan" as a warrior. Of particular pride he was honored to become a "Gourd Dancer". The Gourd Dancers are honored members that are authorized to offer up prayers. He would share his interest and knowledge of the Native Americans with anyone seriously interested. He objected to "white's" making derogatory remarks about "Indians being lazy and did not want to work." He would quickly and clearly point out that "they did not have to 'work' in the manner of the whites because they lived in harmony with nature."

One piece of information that Jim shared with only a few close friends was that in June of 2002 he was rushed to the Emergency Room of the hospital and for twenty-three minutes he was dead due to congestive heart failure. He suggested that a strong "power" brought him back.

On Sunday evening, October 15th, Jim's son Andrew phoned me to let me know that his father had passed away at 6:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 11th, 2006. Respectfully submitted, Ron McGregor

David Gregory Gatewood, Pass State Deputy Chieftain for Minnesota, ACGS # 2337. David died October 10 from complications of surgery for cardiac disease. Born 1939 in

Stewartville, MN to Mary Elizabeth Gregory & Ruel Gatewood. David was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Donna, and his children, Todd and Jenna. He is survived by his brother Ruel and sister-in-law Doris Gatewood of Appleton, WI; A and MED degrees in Education, Dave was an elementary school teacher for 32 years in south Minneapolis and proprietor of Station 17 Book Store. To help support his family, he had also been an Army Sergeant at Fort Carson CO, a Fuller Brush salesman in southeast Minneapolis, and a Minneapolis Park Board policeman at Lake Nokomis. Before and during retirement, he doted on his granddaughter, read voraciously, collected Native American art, and enjoyed boating with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, traveling through the US, especially to the Black Hills, target shooting with buddies at his southeastern rural cabin, and pursuing his Scottish heritage with a trip to Scotland and participation in Scottish fairs with Clan Gregor. A military ceremony of commitment with bagpipe and drum was held on Thursday, October 26 at 10 AM at Fort Snelling, followed by a memorial service at Epiphany Lutheran Church. An informal lunch with time for celebration and socialization followed the service. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials to his the David G. Gatewood Media Room, Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, 821 E. 35th St, Minneapolis 55407. (Submitted by Lori



ACGS Name Badge

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz, Registrar)

For those that would like to order a lovely ACGS name badge here are the procedure and sample form you can use. How to order an ACGS name badge. This is not included in the membership packet – sample:



PRINT your name EXACTLY as you want it to appear on your badge. Unless your name is short, you will probably need 2 lines, as in the sample shows. Send \$5 check made out to ACGS to Joe Tichy, 22 Martin Drive, Whispering Pines, NC 28327

My name as I want it to appear on badge:

My address:

Thanks for your support!

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTED

"ARDCHOILLE"
THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY
NEWSETER OF
440 Willoughby Bay
Norfolk, VA 23503-1243



Scottish Humor! Happy Holiday's!

A Scottish Santa, on duty at the local department store, was dressed in the kilt. He was, of course dressed in 'Regimental Fashion' (nothing under it).

A young boy, on approaching the venerable old gent, noticed this and, when asked what he wanted for Christmas, was hesitant to say.

His mother prompted him not to be shy. "Tell Santa what you want for Christmas dear."

The lad squirmed and finally blurted out "Well, Santa, if you can grant my wish I'd be so happy."

"What is it you'd like?" asked Santa.

"I'd like a wee set of bagpipes just like the one I saw under your kilt!"





Ardchoille

Newsletter of the
American Clan Gregor Society

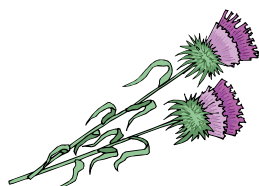


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April 2007

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New State Deputy's



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The views and opinions expressed in any of the articles within this publication are not necessarily the views or opinions of the ACGS.

Across The Pond...a word from our Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor

Whilst in the Middle East earlier this year I received an email from the Ranking Deputy Chieftain Ron McGregor which he had sent to all council members of ACGS reminding us of the anniversary of the Battle of Glenfruin (7th February), a defining moment for our clan and something of pyrrhic victory. It was a poignant reminder of how in a course of a few hours history was to be shaped for our ancestors. Furthermore considering the wrongs done to Clan Gregor by James VI of Scotland it has always intrigued me that Clan Gregor supported his grandson Charles II in his successful bid to regain the throne of England and Scotland for the



Glen Fruin Memorial
Glen Fruin

Stuarts. Perhaps our ancestors were able to put bitterness and ill feeling to one side for the greater good of the Stuart cause. Perhaps there is a lesson here of some sort.

Whilst in Oman I met with a member of the ruling family of that wonderful country who was intrigued by my name and some of the similarities of Scottish and Omani history particularly to do with his tribe or family which is al-Said. In fact he kept referring to his tribe and family as the al-Said clan, and was somewhat surprised to be told of the origins of the word clan, meaning children in Gaelic, and that MacGregors for example are referred to as Clan Gregor. It makes me chuckle to think that there is a sort of clan system in other parts of the world but

nothing that quite compares with the way things worked in the Highlands nor indeed today. 'Clanship' is very definitely Scottish and as a family or tribal system is unique to the Clans of Scotland and I

find it interesting that people such as my Omani friend use Gaelic words to define themselves.

When in South Africa staying at Rorke's Drift, the Zulus were compared to a Highland Clan and there are some similarities. Whilst Kwa Zulu means 'children of heaven' and that is similar to the idea of the word 'clan', the Zulus were a massive tribal

organisation and war machine, being able to move 50,000 warriors on foot at a jogtrot for over a hundred miles. It is worth comparing social structures but one should probably be careful of getting carried away with similarities. Around the world many nations have indigenous tribes with great traditions and stories of bravery, survival and endurance and their own Glenfruits. I have always felt that the MacGregors are well up there with the best of them in spite of what happened all those years ago in an extraordinary valley in Dumbartonshire called Glenfruin.



From The New Chieftain

(Submitted by Thad Osborne)



Dear members,

Three months after our Gathering in Virginia Beach, there is much to be excited about in the American Clan Gregor Society. As you know, there were a greater number of changes in our officer corps than has been typical for several years. To those who have "retired," we thank you for your dedicated service. To those of you who have risen to the occasion and taken on these various responsibilities, we thank you as well. At the risk of omitting someone, I especially mention our historian, librarian, registrar, assistant chieftain, newsletter editor, scholarship committee, and new state deputies.

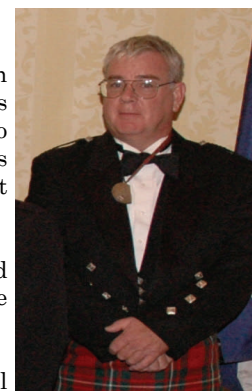
Already the new incumbents are hard at work. Our registrar has approved several new junior and lineal members. Our newsletter and yearbook are in capable hands. Our library will soon be the accessible repository it should be, rather than a well-kept secret.

With the exception of Florida, where it has already begun, this year's season of games and festivals will begin in earnest this Spring. Please keep up the good momentum which has begun by visiting games or festivals where your Society is represented, or better yet, volunteer to host a tent.

Apart from our existing families, this is our best recruiting opportunity.

Please stay tuned to our newsletter, Ardchoille, and our website, for details about our 2007 gathering, and share the pleasure of being Scottish with your fellow members, friends, and neighbors.

Despite them,
Thad Osborne



Thad Osborne



A Note From The Editor

(Submitted by Randy Zimmerman)



First, our clan must acknowledge the very fine contributions Ron McGregor has made as our newsletter editor. For twelve years, Ron has supplied our organization with an interesting and meaningful document three times a year. We applaud Ron for his hard work, dedication, and support of the clan.

As your new newsletter editor, I will make an effort to see that our newsletter continues to be interesting, informative, and amusing. I must say, however, that this cannot be accomplished without your input. Our membership is the source of our knowledge, our history, our vitality, and our future. Thus, it is the membership, you, that will make our newsletter a valuable instrument.

Each of us has a story to tell, an anecdote, a Scottish joke, a poem, or a bit of something to offer your fellow clansmen. I want these stories and ideas. I want to hear about your experiences at highland games, at St Andrews Society events, at Rabbie Burns' Dinners. I want your impressions of your travels to Scotland, to New Zealand, to Nova Scotia, to Caledonia County, Vermont.

Remember, this newsletter is not mine, it is ours. Together, we can make it an envy of the highlands.

Up and Coming...

A number of suggestions regarding the newsletter were offered to me at Virginia Beach. One was a children's corner, something to interest our younger people. This would, I think, require a newsletter with a screen, surround sound, and a whole lot of electronics. Do you have any ideas?

Another suggestion was a recipe corner. So, for our "Crofter's Kitchen" we're asking you to share your latest and greatest Scottish recipes, either new dishes or old ones with a new twist. Personally, I'm hoping someone will provide a recipe for Haggis that tastes like coconut cream pie.

Your suggestions and ideas are surely welcomed!!

Notes From The New Assistant Chieftain

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



98th Annual Gathering in 2007



The Gathering Committee is hard at work on this year's big event, which is to be held on the weekend of October 4-6 in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The area is, of course, famous for hosting General Washington's troops during the winter encampment in 1777.

Nearby, down the scenic Schuylkill River, is Philadelphia, the "City of Brotherly Love". And north of the gathering area the landscape opens up to gently rolling hills and a countryside that will be filled with the vibrant colors of fall.

Planning also continues for the tour venues, scheduled for Friday the 5th. We hope to see all our members enjoying the countryside and experiencing a bit of early American history.

Details regarding the Gathering's host hotel and reservation information will be mailed to our members, arriving in mailboxes at the end of April.

Mark your calendars now to reserve the Gathering weekend. The Gathering is, after all, the highlight of the year and a wonderful opportunity to visit with family and friends.



ACGS 100th Anniversary Gathering



With the Society's one hundredth anniversary rapidly approaching in 2009, it is important that we begin organizing committees to plan and orchestrate this momentous event. Some persons and committees will need to be in close proximity to the Gathering location (as yet undetermined, although Washington D.C and Charlottesville, Virginia are the top candidates). Other assignments and contributions may be accomplished remotely from the comfort of home. In any case, volunteers are needed and encouraged to step forward.

The following are some issues and needs that require attention: the design and creation of centerpieces, decorations, invitations, etc. need the artistically inclined. As you know, this is a once-in-a-lifetime event. We all want to insure that our gathering is extra special and participants have memorable souvenirs to take home with them. Individual members will be needed to contact and invite guest dignitaries that have a McGregor or Scottish connection. If, for example, we gather in Washington, guests might include Senator John Warner (Scottish connection), Senator James Webb (McGregor connection) or former Governor Charles Robb (McGregor connection); Volunteers will be asked to identify memorable and or appropriate sites to hold various events. If held in Washington, such sites might include the National Cathedral or the Arlington National Cemetery; if we meet in Charlottesville, what dignitaries may we identify, and what locations may we use that are memorable and relevant to our celebration? Lastly, do we wish to have any special presentations, meetings, salutes, toasts, or readings pertinent to our gathering?

Our new Librarian, Steven Grier, is already hard at work identifying papers and artifacts collected by the Society over the past one hundred years. Should you wish to share any items of an historical or McGregor interest, Steven would love to hear from you. He can be reached at SCG40@aol.com.

Discussions with Sir Malcolm to serve as our most honored guest are on-going.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the 2009 Gathering may contact Scott McGregor at mcmgregor@verizon.net or at 757-705-3289. We are eager to hear your ideas and suggestions that will contribute to making this Gathering a great success.





Lost Souls, Recognition & More!



Submitted by Scott McGregor

Lost Souls

In the last issue of the Ardchoille, we posted the names and addresses of three members with whom we had lost contact. Thanks to your assistance, we were able to locate all three. That's good news!

Following mailings we receive at least a half dozen returned due to incorrect addresses. Of these, there are two or three that are nearly impossible to find. Their names are listed in the newsletter in a last ditch effort to locate them. Prior to this issue, there were four returned mailings. Employing several ACGS members, we were able to locate all but one, Ms Virginia Weaver, 111 W. Monroe St. 16W, Chicago, IL 60603.

If you know where our lost member can be reached, please inform me by telephone at 757-705-3289 (cell), or by e-mail at mcgregor@verizon.net.

Many thanks to those who assisted in locating our lost members. Your efforts are much appreciated. With continued assistance, I'm sure we will continue this successful trend.

Recognition of Clan Members

Our Society has initiated a program to recognize members who have attained certain life milestones or who have remained loyal clan members for long periods of time. It is planned to award these selected individuals with a clan certificate and recognize them in the Yearbook and the Newsletter.

Looking for a few Good Men...and Women

We have long enjoyed the great talents of several of our members at the annual Gatherings. John McGregor and Bill Garrett addressing the Haggis and John Masterson leading us in rousing renditions of the "McGregor's Gathering" and "Auld Lang Syne" immediately come to mind. These folks have earned a well-deserved break. I'd like very much for the spotlight to be shared by many of our members.

Toward this end, I am working to establish a pool of names of talented McGregor's who wish to share their talents with fellow clansmen.

A couple of members have already volunteered to give the Address to the Haggis; however, I'd like to increase the pool by one or two others.



Kelsey Crane and
Lois Ann Garlitz

So, if you love to recite the works of Robbie Burns, I'd love to hear from you. If you are musically inclined or have any talents a Scotsman can appreciate, I'd appreciate hearing from you. Who knows, maybe we'll have to organize our own "McGregor Idol" contest!

Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz

News from Utah - Kelsey Crane's Award

A standing ovation greeted Kelsey Crane, champion Highland dancer with McGregor ancestors, as she received a Letter of Recognition from ACGS for her accomplishments as U.S. National Champion for the years 2004, 2005, and 2006. The award was presented in front of 350 participants at Burn's Dinner in Provo, Utah by Lois Ann Garlitz, ACGS State Deputy Chieftain for Utah.

Now age 15, Kelsey has been dancing since she was 6 years old. She practices constantly, according to her mother. Physical challenges with asthma and knee problems have not deterred her from the constant effort to excel. Her inner drive for perfection has been very rewarding to her – as she says, "I can get tired dancing, but I am never tired of it"

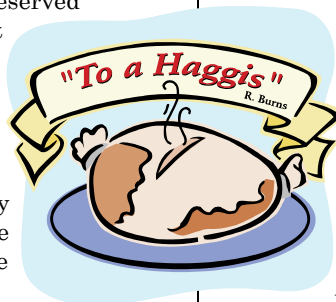
Some of you who attended the Gathering in Salt Lake City may remember her dancing for us during the Friday afternoon tour.

We have a new Associate Highland Teacher in Utah!

Kelsey Crane passed her Associate teachers test at the Ohio School of Scottish Arts with Honors and is assisting her teacher Heather Donehoo with classes twice a week. Kelsey was recently honored at our Burn's Supper.

Burn's Dinner 2007 held in Provo, Utah

Also at Burn's Dinner 2007 held in Provo, Utah, other McGregors were working behind the scenes, as Utah Scottish Association's president Dodd Greer was the Master of Ceremonies for the dinner, and Dean Wright, BYU's Director of Dining Services and his group prepared a wonderfully delicious Robert Burns Dinner, consisting of smoked salmon cullen skink, roasted lamb chops over bashed potatoes with spinach borse. A brand new ice cream, created by Dean, was introduced as the desert course "Oat Brittle Ice Cream" available at BYU's Creamery.





General Marshall Magruder Memorial Library

(Submitted by Steven Grier, Librarian)



The General Marshall Magruder Memorial Library is located in the Langsdale Library of the University of Baltimore. Specific information about the location of the Magruder Library and how to access its contents can be found in the ACGS website: <http://acgs.thecapitalscot.com/> If you are not familiar with the Magruder Library, you should know it not only contains very rare books on Scottish and Clan history but perhaps more importantly, ACGS archives and genealogical history.

Since taking office as Librarian, I've been working with the Mr. Thomas Hollowak, Head of Special Collections at the Lansdale Library, to make the impressive assets of the Magruder Library more accessible to ACGS members and the community at large. This has involved moving donated books to the library for cataloging and preparation of archival materials for storage.

While working at the Magruder Library, I'm excited to report I have uncovered some very interesting documents and photographs. Mr. Hollowak will be working with me to prepare some of these historic items for viewing at our 2007 Gathering in Valley Forge, PA.



Over the next few months you will see changes to Magruder Library section of the ACGS website. These changes will create more clarity about the extent of our collection and allow for easier access.

If you have pertinent books or archival material which you would like to donate to the Magruder Library, please feel free to contact me via email: SCG40@AOL.COM

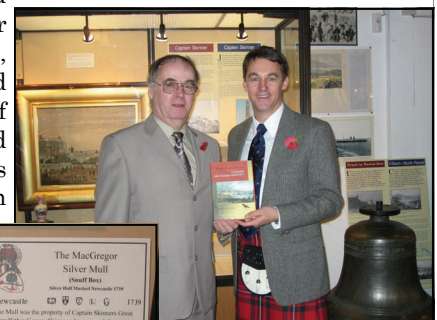


Book Review: (By Gavin McGregor-Skinner)



My wife, Liz, and I recently attended the launch of a book about my third Great Grandfather, John McGregor Skinner (1761-1832) at the Holyhead Maritime Museum in Wales. The book, entitled "The Ancestry, Life and Times of Commander John Skinner Macgregor", was written by Peter Scott Roberts and covers the life of the Commander from his early naval career in North America in the Revolutionary War to his tragic death in Holyhead in 1832. The book briefly examines the Commander's ancestry prior to being forced to leave Scotland following the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715. Also discussed is his influence in shaping the community in his new home in North America and his participation in the American Revolution. The Commander's father was Brigadier General Cortland Skinner (1727-1799), the last Attorney General under the Royal Government of New Jersey. He was commissioned a Brigadier general in 1776 and empowered to raise a brigade of six battalions, called the New Jersey Volunteers, or "Skinner's Greens". He used the Kruezer-Pelton House on Staten Island, New York, during the war, returning to England in 1782. His grandfather was the Reverend William Skinner (1687-1758). According to records, the Reverend's "real name of Macgregor was discovered by his family from his papers after his death" and "he had part of a blood stone ring which he had broken with the head of his clan, to show his identity". In 1723, he was appointed the Rector of St Peters Church in Perth Amboy in the province of New Jersey. He served his flock for over 35 years.

Commander Macgregor Skinner suffered several life threatening injuries during the Revolutionary War. At its conclusion, he journeyed to Wales where he became a captain for the postal service. He commanded a packet ship between Holyhead and Dublin for 33 years. He was a highly regarded mariner and community leader and his benevolence for the less fortunate was widely known. He graciously declined the offer of knighthood by George IV so as to not jeopardize his career on



Peter Scott Roberts (author)
and Dr Gavin Macgregor-Skinner



Part of the display at the Holyhead Maritime Museum: combined knife and fork designed by Commander John Macgregor Skinner

(Continued on page 7)



From The New Registrar

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)



New members since the last Gathering in Virginia Beach 2006

We welcome these new members who have joined us since that last Gathering in Virginia Beach. Rather than having to wait a whole year to see their names in print, the new Editor asked to list them here in the newsletter so you may acknowledge their new status, if they should happen to live close to you. Their more complete pedigrees will be listed in next year's yearbook.

Donna Jane Cox Montmeny, Salt Lake City, UT;
Barbara Walters Hodges, Maple Grove, MN;
Janet Orr Denette, Aurora, CO;
Arielle Eva Bosch, Napa, CA
Carol Richardson Condit, Bastrop, TX;
Scott Sanders McGregor, Firestone, CO (& a new SDC, succeeding his father,

Ron McGregor);
Joshua Rice, Kirkland, WA;
James MacGregor Meikle, Helotes, TX;
Janet Gregg DeBasio, St. Petersburg, FL;
Carol Jane Miller, Ankeney, IA;
Jacob R. MacGregor, Denver, CO;
Harold I. Donnelly III, Rapidan, VA
Bailey Magruder, Port St. Lucie, FL
Raymond Gregory Megehee, Bassfield, MS

While your Assistant Chieftain Scott F. MacGregor has been hunting for lost lineal members and gathering together correct email addresses and phone numbers to print in a new Members Directory, I have been hunting for "lost" junior members. I am sharing their names with you in hopes that someone out there will recognize them and let me know where they are now.

Jason R. Seidman, last known address was West Palm Beach, Florida.

Valerie Ann Payne, last known address was Miami, Florida. Mother is Mary Wren Payne.

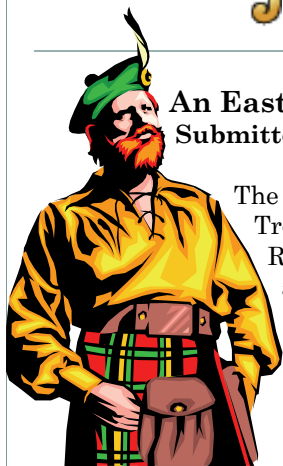
Niall W. MacGregor, last known address was Minneapolis, Minnesota.

By the way, the Junior application form has been updated to show not only the Junior and his address, but also that of the sponsor, so by the time they have moved around and now are age 18, we can find them and make the offer to join as a lineal member without having to pay the \$20 initiation fee. A similarly redesigned form for Associate members showing their sponsor is now available.



Trinkets & Tidbits...

(Submitted by Various Members)



An East Texas Celtic Weekend

Submitted by Muriel King, SDC for North Texas

The Celtic Heritage Society of East Texas has been invited to the Four Winds Faire to be held in Troup, Texas, near Tyler on the weekend of April 21-22, 2007. Although the Faire is a Renaissance-period venue, Scots are welcomed to the festivities as there will be highland games and other Celtic activities.

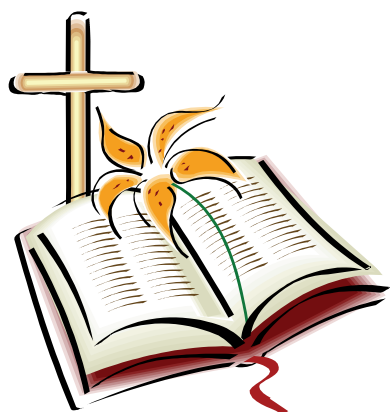
The Four Winds has a website which is www.fourwindsfaire.com. Joyce Strachan, of The Celtic Heritage Society of East Texas, can be reached at Easttexascelts@aol.com.

David Leon King Honored

Submitted by Muriel Gregory King, SDC for Northern Texas

Muriel Gregory King and her late husband, David Leon King, have served as patrons to the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games since 1983. Although David passed away in 2003, his service to the games has recently been recognized. David's name has been inscribed on a "Flowers of the Forest" bronze plaque on the newly erected Carn nan Cairdean, which stands in the garden area of the new GMHG office building in Linville, NC.





"Crossing Over"

Mr. John P. McAdams died on June 25, 2006 in Crofton, Maryland.

The Mother of the Clan's Historian, Lillian Magruder died on December 27, 2006

Mr. Robert K. Philips, Jr. of Denver, Colorado, passed away on August 16, 2006



Keeping Cool for a Good Cause

(Submitted by Claire Crain)

Joseph Hunter Crain, son of Joe and Claire Crain, participated in the fifteenth annual Special Olympics Virginia Polar Plunge in Virginia Beach on February 3, 2007. This was Hunter's third plunge. Some of Hunter's local Charlottesville police officers and the police chief joined Hunter for their first plunge. In spite of the cold temperatures and a brisk wind, over 3,450 people braved the Atlantic Ocean to get wet while raising money for individuals with limited abilities to participate in sports activities.



Hunter is the cold guy on the right in the blue Special Olympics shirt with the police officers in sissy bath robes.

Last year Hunter raised over \$500.00; this year he raised over \$10,600.00 with an additional \$5,500.00 from the local police! Over all, the plunge collected \$768,000.00 for the Special Olympics, a record amount.

Hunter hopes some of Clan McGregor's heartier folks will join him next year on the first Saturday in February for a brisk swim for a great cause. Donations can be made to: Special Olympics Virginia, c/o Hunter Crain, 9 Deerwood Lane, Palmyra, Virginia 22963.



Hunter after the Plunge in last year's Polar Plunge sweat shirt

Book Review Cont...

(Continued from page 5)

the steam packets. "Skinner's Monument" was built to remember his remarkable life. For over 160 years the tall obelisk has dominated the skyline at Holyhead.

To purchase the book, or inquire about cost and postage, contact Richard Burnell (DickBurnell@aol.com) or Gavin Macgregor-Skinner at gavinms@gmail.com



New State Deputy Chieftains

(Submitted By Randy Zimmerman)



Randolph W. Walker was recently appointed State Deputy Chieftain for the southern Texas region. "Randy" served twenty years in the U.S., Army and he has a B.S. in Social Psychology and an M.S. in Psychology. Randy and his wife, Teresa, have been members of our society since 1998. Randy Walker may be reached at:

11214 Whisper Willow Street
San Antonio, TX 78230
Phone: 210-408-6090
E-mail: randolph-walker@sbcglobal.net

West Virginia has a new SDC, Michael D. Greer, who has been a member of our Society for 28 years. Michael was a college professor and administrator, a state legislator, and businessman. He has visited numerous McGregor sites in Scotland associated with his ancestor, John McGregor from Craigie, Ayrshire, who landed in America in 1811. Michael Greer may be reached at:

39-A Clubview Drive
Bridgeport, WV 26330
Phone: 304-842-3177

WELCOME

**"ARDCHOILLE"
NEWSLETTER OF
THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY
440 Willoughby Bay
Norfolk, VA 23503-1243**



Answer in the next
issue!



Ardchoille

Newsletter of the
American Clan Gregor Society



Volume XIII, Issue 2

August 2007

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The views and opinions
expressed in any of the
articles within this
publication are not
necessarily the views or
opinions of the ACGS.

Across The Pond...a word from our Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor

In April this year on the anniversary of the Battle of Culloden I had the good fortune to be chairman of the first ever Piobaireachd or Cèol Mòr recital held at the Drumossie Hotel near the battlefield. The event was arranged in conjunction with the National Trust for Scotland and the Piping School in Glasgow. The Piobaireachd is the most sublime of all pipe tunes and the four competitors were supreme masters of their art. Each of their tunes lasted some 20 minutes and were related in some way to the 1745 Jacobite Uprising. It is worth noting that the tunes are over 250 years old. The players and their tunes were Angus Maccoll playing *Kinlochmoidart's Lament*, William Maccallum playing *the Prince's Salute*, Euan MacCrimmon playing *the Great Bridge* and Dr. Angus MacDonald playing *My King has landed in Moidart*. The winner was Angus Maccoll who runs a fish processing business in Oban, which involves gutting fish, luckily his fingers were intact for the recital. It was a tremendous event organised by Malcolm White of the Clan Gregor Society and my speech to the assembled c o m p a n y i s documented elsewhere in this newsletter. Pipe tunes normally cover the three 'Ls' love, loss and longing and can evoke the spirit of all three emotions for a Scotsman in ways that many instruments cannot. Loss and longing were well covered that evening as the sound of the Cèol Mòr resonated around the hotel at Drumossie Moor.



Sir Malcolm MacGregor, Malcolm White and Ian Dubh with pipers of the Army School of bag piping at Culloden Ceol Mor.

Recently I was notified by Billy MacGregor-Esposo of the Philippines of new book about the role of the Scots in the British Empire by Michael Fry and asked me what I thought. I have to admit that I used the Chinese cop out of 'It is too soon to tell', which was President of China Deng Xiao Ping's response

when asked if the French Revolution had been a success. The reason being that although Britain does not have an empire anymore the influence of Scots and Scottish culture around the world continues unabated. Here in Scotland we have been commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Falklands Campaign, those little known islands in the South Atlantic that became synonymous with the words liberation and freedom. The Task Force that was sent to recapture the islands consisted of many Scots. Three Battalions of Scots were sent; The Scots Guards, 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment (The airborne Scottish battalion), and 45 Commando, Royal Marines based in Arbroath. The main assault force commander was a Scot, Brigadier Julian Thompson, as was the commander Special Forces Colonel Michael Rose. The Colonel of 2 Para won a VC as did

Sergeant Ian Mackay. One of the most selfless actions was by Captain Gavin Hamilton (SAS) who fought alone to the end against an argentine force some 20 strong so that his own patrol could escape from an ambush. Not to mention the Scotland based submarine HMS Conqueror which sank the Belgrano and sailed up the Clyde on return

from the campaign flying the jolly roger like a man o' war of old. I am afraid against such people the Argentinians did not have much of a chance, the more so when one adds the Welsh, English and Gurkha troops, with their nepali pipers, that also deployed. American Secretary of State Haig (another Scot) warned the Argentinian dictator, General Galtieri, that Britain would send

(Continued on page 2)



Across The Pond...continued



(Continued from page 1)

their finest to recapture the islands. There were Falkland islanders who said that they knew liberation was assured when they heard the sound of the bagpipes. The pipe tune *The Craggs of Tumbledown* written by Pipe Major Jimmy Riddell of the Scots Guards evokes the loss of eight soldiers in combat on Mount Tumbledown on the night of 14th June 1982. Like the tunes of his Jacobite forebears, *The Craggs of Tumbledown* will last for the next 250 years in their memory.

The sound of the bagpipes is now resonating throughout the glens of the highlands as the annual round of highland games gets into full swing, and I will be attending the Games in Lochearnhead this year along with other MacGregors. I wish everyone a great summer with perhaps the sound of the bagpipes echoing in the distance; perhaps at a Highland Games or maybe just being played as a mark of our heritage by a lone enthusiast. Certainly it can be said that organisations like the American Clan Gregor Society keep our culture not just alive but thriving and I for one, thank all members of the society and their friends for ensuring that this is the case.



Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor at the Culloden Ceol Mor with Malcolm White, Seonaig Macpherson, Mrs. Lois Macdonnell of Glengarry, Major Gavin Stoddart and David Lumsden.

Notes From The Assistant Chieftain

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



Upcoming Gathering

We're rapidly approaching our annual Gathering to be held in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania at the Crowne Plaza Valley Forge hotel over the first weekend in October.

Our tour on Friday will take us back in time to the Revolutionary War period as we discover life during the winter encampment of George Washington's Continental Army. Our Memorial Service will be held in a wonderful local church. Friday's festivities will conclude with a fabulous all MacGregor Ceilidh, featuring Carl Peterson, along with the MacGregor Pipeband, and of course what would a Ceilidh be without you, our fellow MacGregors.

Come Saturday afternoon we'll enjoy another fantastic concert by our exceptional pipeband. An extraordinary banquet on Saturday evening with everyone in their finest Highland dress will conclude our time together in Valley Forge.

Should you happen to find yourself with a little spare time on hand or you want to extend your stay in the area. You can explore the East coast's largest shopping mall and all its wonderful shops and eateries. A short drive into Philadelphia you'll find the historic Independence National Historic Park, and several excellent museums. If you're inclined to a little slower pace, venturing West will bring you upon the Amish countryside.

By now you should have received the Spring Letter containing details about making reservations at the Gathering hotel. Reservations must be made prior to 03 September to receive the society group rate. The letter and reservation form are now available on the society's website events page for easy downloading and printing. Use the Group Booking Code "ACG" when making reservations through the hotel's website at <http://www.cpvalleyforge.com/reservations.asp>. Inclusion in the society's block of rooms cannot be guaranteed should you accept another discount offer. The Crowne Plaza is a smoke-free establishment. Feel free to share this information about the Gathering with your relatives and friends who would like to join us for an event filled, action packed weekend.

The Gathering committee continues to work hard at finalizing all aspects for this spectacular weekend among our extended family. Information will be forthcoming in the Gathering Letter that will be coming out in August and detailing the weekend's various events along with the cost per event. Once mailed, this information will also be posted on our website.

Address given by Sir Malcolm MacGregor at the **Culloden Cèol Mòr 14th April 2007**

Welcome to the inaugural Culloden Ceol Mor to be held annually henceforth, coinciding with the Battle date on Drumossie Moor. This is presented under the auspices of the National Trust for Scotland and the National Piping Centre Glasgow, from a concept by one of our MacGregors - Malcolm White of Lochearnhead who devised the tunes and pipers. He did this with assistance from Alexander Bennett, Project Director of the new Visitor Centre at Culloden, and Roddy MacLeod MBE, Director of the National Piping Centre.

As the Chief of Clan Gregor, I am delighted to be associated with this prestigious Piobaireachd event, as my Clan had their own Piping school at Drummcharrie, at the entrance to Glenlyon from the early 1400's until 1885. I know that there are plenty of families that are associated with piping such as the MacCrimmons of Skye, Mackays of Raasay, the MacDonalds and the MacArthurs but any clansman would take pride in pipers associated with this clan. Our record at the early Piping competitions at Falkirk and Edinburgh established John MacGregor of Fortingall and his family as leading pipers for 50 years. John MacGregor 1708-1789, was piper to Prince Charles Edward Stuart on the 16th April 1746 on this moor, having joined him at Glenfinnan.

If, as has been described, culture is a pyramid to which each of us brings a stone then the contribution of pipers and piping to Scottish Culture over the years has been immense – and not just in Scotland. Piping is a world renowned musical activity with its roots in a martial society. The pipe tunes to be played tonight are Pibrochs some 250 years old specifically from the Jacobite era and it is poignant that this event should take place here some 260 years after the battle and the last ill fated Jacobite Campaign in which my great great great great grandfather was ADC to the prince, and his elder brother commanded the MacGregor Regiment in the Highland Army being one of some 26 clans within that organisation.

The MacGregors were one of the few clans to return home intact, not being intimately involved in the battle, though they lost their lands as a result of Cumberland's rampage through the Highlands. The pyramid took a battering and the efforts of the Hannoverians to extinguish highland culture failed, evidenced by our presence here tonight. Indeed the very culture that they sought to extirpate grew as seen in the garb of the newly founded Scottish regiments as well as the resurgence of pipe music.

My late Father who probably served with some of you, as I did, in the Scots Guards - with such great Pipers as Angus MacDonald and Jimmy Banks were exponents of not only great Piping but also the Piobaireachd, and tutors of today's civilian Pipers. Their predecessors in the Scots Guards were Henry Forsyth, King's Piper and Willie Ross who was the first Pipe Major of the Army School of Piping. I well recall that one of the first things I had to learn were the pipe tunes that structured our days in barracks from dawn to dusk. For the sound of the pipes means a lot to a Scottish Soldier of which the Piobaireachd is the most complex and enduring. It will not be lost on this audience of what the sound of the bagpipes has done for the morale of the soldier over the years, most recently in the Falklands Campaign, Iraq and Afghanistan, the same theatre as that in which Piper Findlater of the Gordon Highlanders won his VC in India.

Piping also comes with some of its more amusing tales such as the time when my late father was second in command of the Queen's Birthday Parade in London. As a mounted officer he had to take a position near the Massed Bands Pipes and Drums. Having taken up his position the horse on which he was mounted let off what can only be described as a minor explosion from its backside. My father shouted out 'Sorry about that Pipes and Drums' to which Angus MacDonald as Pipe Major of the parade replied in a loud voice 'Don't worry sir, we thought it was the horse!!'.

Finally I would like to thank Captain Stuart Samson, Director of the Army School of Bagpiping and Highland Drumming, Edinburgh and the Army Cadet Stewards for all the work they have put in to this evening's event on the administrative and organisational side. I will now hand over to Dr. Jack Taylor, President of the Pibroch Society .



From The Chieftain (Submitted by Thad Osborne)



First, I'm happy to report that we had a very fine presence at the Gatlinburg Scottish Festival in May. It was wonderful to have Dan and Josephine from Mississippi assisting me at the tent. The next big event was the Games at Grandfather Mountain where ACGS sponsored a trophy for Highland Dancing.

Second, I hope that all our members are making plans to join us for our 2007 annual Gathering in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Scott MacGregor and the local host committee have been very busy making plans for a fun and productive Gathering. Valley Forge offers the history enthusiasts and dedicated shoppers great rewards. As always, our Pipe Band from Washington, D.C. will be on hand.

Third, I thank each state deputy and other members who have committed to host a tent at Scottish Heritage events through the year. You people are the backbone of the Society and its face to the community. Ron McGregor is committed to assist you in any way possible. He is an excellent resource.

And, finally, I would love to train a new merchandise manager for the Society. It is a fun job that puts you in touch with so many fine people, both in the Society and out. If you are interested, please call me for details.

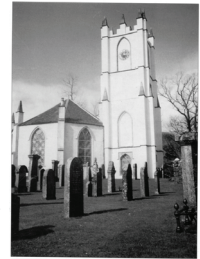


The Dalmally Stones

(Submitted By Howard Grossnickle)



For many of Clan Gregor this has been your project for as long as you have been a member, and for some it hardly seems possible that we are drawing to a close on the pledges we made starting back when our Chieftain, Malcolm MacGregor in attendance with Sir Gregor MacGregor, our Chief, and his wife Lady Fanny first brought forth the recommendation of a joint effort to preserve these valued MacGregor antiquities. Since that Gathering in Williamsburg Virginia in 1999, the two Clan Gregor Societies have engaged in a joint effort to protect our Clan Gregor heritage for the future. The objective, as many of Clan Gregor knows, is to raise the Dalmally carved stones now lying in the churchyard by applying for grants from Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund in Scotland. The sums involved are substantial. The value of these medieval monuments was recognized as far back as 1822 when our then Chief, Sir John MacGregor-Murray, on a visit to the Kirk identified several of these gravestones as 1) apparently of very great antiquity, and 2) belonging to MacGregors. Much time has passed, and the condition of these stones, though worsened, has now become a major focus of our two societies.



GLENORCHY KIRK

These grave slabs of carved stone exhibit superior techniques of stone carving (the Loch Awe school), which are known to be limited to this area of Argyll. The stone carvers with this great artistic skill are said to have been brought to Scotland by no less than the Knights Templar in their flight from Paris in 1307-1312. Armed figures with spears and hunting horns are featured along with Celtic or perhaps Pictish-style animals and knot work. The *Obituaries*, found in the *Book of the Dean of Lismore* cite at least eight MacGregor chief's burials, with family and kin, at the east end of the pre-Reformation church – several in raised stone coffins. Of interest, we have located at least one long side of these coffins, complete with foliated design, at the west end of the churchyard. The stones date back to about the beginning of the 14th century or even earlier. Sadly, during renovations done to the Kirk in 1811-12 – and greatly protested by the Rev. McIntyre – many of the stones were moved, reused, broken, or are currently sinking beneath the turf where they may be lost forever.



Medieval sculpted stone in Dalmally Churchyard
Drawing by Morag Macdonald

Through the American Clan Gregor Society's efforts and those of our sister society- Clan Gregor Society, the project's team members have investigated how these remaining MacGregor stones might be saved from further deterioration, and how best to present them for future generations of MacGregors; those that seek out the history of our Clan, and the study of these historic carvings.

Topographic surveys were completed and paid for, allowing the team to proceed to the design and approval phase with Historic Scotland. Having completed the various discovery meetings with local organizations as well as the Church of Scotland, we are now in the process of filing the appropriate grant and lottery applications.

As we prepare to move forward together with the Clan Gregor Society Council, Historic Scotland, local architects, archaeologists and contractors, you can be proud of the American Clan Gregor Society pledge drive that took in pledges for some \$16,065.00, and transferred funds in the sum of \$10,428.30 in the issuance of three checks over the pledge period for the projects, represented in the sum of \$5,929.67. Two thirds of these funds transferred to Clan Gregor Society have been expensed in the project, and now we are in the process of jointly raising £15,000.00 to complete the required 10% down application fee for matching funding and grant applications targeted at or in excess of some £150,000.00. The governing IRS codes strictly control the process of how funds can be managed, transferred, and used, which help guide the process of funding such projects.

Those of American Clan Gregor Society who attended the Virginia Beach Gathering in October 2006 may have noticed some members receiving mugs, these mugs were intended to be presented to those dedicated individuals who have carried the torch for the project and for some of the individuals that sacrificed through their very generous contributions. We do wish that we could reward all of those who have contributed, but then we wouldn't have anything left to preserve the stones! We do hope to have more of the mugs available for sale to many of you as a means of providing a physical representation of the project. There will be further efforts to recognize our higher donors and the dedicated members of the project, but donations have dropped off as this is the last year of our dedicated pledge drive, and we need your help in finding creative ways to keep your interest level high enough to reach the project goals.



For all MacGregors, Dalmally must be considered hallowed ground where carved stone and scattered bone are all we hold tangible of our heroic past. Even at the distance of centuries, we owe a debt to those who have gone before. We honor them by our thoughts and actions. **History will judge us by our works, yet we will judge our deeds.** Let the ruins reverently displayed show the pride, and love for a people, a clan, a race that became great. Ever mindful and respectful of our clan heritage, please don't stop in your efforts and we will not stop in ours. Scotland is our spiritual home.

Not since Sir John MacGregor-Murray and Sir Walter Scott's efforts at gaining the visit of King George IV to Scotland; and Sir Evan MacGregor of MacGregor along with some 200 MacGregor Clansmen as the escort to "The Honors of Scotland", have we had such a concentrated effort to raise the attention to historic Scotland with a project such as this. If there is that feeling deep down that draws you to Scotland and things Scottish, whether of Clan Gregor, or just a kindred soul with the love of the Highlands in your heart and a desire to be in it,

(Continued on page 6)



Help Update Our Contact Information

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



Contact Information Needs Updating

In recent years the society's been attempting to collect contact information in the form of phone numbers and e-mail addresses for our members. To this extent we've acquired about one hundred e-mail addresses out of six hundred members.

Recently the society had a need to promptly send word out to our members via e-mail. This was a first time attempt. Through performing this exercise it was learned that the e-mail addresses for a number of our members failed. Just like when we move and change our mailing address we must inform others, we must do the same when we change our e-mail address.

If you're one of the members listed below please drop me an e-mail at mcmgreg@verizon.net to provide your current e-mail address. If you know how to reach any of these individuals please catch up with them and let them know that I'd really appreciate hearing from them.

<u>Member</u>	<u>e-Mail Address</u>
Laurie M. Anderson	scotmac@bellsouth.net
Mary Burns	rburns@sleekcom.com
John R. Crook	dotsc@earthlink.net
Janice R Davis	dallsajr@pacbell.net
Rosalie Tess Galloway	d_galloway@bellsouth.net
Joel Hardin Gregg	joelgregg@insightbb.com
Keith D. Gregg	navywoman@aol.com
Hugh S. Greig	hsgreig@netins.net
Frederick A. Grier IV	grier1007@cs.com
Lucy Ann Grimm	lgrimm@ns.gemlink.com
Elsie Cowell Hegge	vcnred@ceiz.com
Moirra L. Meg. Johnson	mimjohnson@hotmail.com
Beverley Kauffman	cbk@boisecenter.net
David Lackey	lackey@cwis.net
John J. Magruder	gru813@aol.com
Mary Ellen D. Mauldin	mem3@ra.msstaste.edu
David F. McGregor	joyfield@bellsouth.net
Jeffrey R. McGregor	jrmcgreg@bellsouth.net
James A. Megehee	jmegehee@ametro.net
Duncan M. Mills	millsd@i2020.net
John Edwin Scarff, Jr.	scsrff@lexcominc.net
Sarah M. Smith	elefla@earthlink.net
Rhea Stickley	stickley@crosslike.net
Mariana Toma-Drane	tomadrane@yahoo.com
William B. Ward	wardiosne1@earthlink.com
Tyler Fletcher Wean	liseworth@comcast.net
Robert W. Wren	bobwren1@bellsouth.net

Having only one in six members respond equates to roughly a seventeen percent response rate by our members. Personally I'd like to see this percentage grow much closer to one hundred percent.

Please help me update our contact information so that we are able to better contact everyone when the need arises.



New Members

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)



The Ardchoille sends a hearty welcome to our newest members. The clan hopes to meet and greet each of you at the upcoming gathering. Welcome!!

Bailey Magruder, Port St. Lucie, FL

Crane Dunbar Laws, Hanover, MD

Tobey Allen MacGregor, Norfolk, VA

Nancy Marie Laws, Placitas, NM

Larry Leon McGregor, Scottsdale, AZ

Stuart Walton McGregor, Tuscaloosa, AL

Robert E. Wickline, Bethel, OH

Alma Anita Jones, Manakin-Sabot, VA

Ann McGregor Stadden, Woodstock, Ontario

Charlotte Donnelly Wuebker, Dayton, OH

H. Ronald Grubbs, King, NC

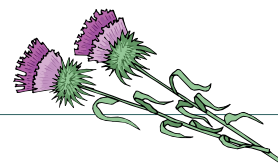
Christopher Thomas Ryan, Hendersonville, NC (Jr member)

Janine Gourley Crane, West Jordan, UT

Stephen Patrick Ryan, Hendersonville, NC (Jr member)

Kelsey Crane, West Jordan, UT (Jr member)

The Dalmally Stones...continued



(Continued from page 4)

if not of it, let this be your means of expressing a connection to your roots and ours.

As I have already drawn words from Ishbel McGregor, Keith MacGregor, Ron McGregor, and many of those willing to listen to my long oratory on the subject, I would like to close with a quote from an article of Ron's which was much the inspiration of this piece – **We must build a monument not just for now. Not for just ourselves. We must build it well, so that in one hundred years and more, MacGregors will come, and understand why these gravestones are important - this is our MacGregor homeland and these stones are part of our heritage. And they will approve of our efforts!"**

Please contact us for additional information at; <http://acgs.thecapitalscot.com/DonationOrLastingLegacy.pdf>

Howard Roy MacGregor Grossnickle, Treasurer: **American Clan Gregor Society, Inc.**

Special thanks to Keith MacGregor, US Representative of the Clan Gregor Society for his comments.



Lost Souls

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



Since our last mailing our lost souls have unfortunately grown by a couple more members. We have still been unable to locate Ms. Virginia Weaver of Chicago. In addition two more members have become lost.

Should you know where our lost members currently reside or how to reach them, please contact me. I can be reached by phone at 757-705-3289 (cell) or by e-mail at mcgregr@verizon.net. Our lost members are:

Mr. Paul J. Magruder
133 Spring Meadow Lane
Louisville, KY 40243-2215

Mr. Douglas K. McG. Johnson
1206 South Eads Street #1113
Arlington, VA 22202-2073

Ms. Virginia Weaver
111 W. Monroe St. 16W
Chicago, IL 60603-4096

Many thanks go out to all who have helped locate our lost members; your efforts are much appreciated. With everyone's continued assistance I'm sure we'll again find these missing members.



From The Registrar

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)



Many of you will have read parts of this in a previous newsletter.....

Our lineage-based Scottish clan society has a long history of carefully documented membership applications detailing the pedigrees which demonstrate our eligibility to join this and not some other cultural group. We are about to embark on a major digitizing project to preserve those 97+ years worth of paper documents, and then make those images and information available to members and others to use for genealogical research. Indexing of all those names will be a side-by-side project to assist in this process. More details of how all that will happen is under discussion and will be forthcoming at a later date, probably at least a year.

In the meantime, if you or someone in your branch of MacGregors, Magraders, Megehee and/or other sept name families have been keeping track of all those folks in your line in genealogical software, I would love it if you would send me a GEDCOM file version of your group. Do not send me a back-up file of whatever software application you are using; instead export your MacGregors into a GEDCOM file (the universal language of family history software programs), save it to a disk, and mail it to me – Lois Ann Garlitz, 238 West 1220 North, American Fork, UT 84003. Or you can email it to me at gregor@webcom.com. You may add other detail later, as family events occur or further research extends your information. I am also happy to add additional documents to your membership file folder, as your research may progress.

I will make every effort to block information about living persons, as the multitude of names goes to a public arena. However, please include living persons in the file you send to me, to benefit those of your family who may wish to join under your name and/or sponsorship. Sources and documentation are always welcome (and preferred), as well as adding a county designation for each city of each event you list.

While your Assistant Chieftain Scott F. MacGregor has been hunting for lost lineal members and gathering together correct email addresses and phone numbers to print in a new Members Directory, I have been hunting for “lost” junior members. I am sharing their names with you in hopes that someone out there will recognize them and let me know where they are now.

Jason R. Seidman, last known address was West Palm Beach, Florida.

Valerie Ann Payne, last known address was Miami, Florida. Mother is Mary Wren Payne.

Niall W. MacGregor, last known address was Minneapolis, Minnesota.

By the way, the Junior application form has been updated to show not only the Junior and his address, but also that of the sponsor, so by the time they have moved around and now are age 18, we can find them and make the offer to join as a lineal member without having to pay the \$30 initiation fee. A similarly redesigned form for Associate members showing their sponsor is now available.

Also speaking of “lost persons”, if you should come across potential members who have thought about joining before, but have not completed the process, would you have them contact the Registrar again? Advertise our clan Society everywhere you go, and also tell people about our upcoming 100th anniversary in 2009 with our Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor visiting from Scotland to celebrate with us. .

Suggestions, concerns, and assistance are most welcome. Lois Ann Garlitz; Registrar Email: gregor@webcom.com



Tidbits & Reminders

(Submitted by Various Members)



ACGS Scholarships

Have you visited our Clan's website recently? It's well worth the time. And it's especially worthwhile if you are searching for those much needed funds to send the little ones off to college. Check out the ACGS scholarships at acgs.thecapitalscot.com. It couldn't hurt.

ACGS Historian

ACGS Historian, Lillian Magruder, asks that all of us remember to advise her of any marriages, births and deaths within our Society. Lillian can be reached at gannimac@bellsouth.net.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
 Norfolk, VA 23503-1243
 440 Willoughby Bay
 SCOTT MACGREGOR
 THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY
 NEWSLETTER OF
 "ARDCHOILLE"



Scottish Games & Food!



Last Months Puzzle Solution

COARELDIHL	A R D C H O I L L E
GEAGORCMR	M A C G R E G O R
TODSANLC	S C O T L A N D
TSCOTSIH	S C O T T I S H
TITSELH	T H I S T L E
LAHINHGD	H I G H L A N D
LKTI	K I L T
GIHSGA	H A G G I S
TTNAAR	T A R T A N
IGEPAPBS	B A G P I P E S

S I R	M A L C O L M
-------	---------------

Scotch Eggs - Pub food!

Serves 6

1 ½ lbs bulk pork sausage - unseasoned (any ground meat will work for this)
 ½ tsp each: sage, rosemary, & thyme, crushed
 (or substitute your favorites)
 6 hard boiled eggs, peeled & chilled
 About 1 C dried bread crumbs

- Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
- Divide sausage mixture into 6 portions & flatten between palms.
- Carefully wrap each egg smoothly & completely with sausage; roll in bread crumbs, coating well.
- Place them 1" apart in an un-greased, shallow pan.
- Bake in top part of oven 30 min., until brown. Drain on paper towels.
- Serve hot or cold, sliced or quartered, with a good mustard. Don't like mustard? - use applesauce.





Ardchoille

Newsletter of the
American Clan Gregor Society



Volume XIII, Issue 3

December 2007

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our website at:
<http://acgs.thecapitalscot.com/>

The views and opinions
expressed in any of the articles
within this publication are not
necessarily the views or opinions
of the ACGS.

Across The Pond...a word from our Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor

In September I took part in the Duke of

Scotland*.

The first 'clan was the MacGregors and I think all participants acquitted themselves well. From the Clan Gregor Society in Scotland Professor Richard MacGregor talked about genealogy and DNA, Paraig Macneil the bard, talked about what motivated clansmen to fight, Peter Lawrie discussed proscriptions and I covered Glenfruin. Professor Martin MacGregor of Glasgow University covered the rise of the Campbells and why they came into conflict with there is no roof at the abbey. The whole funeral was meticulously organised. The avenue from the road to the abbey was lined by Archers, keepers and ghillies from the Buccleuch estates. Other participants were from the Court of Lord Lyon; Mrs Roads as Carrick Pursuivant of Arms and Mr. Spens, Albany Herald as well as number of clan chiefs such as the Duke of Montrose, Lady Saltoun and the Macneil of Barra. The Duke's final resting place is alongside his parents in the graveyard of the abbey. The piper, Ian Bell, played the duke's favourite tune 'The blue bonnets' which resounded around the abbey and could be heard throughout the town and as far off as the Eildon hills.

Most recently, a television programme on the highland clans was aired on BBC



**The 9th Duke of
Buccleuch**

James Fraser

The first 'clan was the MacGregors and I think all participants acquitted themselves well. From the Clan Gregor Society in Scotland Professor Richard MacGregor talked about genealogy and DNA, Paraig Macneil the bard, talked about what motivated clansmen to fight, Peter Lawrie discussed proscriptions and I covered Glenfruin. Professor Martin MacGregor of Glasgow University covered the rise of the Campbells and why they came into conflict with

Clan Gregor and John Keay an historian based in Argyll, talked about cattle droving – the economics and difficulty of it. All in all good a good pitch for the MacGregors and possibly a CD will be produced. The good thing about this series is that people who know what they are talking about have been involved and interviewed. Other clans to be documented are: the Macdonalds, the Campbells, the Mackenzies, the Macleods and the Frasers.

This article comes with best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all members of the American Clan Gregor Society and their families wherever they may be from Fiona and I.





100th Gathering

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



We are making progress with our 100th anniversary Gathering in 2009. After much hard work and agonizing decisions a location has finally been selected for our extra special Gathering. We will be returning to Charlottesville, Virginia the home of our society's founding fathers.

At this time the exact date has not been determined and will not be known until the 2009 UVA football schedule is released in early 2009.

Plans are already in the works to have Sir Malcolm join us for this once in a century event. Our wonderful pipe band will be working on several new MacGregor tunes for our festivities.

We are now forming committees and are in need of volunteers to assist with the various efforts. Should you have any ideas or suggestions towards making this event extra special please don't hesitate to drop Scott an e-

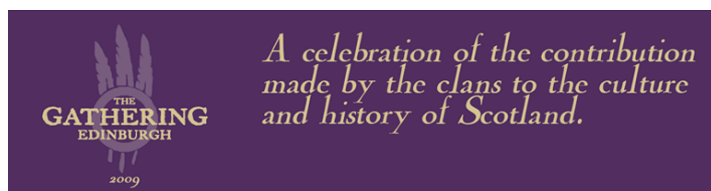


2009 in Scotland

(Submitted by Howard Grossnickle)



I have extracted the following from some of the elements from the gathering web pages so that those members that are not connected to the internet can look to their potential participation in the events of the gathering 2009 in Scotland.



The Gathering 2009 has the honour of hosting the 2009 World highland Games Heavy Athletic Championships. Over the weekend the largest highland games ever to have been held in Edinburgh will also play host to the greatest international Clan gathering to have taken place on Scottish Soil since 1822.

Set in the magnificent Royal Park of Holyrood, with its breathtaking volcanic backdrop of Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags, it will showcase heavy events such as caber tossing and hammer throwing, accompanied by time honored disciplines such as piping and highland dancing. There will be a host of contemporary musicians, high-quality Scottish arts and crafts and a 'taste experience' of the best of Scotland's produce. In all, it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to immerse yourself in your Scottish heritage and its rich wealth of traditions.

Royal Patron announced

We are proud to announce that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is to be Patron of The Gathering 2009.

Prince Charles, whose Scottish titles include Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland will oversee the weekend's events at Holyrood Park and the Clan Pageant on the castle esplanade.

Let us not forget that the renaissance of Highland games and clan gatherings can largely be attributed to Queen Victoria's patronage and her love of the Highlands with all its traditions.

However, as the Duke of Rothesay and the Lord of the Isles, Prince Charles represents a far older connection between the monarchy and the clans of Scotland.

Therefore it is only right and fitting that the greatest gathering of clans and chiefs ever to be held should be honoured by the presence of the chief of chiefs.

Event Passports

Each commemorative leather-bound passport entitles you to unlimited access to the weekend of highland games and secures you a guaranteed place in the clan march, a place at the clan pageant ...and, indeed a place in history.

Passports for the events will be on sale over the web; however, there are only 8,500 passports available, so make sure you buy as soon as they go on sale in March / April 2008 to avoid disappointment, or they can be bought with immediate effect

(Continued on page 7)





Our Library



URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!



If you made it to this year's Gathering and attended the general meeting on Saturday morning you heard our Librarian, Mr. Steven C. Grier's, presentation concerning the state of our non-book collection of documents and our desperate need to hire a professional archivist to preserve our collection and improve the accessibility of our collection by members, prospective members, and the general public interested in the history of the American Clan Gregor Society and MacGregor in general.

To make this happen we need to raise \$25,000 by 01 January 2008 to provide the University of Baltimore the funds necessary to establish the proposed part-time position. This individual would be an employee of the state of Baltimore and supervised directly by the University archivist, Mr. Tom Hollowak.

This is a very huge undertaking by our society and we urgently need your assistance to meet this goal in the allotted timeframe. Please open your checkbooks and assist with a donation. Every donation helps. These donations are tax-deductible. Checks should be made out to the **ACGS Charity & Education** fund and sent to our Treasurer, Mr. Howard R. Grossnickle at 245 Alpine Meadow Cir., Oregon, WI 53575-3929.

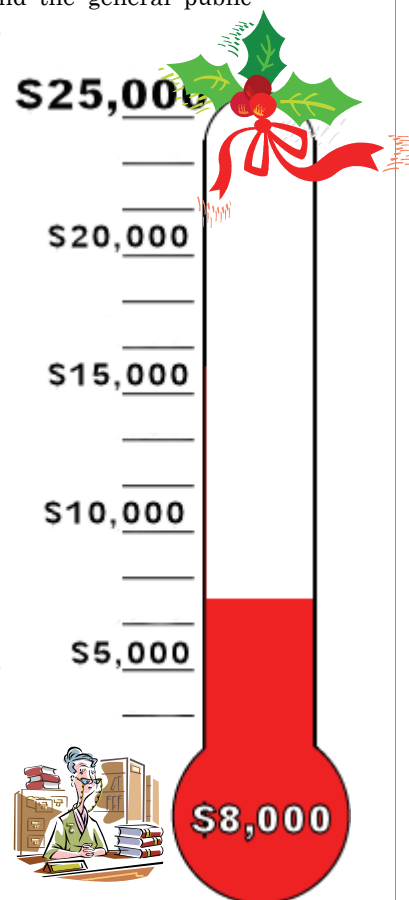
If we all contribute a little something we can achieve this goal and make our collection the first-class collection we expect of our society. Upon completion our collection will be well preserved and more readily accessible by everyone.

We are off to a very good start following the Gathering where several members came forward and pledged enough to cover a third of the cost. The society's funds can cover roughly another third. So you see we really need your help to make up the difference.

Our sincere thanks are extended to all members who made pledges at the Gathering and everyone else who has contributed since. Your assistance is very much appreciated.

Presently, the books in our collection are not only available at the University of Baltimore library but also via Inter-Library loan to your local library for viewing. They cannot go home with you but can be viewed by visiting your local library. Restrictions do apply to books that are rare or in poor condition.

Should you desire additional information on this project please don't hesitate to contact our Librarian, Mr. Steven C. Grier, at SCG40@aol.com or by phone at (610) 444-0315.



Holiday Salutations!

(Submitted by Various Members)



Your Graphic Artist and Editor wish you and your families safe, healthy and happy holidays and New Year!

Virginia

Nollaig Chridheil! Merry Christmas!! Here's wishing my fellow MacGregors and their families a most enjoyable holiday season. After taking the time to be with your families over the holidays be sure to join your extended MacGregor family at the many Scottish events occurring throughout the coming year. I look forward to seeing everyone in Chattanooga, TN in October for our 99th Annual Gathering.

Sliante!

Scott MacGregor

State Deputy Chieftain for Virginia





Year Book Submissions!

(Submitted By Lori Connery)



With the first issue done I can heave a sigh of relief. Well, for a moment! Because here we are with the next issue almost upon us!

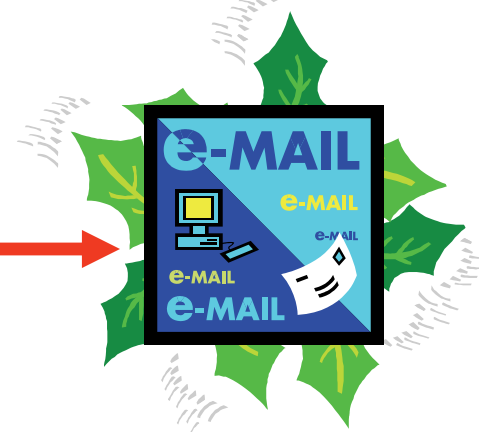
This year was of course the learning year. PC issues and health not withstanding, we also reformatted the entire document to fit the final size requirements of the printer. And thinking that I “knew it all” I found myself challenged almost every step of the way! It is amazing how much I have learned about Microsoft Word. I have also learned that I need to come up with a few guidelines for submitting materials for inclusion. I have included these for you below.

So going forward, with a restored computer, a new understanding of Word, some new guidelines on submitting materials, and a new template, next year’s edition should be on time!

Thank you all for your patience and understanding.
Sliante, sonas agus beartas,
Lori

Submission Guidelines for Year Book Articles/Reports

The desired way to submit is via e-mail.



When submitting an article via e-mail please use the following guidelines:

Please put your name, title and title of report in the subject line of the e-mail.

Here are a few examples:

Subject: Lois Ann Garlitz; Registrar, registrar’s report

Subject: Lori Connery; SDC, Minnesota SDC Report

Subject: Thad Osborne; Chieftain, 2007 Stone Mountain Games

If you have multiple reports please send them individually as this makes it easier for me to sort and keep things organized. Staying organized can be very difficult with so many submissions.

Submitting Photo’s.

When submitting photo’s please be sure to include the name of the individuals in the photo’s. Please list names from left to right and from back to front;

Here is an example:

(Back row; L to R) John Wayne, Yule Brenner, Ronald Regan

(Center Row L to R) Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, Pluto

If you do not have the photos on your computer please have copies made at your local drugstore or Target. Please do not send me the original! I can scan the copies. I am terrible at returning pictures and would hate to have something happen to them while in transit!

What if you don’t have a computer or access to the internet?

No computer; PLEASE print; I am not very good at deciphering handwriting! See deadline below.

Don’t have access to the internet? If at all possible please save your article/report to a disc and send to me.

Can’t save it to a disc or cd? Please print the submission and mail to me.

If you are unable to send me your reports/articles via email please be sure to have them to me via US Postal Mail by February 1st. This will ensure I have time to transcribe. Please have Electronic submissions to me no later than March 1st.

Submit to the following:

Snail Mail:

Lori Connery

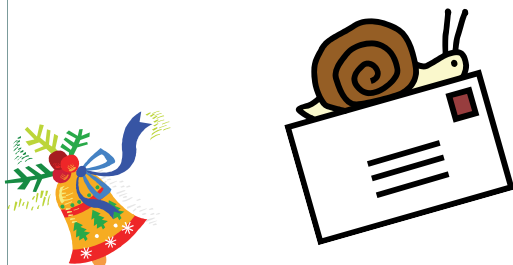
4610 Russell Ave. N.

Minneapolis, MN 55412-1145

Or

E-Mail:

Clan-gregor-mn@comcast.net





WANTED!

We need your stories!

In celebration of the upcoming 100th anniversary of
American Clan Gregor Society,
We wish to commemorate the event with
Reflections on the past 100 Years.

Please submit any stories, anecdotes, or reflections that you have
On the following subjects:

Reflections on 100 years
Legacy of the Founders
How Times Have Changed
Letters to the Next 100 Years

All submissions can be mailed to:
ACGS Reflections on 100 Years
c/o Jake MacGregor
2396 S King St
Denver CO 80219
Or via email to:
macgregorroy@comcast.net

Submissions must be received by **November 1, 2008**
In order to be included in the commemorative booklet:
Reflections on 100 Years

ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO EDITING

New Members

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)

ACGS heartily welcomes the following new members:

Laura Megehee, Bloomfield, NJ
 Carla Darrow, Poland, NY
 Paul Dobkins, Laramie, WY
 Linda Dobkins, Burns, WY
 Nancy DeJarnette Frye, St. George, VA
 Dorothy Ann Conrad, Hendersonville, NC
 Lavinia Wilburn, Ilion, NY
 Christopher Wilburn, Ilion, NY
 Jonathan McGregor, Firestone, CO
 Thaddeus Gregg, Etters, PA
 Margaret Donnelly, Gill, MA
 Susan Gregg, Mahwah, NJ
 Joshua Darrow, Poland, NY (Junior member)
 Thaddeus Osborne II, Berkley Springs, WV (Junior member)
 Logan Grover, Ft. Riley, KS (Junior member)



Congratulations!!

Clan members Robert and Christine Uebel are the proud grandparents of Mia Elizabeth Ogg, born in April to Daniel and Jennifer Ogg.

Nollaig Cridheal agus Bliadhna mhath ur
 (pronounced nollick creel agus bleina vah ur)
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Lost Souls

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



If you know the whereabouts of any of the following ACGS members, please notify Scott MacGregor at mcmgregor@verizon.net or by phone at 757-705-3289.

Ms. Susan C. Mitchell
 8787 Southside Blvd #5602
 Jacksonville, FL 32256-5466

We have yet to hear from anyone as to the whereabouts of the following members who have gone missing.

Mr. Paul J. Magruder
 133 Spring Meadow Lane
 Louisville, KY 40243-2215

Mr. Douglas K. McG. Johnson
 1206 South Eads Street #1113
 Arlington, VA 22202-2073

Ms. Virginia Weaver
 111 W. Monroe St. 16W
 Chicago, IL 60603-4096

Please don't allow these members of our to remain lost, help us get them back into our wonderful Clan.

The 99th Annual Gathering!

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



Announcing the 99th Annual Gathering

Our 2008 Gathering will occur over the weekend of 23-26 October at the Chattanooga Marriott in the heart of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Our events will be nestled in the foothills of the Great Smokey Mountains along the banks of the splendid Tennessee River. Besides this lovely setting our Gathering will be happening in the midst of the colorful fall foliage.



Further details for hotel reservations will be mailed out to everyone in late April or early May. Be sure to make your reservations early to avoid any last minute complications.

While our early intentions were to take the Gathering to the mid-west for 2008 our plans were changed when we received word that Sir Malcolm was expected to be honored at the Stone Mountain Highland Games. It is hoped that Sir Malcolm will be able to extend his visit to the United States and grace us with his presences during our Gathering in Chattanooga the weekend after the Games.

Clan Gregor is expected to be the honored Clan at the Stone Mountain Highland Games just outside of Atlanta, Georgia over the weekend of 17-19 October. It's anticipated that Sir Malcolm will be in attendance overseeing the Games as the honored guest of the Games. If you can only attend one Scottish Games in 2008, I would encourage all of our ACGS members to make it to the Stone Mountain Games. Let's show Sir Malcolm our strong support for him and our wonderful Clan.

Since you're in the area, Chattanooga is just over one hundred miles to the northwest, why not take the time to relax and meander from the Games to the Gathering. We look forward to having Sir Malcolm join us for our Gathering in Chattanooga making our weekend all the more memorable.

I look forward to seeing you along with the rest of our members at the Stone Mountain Highland Games and then again at the Gathering. You can never get enough of a good thing and you all are the best!



2009 In Scotland Continued....



(Continued from page 2)

through the travel providers when purchased with accommodations. Check with these providers;

<http://www.ancestralrootstravel.com/>

<http://www.scottish-routes.com/>

<http://www.scottish-ancestral-trail.co.uk>

<http://www.clansandcastles.com/>

http://www.casheltravel.com/THE_GATHERING/The_Gathering_2009/Navigation.html

<http://www.mcleanscotland.co.uk/2009gathering.aspcom/>

Please check these web-sites for your accommodations and the home site of the gathering for the schedule of events.

Howard R. Grossnickle, Treasurer ACGS

The Gathering 2009 Ltd
27 Queen Charlotte Street
Edinburgh
EH6 6AX
Tel: 0131 561 1323
Email: info@thegathering2009.com



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
 Norfolk, VA 23503-1243
 440 Willoughby Bay
 SCOTT MACGREGOR
 THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY
 NEWSLETTER OF
 "ARDCHOILLE"



Links, Information & Games!



Links & Other Helpful Information!

*Here is the link to the programs
referred to in Sir Malcolm's article!

Highland Clans

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/tv/home/
documentary/feature/index.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/tv/home/documentary/feature/index.shtml)

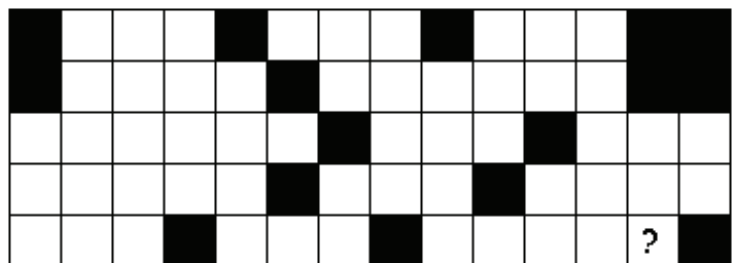
Searching for a holiday gift of beauty?

Sir Malcolm has recently published a
pictorial book about the Outer
Hebrides. If you want to know more or
wish to order a copy, go to
amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0711227918.



Fallen Phrases

Unscramble the letters to discover the hidden question!
Do you know the answer to the question?



H E R O S T F S M T S E
 W W H T R W D H R O H E
 T R O O E E A A E O U S H O
 G M E G O R T A N D P W E M